



# 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.

6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are well and that good routines are now firmly established for the completion of work and for allowing time to relax and develop a hobby or passion.

Last week, 'Live' teaching began for Years 7, 8 and 9, with the majority of pupils engaging positively and enjoying the opportunity to be guided by their teacher, to ask questions and to see classmates. This will continue for the next two weeks with names to get into the classroom being standardised so that no pupil is 'locked out' at any time. Do please email the ICT Services team at [ITServices@strichardsec.com](mailto:ITServices@strichardsec.com) if your son/daughter is having any difficulties accessing the 'live' lesson. Additionally, Google Meets continue this week and next week so that tutors can catch up with their form and Pastoral Leaders can introduce themselves to their new year group and find out a little bit about each pupil.

With the planned return of all pupils in September, it is essential that all pupils engage so that they are not holding back others or feeling lost in September as the class moves on at a pace. The rag-coding profile which was sent home on Tuesday gives you, as parents/carers, a good idea of the effort your child is making with on-line learning. Resolving issues now will lead to a positive start for everyone in September.

Year 10 pupils continue to attend on their allocated day(s) and are engaging well with the learning and the health and safety requirements. All parents/carers of Year 10 pupils should have received a letter last week, highlighting that the Year 10 day, from this week, will be extended to accommodate extra History and Geography lessons, ensuring all pupils have at least four hours of teaching in the Ebacc and option subjects by the time term ends. Parents/carers are reminded that pupils can stay on after the end of the school day to see staff or use IT facilities. Additionally, B7 is open daily for Year 10 pupils who wish to catch up or simply to complete work in the school environment.

## 'Virtual' Sports Week (4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July)

You should have received information about our Virtual Sports Week which replaces our annual sports day. All information is [here](#) and it is not too late for your son/daughter to join in. Mr Dallaway and Mr Varney have organised a range of activities requiring very little equipment, allowing all pupils to participate. Wells House are the current holders of the Sports Cup and, no doubt, have their hearts set on winning it again! Participation and 'having a go' are key, so it is really important that all pupils attempt some of the events for the sake of their House. This year, even staff can earn points for their House and I know they are determined not to let their House down. I hope everyone will join in with our very different sports event, supporting your House to the very best of your ability.

## Well-Being

It is hoped that all pupils are developing a strong sense of well-being as we emerge from lockdown and they get the opportunity to interact with more young people.



For those struggling, please signpost them to the services advertised in the [Pupil Support Booklet](#); access Andrew Wright webinars or simply make contact with the school so that a staff member can offer support. Helen, our Counsellor, continues to offer virtual appointments and an office in school can be provided for these sessions, if required. Last week, the DfE produced some guidance for '[Parents/carers on keeping children safe from abuse and harm](#)' (25 June 2020). I would encourage you to read it. Additionally, the Mental Health support team is providing extra support; see details [here](#).

### Sophie's Secret Postcard

Once again, thank you for the part you played in the success of Sophie's Secret Postcard Auction. Ms Pennington, Mrs Britt and Mrs Jones worked tirelessly throughout the week to get the postcards out to all the successful bidders. These were posted on Friday and hopefully brought the recipients much joy over the weekend. There is still time to order a copy of the book, proceeds of which will go to The Royal Marsden Cancer Trust. A copy of the news article printed in local papers is linked [here](#). Sophie's family were absolutely delighted with the success of the Auction, as were The Royal Marsden. We will present the money (£31,000+) to the charity on our return to school in September. Well done to all involved in Ms Pennington's inspiring project.

### September Opening

I am sure you were as delighted as we were, as a staff, that the DfE published Guidance on Thursday regarding schools opening for all pupils in September. This is great news. Details from the DfE for parents/carers are attached [here](#). Clearly, to ensure the health and safety of everyone there will need to be a strong Risk Assessment in place and a number of changes made to the organisation of classes/expectations etc. The Leadership and Management team will work on these recovery plans over the next couple of weeks and, once they have been agreed by Governors and staff, I will send you further details. I am hesitant to put anything in writing at this current time because DfE rules / regulations / guidance can change at quite short notice, as might Public Health guidance. However, you can be assured that, as a staff, we will do everything we can to keep all pupils safe and healthy, whilst getting on with the job we love, teaching our young people and providing them with a rounded education.

I am confident that the high standards of pastoral care, quality teaching and learning and enrichment, will soon be apparent in our school community again. Lockdown has been a positive experience for some and a negative experience for others; we will seek to address this too.

I wish you all a happy, productive week. Please encourage your son/daughter to participate in our Virtual Sports Week so that their House has a chance of winning the House Cup for Sport.

Finally, just a reminder that the school is closed to all pupils on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> July so that staff can participate in Safeguarding INSET in preparation for September.

My very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Miss D Cronin  
Principal