



## **E-Briefing for Parents, Carers and Students Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

### **Prayers and Reflections**

Many thanks to all the students and staff who took part in our Holocaust Memorial Day 'Light out of Darkness' Challenge and provided their photo contributions – these are available for you to view on our school twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/StNicholasCHS>

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness;  
only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate;  
only love can do that."*

Martin Luther King, Jr



### **Mental Health Awareness Week**

Next week is Mental Health Awareness week and we will be providing students and staff with many different hints, tips and activities to support the 2021 theme which is 'express yourself'. Our Learning Mentor Team have produced a newsletter which is attached to this briefing and there will be ongoing activities during virtual Form Period next week.

### **School Reopening**

The Prime Minister has announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity.

The Prime Minister has stated that if the Government achieves its target of vaccinating everyone in the four most vulnerable groups with their first dose by 15 February, then those groups will have developed immunity from the virus around three weeks later that is by 8 March.

We will update you as soon as we have any further details regarding school reopening.

## **Remote Learning Update**

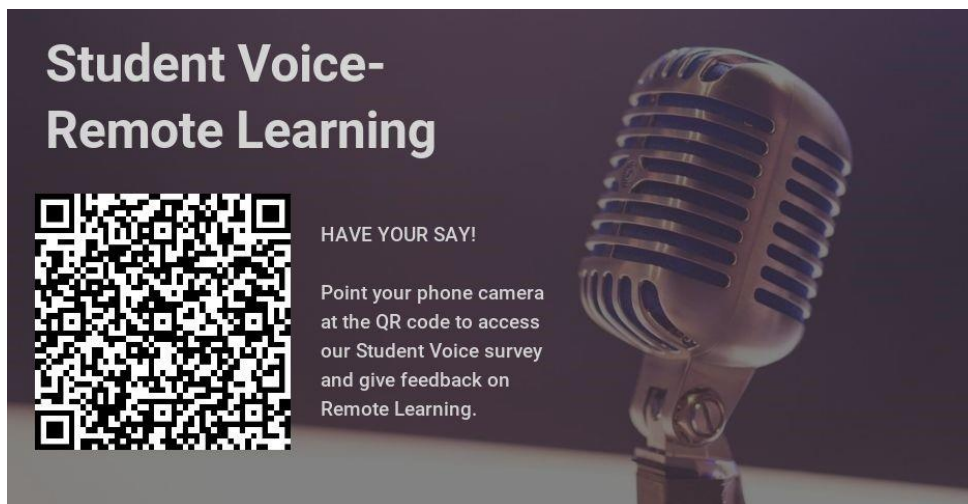
### **Supporting Internet access at home**

We have contacted those families who have indicated they would benefit from additional support at home. Any parents and carers who are struggling for phone data can request a Vodafone data SIM card (90Gb for 30 days) available by request from school. Please contact Mr Wallace via the usual channels.

### **Student Survey**

We are currently asking students and families for views on their remote learning experience. Please take a moment to complete the short questionnaire which will inform any next steps and amendments after half term. Your child has been sent a link to access this survey which closes on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb at 5pm.

We are looking to schedule our termly Parent Focus Meeting after the half term break and consider how we can respond to the outcomes of this survey. Further details will be provided by Mr Wycherley next week.



### **Form Patron Assemblies**

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 17<sup>th</sup> February during our Half Term break. Every year, students gather from Yrs. 7 - 13 for assemblies in their Form Patron 'vertical' groups to focus on our Lenten charity work. This year we will continue to gather virtually in our Form Patron groups on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February so that we can prepare for Lent together and explore our community based charity focus for this year.

### **Homework**

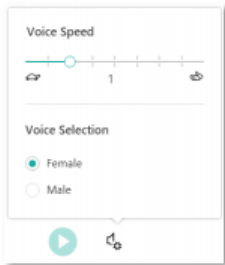
Next week, wherever possible, we will be setting homework that does not require students to use a screen. This will support our 'Respect for Yourself' 4Rs focus during Mental Health Awareness week next week with a spotlight on student wellbeing, with resources and ideas being shared in form period.

## Additional Functions on Teams

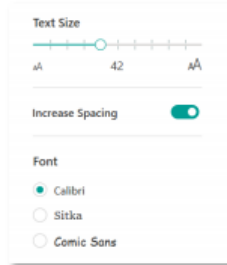
Please find this accessibility feature in teams to make learning even easier for Students:

Immersive Reader includes features such as...

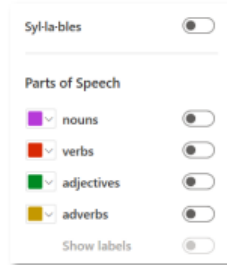
### Voice Options to read text aloud



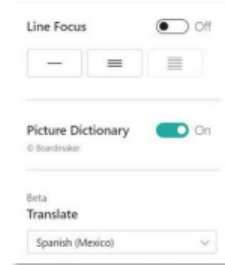
### Text Options to adjust size, spacing, font, and color



### Grammar Options to highlight parts of speech

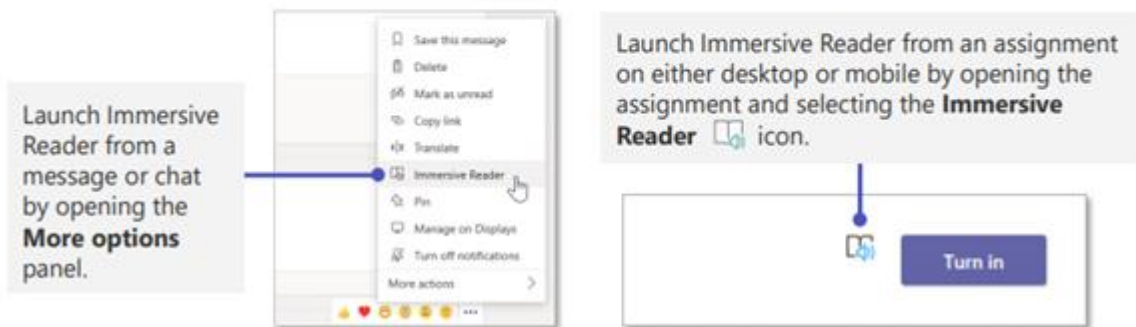


### Reading Preferences for line focus, translation, and more



## 1 Immersive Reader

Immersive Reader helps improve reading and comprehension for students, including those with dyslexia or other learning disabilities. Immersive Reader is integrated into Teams, and you can also open it in other Microsoft apps like **Word, OneNote, Outlook, and Edge**.



## Half Term Meal Vouchers

By now, all eligible families should have received e-mail vouchers from Edenred, the company overseeing the national scheme issuing vouchers in lieu of free school meals not taken in school. The Government have confirmed the scheme will not be continuing over half term but school will issue vouchers to cover this week. If you have any questions or concerns, please do contact us in school via the usual channels of communication.

## Year 11 Applications to Sixth Form

All students who have applied to St Nicholas Catholic Sixth Form should now have received their offer letter and are having one to one meetings with members of the Senior Leadership Team over the next few weeks. Please contact Mr Bradley if you have any questions or queries.

## University Applications

All of our Year 13 students have now completed their University applications to UCAS. 85% of our Year 13 cohort have made applications around the country and many of them have already been highly successful in receiving offers from their First Choice institutions. Those students who have chosen a different pathway post A Levels are continued to be supported by both our Careers and Enrichment programmes, as well our Pastoral Curriculum.