



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

30th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on life in our school, as we end the sixth week of school closure. As I write, various discussions are in the air, both at national and local level regarding the when and how of schools reopening. Clearly, we want our students back with us at the earliest opportunity, whilst being mindful of the wellbeing of both our students and staff. There are various complexities in reopening, which is why there is likely to be a lead-in of several weeks for all schools, so that we can ensure that we have both staff, and student safety measures in place. I will update you as and when I have further information.

In the meantime, thank-you for the many messages of support we have received for the work we are doing. Most of us are working from home, and experiencing for ourselves the demands of juggling work and the care of our own children. I have received many positive comments about the support that students are receiving from both teaching and support staff; and I would like to pay tribute to our wonderful team of staff who moved so quickly and smoothly to a totally new way of working, with all of its attendant challenges.

Although the school is closed to most students, work continues on various fronts. We are in communication with the families whose child will be joining us in Year 7 this September, and are busy planning virtual transition, in the likely case Transition Day cannot go ahead as usual. We are also trying to support our Year 11 students who, together with Year 13, were the first to feel the consequences of the COVID-19 when examinations were cancelled. Departmental teams are having video-conferences to triangulate all available data, to try and ensure that grade recommendations to the QCA are as fair and realistic as possible. Meanwhile we have recommended online courses for year 11 for their broader development, and they will soon commence transition programmes for 'A' levels and other pathways.

Our other year groups appear to be engaging well, and it has been great to see the work being submitted by students. Alongside academic work, a significant amount of our support is going into pastoral care of students, some of whom are facing massive challenges including trying to deal with bereavement following the loss of family members. Our thoughts and prayers are with them especially at this time.

We, as staff, are aware of all that you are doing to support us as a school, by investing time and effort in helping with the education of your own children at home. I would like to thank you so much for all that you are doing, as I know from my own experience that it is not at all easy. I hope that our weekly bulletin is keeping the Spirit of St. Edward's alive for you. Whilst it is already somewhat of a cliché, we do feel that we are in this together, with you.

With all good wishes,

Mr M Antram
Headteacher