



ST. MATTHEW'S  
Roman Catholic High School

We Pray, We Care, We Achieve

Tuesday 18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

An update:

I am again writing to thank you for your support and cooperation. Our wonderful St Matthew's community is doing all we can to continue to keep our children safe whilst following government advice.

We continue to attempt to keep school open in line with government advice. This is becoming a bigger challenge as more and more staff self-isolate as they apply the new 14 day guidelines to all households with a family member showing either a **persistent cough or high temperature**. I ask that all families do the same. This is now for a **14 day period to prevent infecting others – especially the elderly and the vulnerable**.

The number of critical cleaning and support staff missing for the remainder of this week means that we do not have enough colleagues to maintain the full site in line with Public Health England's recommendations and our own high standards.

Today, I have taken the decision to keep the school open for Years 10 and 11 only from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 20<sup>th</sup>. **I would ask you to keep Year 7, 8 and 9 students home for the remainder of the week**. All teaching will take place in the main building and the sports hall. We will review the fast changing situation daily and make a decision on Friday for next week.

We will continue to share work with you that your children can do at home in order to minimise the disruption to their learning. Their health and wellbeing is our primary concern at this stage.

In school, we continue to keep children calm and reassured. Health advice states that they are likely to face relatively mild symptoms of the virus, if any. Handwashing and minimising contact with vulnerable groups continues to be our key message to them.

My colleagues and I remain committed to ensuring that your child is safe and that we work with you to maintain as much normality as we can.

In this rapidly evolving situation, I will continue to keep in touch via text, the school website and social media.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support,

Mrs H Murden  
Headteacher