



St. Richard's Catholic College



A National Teaching School, a National Support School and a High Performing Specialist Science College



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Principal: D. Cronin, N.P.Q.H., M.A., B.Ed.

22nd June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family continue to be well and have settled into routines which enable you to see progress in your son/daughter's learning. Hopefully, your child's well-being is strong; where it is not, please encourage him/her to access school support or the resources on Edulink.

I would like to remind you that this Friday, 26th June is an INSET day, enabling staff to meet in departments to plan for September. Last week, I suggested all pupils switched off their computers and phones on this day and took some time out to do the '12 Rocks of Well-being' or another activity which they enjoy.

I am really pleased to be able to send you details of the County library service offer which is [here](#). Every child should be reading, and this provides a great opportunity for them all to continue to do so. Additionally, the link [here](#) provides examples of Art work completed during lockdown; I include it as it may inspire some pupils for an activity on Friday.

I would like to thank all those pupils, alumni and yourselves who sent in photographs and recollections for our lockdown display. Mrs Forte put up the first display on Friday and it is a powerful reminder of the kindness exhibited to all during lockdown. It was also lovely to see how many of our alumni work in the Health Service, Fire Service and in education and how they have been playing their part to ease the difficulties caused by the Coronavirus and lockdown. Please encourage your son/daughter to send in their reflections and photos as the displays form a symbol of hope and positivity in what has been a distressing time for many.

I hope narration in the teaching and learning slides is helping to engage and motivate more pupils. Plans are underway for more recorded lessons as well as live lessons for our younger pupils who need the opportunity to engage with staff before term ends. Ms Mason, Subject Leader for Performing Arts has recently uploaded a number of music lessons called [The Kitchen Classroom](#) and I would encourage Year 7 and Year 8 pupils to engage with them. Year 8 pupils should have received a letter from our Curriculum Lead, Miss Machin, last week asking them to select Creative Arts and Design Technology choices for Year 9. A copy of the letter is [here](#) enabling pupils to complete the Google Form by the deadline of 30th June.

From 22nd June, Pastoral Google Meets will move to meeting with Form Tutors and new Pastoral Leaders, in other words, transition meetings. Pupils will be sent invites so that they can chat to their new Pastoral Leader about a variety of things including how lockdown has been for them. They will also have an opportunity to talk about their strengths and areas for development, so that the Pastoral Leader can support the pupils fully when they return in the new school year.



Bidding for postcards for [Sophie's Secret Postcard auction](#) has got off to a good start with over £8,116.72 pledged to date. Please do try to support this worthy cause with all proceeds going to the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, which not only gave great support to Sophie and her family but have helped and continue to help many pupils and their families in our school community. The final day for bidding is Saturday, 27th June, so do seek out your favourite postcard - you may discover that you have actually bid for a famous Artist's artwork, adding to its value right away.

I am sure all parents/carers will be pleased to hear that the partial re-opening of school to Year 10 has gone really well. We were all delighted to see the different groups of Year 10 pupils daily and how well they responded to the new rules regarding social distancing and hygiene. It was also pleasing to see how they engaged in their lessons, with the RE department particularly impressed with how much they had remembered on the topic of Islam. This week, they will be attending school for maths and science lessons with a reminder that they can stay on to complete remote learning or have face-to-face meetings with their subject staff. Can I thank all parents/carers of Year 10 for getting the pupils to school: 98% of eligible pupils attended daily, with some pupils having to continue to shield at this time. We are all really looking forward to them taking on the role of young leaders of our community from September and have confidence that the majority will work hard to close any gaps in their learning.

For those pupils in school this week, we are expecting the weather to be quite warm. Ensuring that your son/daughter has a water bottle which can be topped up throughout the day, as well as having applied suntan lotion will be important.

The Parental Focus Group minutes are available [here](#). As a result of feedback this term, in the new academic year, I will be diarising a virtual meeting termly, alongside the morning and evening groups to allow parents living at a distance to engage in the meetings. We are also currently considering which meetings for terms one and term two will need to be virtually presented. Further details to follow.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school community and assure you that, as a staff, we do appreciate the tremendous efforts you are making as parents/carers to maintain motivation and engagement in education. Hopefully, we will be sharing positive news about a September start soon.

Do get in touch if you have any concerns or queries.

My best wishes for a happy, healthy and productive week.

Yours sincerely



Miss D Cronin
Principal