

# THE SACRED HEART LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster

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Headteacher:  
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29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent,

We are now fully into the swing of remote learning. I am very grateful for the positive comments and feedback that we have received. The recent announcements about the further delay to the full return to school for pupils has highlighted the ongoing importance of all pupils committing to their home learning in order to maintain their progress. The headlines about a lost generation is not a description I recognise of our pupils. Overall, they continue to be hardworking and have shown real resilience and independence in their learning. These essential skills reflect their character and will equip them with the skills needed for future success.

It is good to be able to report on such positives at a time of such uncertainty, however, we must stay united and focused if all pupils are to continue to make progress. There are a small minority of pupils who are not engaging as much in their work. I know that when staff have made phone calls home some parents are saying that they believe they are online but this has not always been the case. I fully appreciate how demanding this is and all pupils should show the self-discipline needed for their studies however, it can be easy to be distracted. I would ask all parents to:

- Spot check that pupils are actually online during the school day and following the work that is set.
- Discuss with their daughter how things are going and the work they have achieved that day.
- If the equipment allows, encourage them to switch on their cameras so that teachers can see them as this aids staff to check understanding.
- Encourage their daughters to ask and answer questions in class if they are unsure and not just to rely on messaging in the chat function in teams.
- Check that pupils have accessed the recordings of any live lessons that they have missed.

As you are aware we will be sending you a report on your daughter's engagement in learning regularly. In addition, staff are carefully monitoring attendance at live lessons and completion of all work set to ensure that pupils do not fall behind.

At this time, I would also like to draw your attention to a few further items:

## Well being

Next week is national mental health wellbeing week. We will be sharing with pupils a number of additional resources in addition to the regular wellbeing newsletters. These can also be accessed on our school website. A crucial aspect when all are spending so much time in front of a screen is using the regular breaks to move away from the screen and to take some physical exercise beyond the school day.



### **Free school meals**

All families who are eligible should have received their vouchers up to half term. We will be processing additional vouchers for after half term once the national system allows. Free school meal vouchers are not available via this system over half term. However, we will be looking to arrange additional support at this time and will be in contact with those families.

### **Access to ICT**

Our Directors of Studies have been liaising with families to ensure all pupils have access to the necessary ICT to support learning further to the audit that was undertaken last term. If any families have any further concerns please liaise with your daughter's DOS. If any family has old laptops that are no longer used we would be grateful for any donations. We have been able to upgrade some old computers for pupil and staff use.

### **Public examinations**

The Year 10 and Year 11 reporting evenings were very successful. The key message for all pupils is to carry on working to ensure progress is made. The national consultation on the nature of assessment for GCSE grades this summer comes to an end today. We await full details of how GCSE grades will be awarded but we remain confident that our teachers know our pupils well and that our pupils are continuing to work hard to secure success this summer. Learning from PPE results is already happening. Copies of the exam scripts will be given to pupils on their return to school.

Year 11 careers interviews are still taking place. It is really important that all pupils in year 11 continue with their applications for sixth form studies. If they need any support then it is really important that they contact their form tutor and Director of Studies.

### **Year 9 Curriculum evening**

Year 9 parents will receive next week an invite to watch our recorded curriculum evening. This will provide important messages about how best to support your daughter at this half way stage of their time within school. There will also be some further information about the curriculum pathways available in their GCSE years. This will help direct conversations at your forthcoming reporting evening on the 10<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Ongoing assessments**

As part of our normal routine pupils will be undertaking their half termly assessments in the coming weeks. These should not cause any additional anxiety for pupils. They provide a helpful indication of where pupils are at and what further areas they need to consolidate in order to continue to make progress. Teachers will advise pupils of these assessments and may speak to pupils about undertaking this work in lesson time under test conditions.

I hope this overview is of help. I know that times are challenging but it is so important that we work collaboratively to continue to provide all the young people of our school community with a sense of hope and optimism for the future. They have been amazing and we will continue to challenge and support them to flourish further. As our school prayer says "Confident in God's Love for us, we commit ourselves to his service."

Very best wishes,



Geraldine A Higgins  
Executive Headteacher