



E-Briefing for Parents, Carers and Students

Monday 6th April

Holy Week and Easter

On Sunday we entered Holy Week without the opportunity for another church tradition; the waving of palm leaves as our parishes re-enact the Triumphant entry into Jerusalem. For many people, this will be the first year that they haven't taken part in the Masses and services of this most important part of the Church year. Even during the wars, churches remained open. However, I feel that we will be taking part in a much deeper way, celebrating this time in our homes and inner selves. We have already seen candles shining in the darkness and teddies waving from rainbows adorned windows. We have taken part in the 8 o'clock applause, and maybe joined an on-line community promising prayer or making face masks for local hospitals. We are living in hope, in difficult times, with the faith that God is with us and continues to be with us no matter what. This, after all, is what Easter is about. Maybe a new act of faith for this Sunday, suggested by others, would be to put a green branch in your window or make some paper palms leaves to wave as witnesses within our own homes.

I am posting a weekly Sacred Space PowerPoint so that we can remain a community that prays together. This is being sent out on Ruler as a resource rather than homework and it contains many activities and links relating to the events of Holy Week. It is also being sent to our parishes and primary schools so you may find it on their website too.

May God bless you and keep you well.

Mairie

Free School Meal Vouchers

For those parents and carers whose children are in receipt of free school meals, you will have received a voucher from school for a local supermarket to purchase the equivalent of a lunch for your child. From Monday 9th April, the government are providing a national scheme with EdenRed where carers/parents can identify a supermarket closer to you. Further details will be provided directly to those carers/parents.



Ruler Work

All work for students continues to be set on Ruler. Once a student has completed a piece of work set, please click the box at the bottom of each task called complete.

Easter Holidays

The school Easter Break is calendared from Thursday 9th April to Tuesday 21st April. Work on Ruler will not be set over the Easter holiday period but students can continue their learning via the online resources signposted in my original School Closure letter and on the school website. Ruler work will be set on Monday 6th April to cover the days that school would have been open from 6th -8th April and 22nd-24th April. Work for the next full calendar week will then be set by 10am for the week commencing 27th April.

School will remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children during the Easter Holidays with the exception of Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday.

Home Learning Survey

The Senior Leadership Team are evaluating our approach to home learning and are interested in finding out parents' views on the current home learning that is being provided.

We appreciate you taking the time to complete a short survey. We will also be collecting the views of our students on a separate survey which will be set on Ruler.

The Survey will close at 12 Noon on Tuesday 14th April.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TQCEKBxgKE67QeEw_TRIHkjCFeh4dFnx5P6NOtxBZUM0lwSktFVkfPSTQ0OfdVM1UzTEJHN0dQRCQIQCN0PWcu

Year 11 and 13 Examinations Update

The Government and Ofqual have outlined in detail how students' GCSE and A-Level qualifications will be awarded this year. Mr Woods sent a letter and additional documentation to all parents, carers and students on Friday. Copies are available on the COVID-19 page of the School Website.

During the assemblies given to Yr 11 and Yr 13 students prior to school closure, we explained that we will invite them back to mark the 'rite of passage' as they reach the end of KS4 and KS5, but this might look different to what has happened previously depending on how and when the lockdown is lifted. We will keep in touch with all families as matters progress.



School Closure: Keeping Children Safe

During the school closure, many children will spend more time than usual online. Please remember to monitor your child's use of the internet - especially social media and gaming. There is a lot of support available to help keep your child safe online. Please see below for some useful links to help with many aspects of parenting:

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk/ : advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/> support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- <https://parentinfo.org/> support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> support for parents and carers from the NSPCC

As a reminder, a more extensive list is available on the School website under <https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Emotional-Wellbeing.pdf>

Learning Mentor Virtual Drop-In

We are looking to launch this support service straight after the Easter Holidays and full details will be given to all parents, carers and students.

Year 7 Reports

Year 7 full reports have been completed by staff and will be sent shortly to parents and carers via Parentpay.

Lourdes Pilgrimage Cancellation

The following message from the Diocese has been given to all schools and parishes:

It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that after consultation with the Bishop, our chief medical officer and matron and other key members of our planning team it has been decided that due to the Covid 19 pandemic we have had to cancel our 2020 Pilgrimage. At this stage it is impossible to say whether travel to Lourdes would be possible in July but given the



present lockdown and need for self-isolation and social distancing it is impossible for us to organise the necessary training of volunteers and assessment of our assisted pilgrims. Our doctors and nurses are at the frontline of caring for the victims of the pandemic and their focus has to be on that enormous responsibility at this time. I will be writing to all those who have already made bookings for this year's pilgrimage through our Pilgrimage Office offering them a full refund of monies paid. I am sure that this will be a huge disappointment to all of you as it is to me and my team but the safety and welfare of all our pilgrims is our absolute priority. Let us hold all those associated with our pilgrimage in prayer at this time and ask once again for the protection of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette:

*Our Lady of Lourdes: Pray for us
St Bernadette: Pray for us.*

Fr David Long Pilgrimage Director

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT GOGGLES

Many thanks to the Science Department who have donated all of their 190 pairs of goggles to NHS front line staff.