



St Benedict's College

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Telephone: 02894472411 Email: info@stbenedicts.randalstown.ni.sch.uk

4th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you and your family enjoyed your Christmas Holidays and remain safe and well in these most difficult times. The Minister's announcement of 31st December has meant that our Return to School will not be as planned. Changes are outlined below:

Years 8-11

All students in Years 8-11 will be engaged in Remote Learning from Thursday 7th January to Friday 29th January inclusive. Students will be expected to engage with their teachers and their learning via Google Classroom. All students are familiar with this platform and should be able to login to Google, to go to Google Classroom and to check out the various courses that have been placed there by their teachers. If logging on is an issue for anyone please refer to the guidance that is available on the school website – <https://www.stbenedictscollege.co.uk>, under the online learning tab, or email us at info@stbenedicts.randalstown.ni.sch.uk

Year 12

All students in Year 12 are invited to attend school on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th January. The English and Maths Departments will be there to deliver targeted lessons in advance of the GCSE exams scheduled for Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th January 2021. We appreciate that there is a risk attached to bringing the Year 12s onsite for face to face teaching but we feel it is important to provide this level of teacher support to our students. If you have concerns about sending your child to school, we will fully respect your decision to keep your child at home but would ask that you ensure that they log on to Google Classroom and commit time and effort to their revision in advance of their public exams next week. If your child or a member of your household has tested positive, is awaiting test results or is exhibiting any COVID symptoms please do not send your child to school. They should be following government advice and be self-isolating.

Please note all Year 12 students are expected to be in school on a full time basis from Monday 11th January if they are well.

There will be Mop Up Mock examinations tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January, for students who missed their English and Maths mock exams in December due to illness or self-isolation. Students who are required to attend know who they are and should arrive in school as normal. School buses will be available but the school canteen will not be operational so students should bring a packed lunch.

Please note that Government Policy now demands that all post-primary students wear facemasks in classrooms as well as on corridors and in recreational spaces so it is essential that all students bring a face mask with them and wear it all times when they are onsite. Strict social distancing must continue to be observed by all.

Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Children

We remain committed to providing "supervised learning" for the children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Children. Should you find yourself in a position where you require childcare please email me at cmcateer744@c2kni.net to let me know your requirements. If you require support for Thursday 7th and Friday 8th, please let me know by end of day on Tuesday 5th January. If you require assistance for next week, your request should be with me by Friday 8th January at noon to allow arrangements to be put in place.

Clearly the COVID situation is developing on a daily basis. As it does, I will continue to try to communicate with you as swiftly as I can, but I would encourage you to regularly review the school website and Facebook/Twitter accounts as we post important information and advice there on an ongoing basis.

As previously, if your child tests positive or is self-isolating I would respectfully ask that you let me know so that I can pass this information on to your child's teachers.

As we begin this New Year please be assured of our ongoing determination to ensure that all of our students, your sons and daughters, remain happy, safe and successful, and perhaps more importantly well, in the weeks and months ahead.

Yours sincerely

Catriona Mc Ateer

(Principal)