

The Newman Catholic Collegiate



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19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wish to sincerely thank you all for your wonderful support during these most extraordinary times. I am sure that you are aware that we have now been instructed to close the schools to almost all children after this Friday (20th March, 2020) until further notice. As you know, we have been planning for this eventuality and I must thank all of our pupils for their wonderful response.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. If you feel you fall under the key worker criteria could you, please contact your school to advise?

Thank you, in advance, for your patience whilst we work on the logistics of these issues. As a collegiate we do have a plan for the continuation of care for these pupils and we will liaise with these parents directly. On Monday next week, children who fall in the key worker group will be able to attend their schools during the normal times. From Wednesday next week we will then have a collegiate response to the situation.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you **do not** send your child into school from Monday onwards. The Government has made it clear they have no proposed end date for this closure and I would suggest you plan for a sustained period of closure.

I have asked individual schools to make arrangements for pupils to have access to work. This will be done on an individual school basis.

It is important to stress that pupils and teachers will communicate via school software and emails only. The collegiate has set up an email address that parents can contact for information by email on info@newmancc.co.uk. A telephone number will be provided at a later date.

If your child usually receives free school meals, we are working with the Government guidelines and will inform you as soon as we know what arrangements are being made. In the meantime, all children that have self-isolated and are eligible for free school meals will be contacted by your individual school.

With regards to exams, as you will know, SATs/timetables checks/phonics screen/GCSEs/A levels will not take place this year. The government has not yet announced if or when alternative arrangements will be implemented. I want to assure young people that the government has clearly committed to not disadvantaging any child.

I strongly urge you to follow the guidance of your school and continue to educate your children so they are not disadvantaged once they return. I will update you as soon as I can with additional information. We will talk to all affected children today and tomorrow in order to reassure them about their future.

We appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal.

Remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use the NHS 111 online.

Thank you again for your continued support. Please continue to remember the vulnerable in our society, all coronavirus sufferers and their families, the staff here in the collegiate and the work of all frontline services in your thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Beardmore', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr I Beardmore
Senior Executive Leader
Newman Catholic Collegiate
