



**ST. MATTHEW'S**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
Voluntary Academy

17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

This week we have seen a sharp increase in staff absence from school due to illness. The situation today has worsened and it is clear that our staffing levels for next week will not be sufficient for us to function as normal whilst maintaining our high standards of teaching and learning, the safe supervision of students at social times and the levels of cleaning required by our current risk assessment. Therefore we have taken the decision that next week Y10 and Y11 students will come into school as normal and Y7, 8 and 9 students will work from home.

For our students in Y7, 8 and 9, work will be set on a daily basis next week via an email from their Raising Standards Leader. An initial email will be sent this afternoon then a daily reminder will be sent at 0830 each day to their school email address. There will also be a remote end of term assembly at 1115-1215 on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December led by the Head of Year, to ensure that the students can experience an enjoyable conclusion to the term.

Our form tutors will contact all students working from home via a phone call next week to check they can access their work and find out if they require any further support. Also the parents/carers of students who receive free school meals in Y7-9 will be contacted separately with details of the help we will provide.

To ensure our most vulnerable students are cared for our Savio and LSC provisions will remain open, and for parents for whom childcare is an issue we will be able to provide a small on-site provision for students in Y7-9 to complete their set work under the supervision of teaching and non-teaching staff. Please only request a place if there is a genuine need as spaces will be limited. To request a place please complete the form on Edulink called 'KS3 provision application'. Applications for places will be reviewed on a needs basis and parents/carers will be informed if a place has been secured via an Edulink message the day before.

If you have any further questions about this please message [contact@smrchs.com](mailto:contact@smrchs.com) and your query will be answered by the appropriate person.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Passarello  
Pastoral Deputy Headteacher

Mr S Atkin  
Academic Deputy Headteacher