



## **E-Briefing for Parents, Carers and Students 5<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Prayers and Reflections**

This week, throughout our virtual Form Periods in the morning and during Sacred Space, we have been reflecting on Children's mental health week. Well done to all those students who have engaged so positively with the activities and challenges provided by Form Tutors, Learning Mentors and many other members of staff.

*Loving God*

*Help me to pause and consider all that this week has brought me. Let me take the opportunity to let go of what has not been helpful.*

*Help me to value my friendships and family support. May this lead me to care for others in need,*

*Let the weekend be a time of rest and renewal.*

*Amen*



### **Mental Health Awareness Week**

Our Pastoral Teams have had a big push on wellbeing this week in support of Children's Mental Health week and students have taken part in wellbeing sessions during form time. Students have reflected on how they were feeling, collaborated on strategies to support their wellbeing and became more confident in recognising and managing their emotions. Students have also participated in wellbeing assemblies and the feedback from students on these sessions was very positive, telling us that they found the sessions useful during these difficult times.

We have also attached our Learning Mentor memo which outlines some of the activities that have taken place this week, as well as providing ongoing hints and tips for students and parents.

### **Diocese Student Conference – 'Mini DASH'**

Just today, three of our year 7 students took part in an on-line Mini-DASH conference with other high schools from across the Shrewsbury Diocese as well as members of the Youth Mission Team. They were looking at the recent letter from Pope Francis, 'Fratelli Tutti' and the dream that everyone in the world could and should work together for the good of humanity. This fitted in very well with our focus on the Gospel Values of Dignity and Compassion and gives us a good prompt for our Lenten Charities which will be beginning after Half-Term.

### **Remote Learning Survey.**

Many thanks to all those students who participated in our recent survey. We are currently reading through all responses and written feedback, and we will present the outcomes and next steps with staff, students, parents and carers in the near future.

Initial key 'headlines' demonstrate that the level of engagement with remote learning is very positive, with 99% of students engaging on a regular basis. We have also noted that some students would like additional work to complete, whilst others are finding it a challenge to sustain their focus and keep up with the work that is being set.

We know that nationally, 'screen fatigue' is an emerging theme and that is why last week, we made the decision that wherever possible homework was set that did not require students to use a screen. We will be continuing with this initiative next week, and will be looking to implement further initiatives following the Half-Term break in response to the survey findings.

### **Parent Focus Group**

Our next Parent Focus group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Mr Wycherley will facilitate discussion focusing on the feedback from the Remote Learning survey. We find these meetings incredibly beneficial and would encourage you to attend if possible to share with us your views on current remote learning provision – what is working well and what we could consider in the future. If you would like to attend then please email [admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk)

### **Year 11 'virtual' Parents' & Carers' Evening**

A reminder that next Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, is Year 11 Parents' and Carers' evening. Hopefully you have made your appointments with your child's class teachers - there is still time to do so if you haven't managed to yet. Mrs Pardoe will be addressing all parents and carers virtually from 4pm via [Microsoft Teams](#).

### **Future Careers Competition**

We will be participating in an NHS Careers competition launching on the 22nd February for students in Yrs 7, 8 and 9. More information will follow via Parent Pay and Form Tutors but it is an exciting opportunity to find out more about our NHS and their wonderful work!

### **Half Term Arrangements**

Nationally, all schools will be closed to students over the Half-Term holidays - St Nicholas will be closed from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. School will open again to [eligible students](#) on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.