



6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well and coping with life in these unprecedented times. I wanted to update you on a few things as we start a highly unusual Easter holiday.

### **Home School Work**

Thank you for the support you are providing for your children with their learning while school is closed. I have asked teachers to continue to upload work on to Show my Homework even during the holiday period but I wanted to clear about our expectations with school work. Firstly, we are not asking parents to 'home school' their children. Pupils should be able to complete the work set by teachers but there will inevitably be some tasks which will challenge some more than others. Equally, there may be a lot of work set, but this is to allow a range of tasks and to ensure pupils of all abilities are challenged. What we ask is that as far as possible, time is set aside each day, as part of the healthy routines we all need to encourage and develop, for academic school work. However, we need to be realistic and acknowledge that there are limits to what can be achieved by some pupils working from home. As parents, please feel empowered to set limits for your children's school work so that further stress is avoided.

### **Year 11 GCSE results**

Information has been published by the authorities regarding how exam grades will be awarded for Year 11. The letter from Ofqual is published on the school's website. I will be holding virtual meetings with our teachers to clarify how this will work and to try to ensure that our pupils receive the grades they deserve.

### **Easter opening**

Like many schools, St Bede's is open during the holiday for children of key workers and I am grateful for parents and carers doing all they can to keep their children at home when at all possible. In doing this, we are able to keep the staff in school to a minimum and so reduce the chance of infection spreading. I am of course, hugely grateful to staff who have volunteered to come in during their holiday to enable key workers to carry out essential work at this time.

### **Free School Meals Vouchers**

You will probably be aware that the government has launched its free school meals voucher scheme. We had already introduced our own voucher scheme at St Bede's and rather than risk a break in the funding to eligible families, we will continue with the current arrangement for our families for the time being.

Finally, I want to send you and your families every best wish. These are times we hopefully will never experience again, with Holy Week celebrated on line, the latest in events for us to adjust to and in that context I hope you have a peaceful Easter.

Yours sincerely

D Callaghan



# St Bede's

Roman Catholic High School

Believe all things are possible

Headteacher