

St Wilfrid's Catholic School

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Diocese of Arundel & Brighton and West Sussex County Council

4 May 2020

Dear Parent, Carer,

I hope that you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well whilst coming to terms with the important restrictions which have been placed upon all of us. I would like to also thank those parents who have sent in messages of support, they have been very much appreciated by all concerned.

There has been much speculation in the media concerning the “re-opening” of schools, to allow more students, possibly whole year groups to attend. It has been suggested that, later this week or possibly early next, the government will announce details of how they remove some of the lockdown arrangements with specific reference to the “plan” for schools.

This speculation has created a level of uncertainty which is far from helpful whether you are a student, parent/carer, or are working in education. The only guarantee that I can give at this time is that following any announcement regarding schools, the government will then produce guidance which I will consider carefully and in detail whilst formulating the “next steps” for St Wilfrid's. Any decision made to open the school more fully will have at the heart of it, the consideration of the health and safety of all members of our school community, and I will contact you again with the details as and when I am able to.

I am fully aware that a number of you with younger children in Year 6 are uncertain about what will/will not take place regarding the transition of your son/daughter into Year 7 for September. The impact of any future announcement regarding schools will impact on what we are able to do in this regard but please rest assured that I have already held discussions with Miss Law (Year 7 Year Leader) and once we are in a position to confirm what we are able to do I will contact you specifically.

Regarding current Year 11 students who have applied for courses in the Sixth Form. We have been working on a range of resources to produce some “preparation” work/materials; the details for which will be sent out in the near future. It will be important for all students hoping to embark on A Level and BTec courses to look at these carefully, follow the instructions, and look to ensure that they work hard to produce the best pieces of work possible before submitting them in September.

As I mentioned in a previous email last week, I am fully aware of the impact that the lockdown has had, and continues to have on family finances. Therefore, I include again the links to more information regarding Universal Credit and Free School Meals; both links allow you to begin the application process should you wish to:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit>

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/#is-my-child-eligible> .

There are also other options available to any family who needs support at this time. Two organisations which may be of help are firstly, the Crawley Help Hub (see the link below for more information including an application form) who can be contacted via email using covid-19.support@crawley.gov.uk or on 01293 438000.

<http://crawley.gov.uk/news/2020/help-hub-supports-hundreds-residents-two-weeks>

Secondly, a “love your neighbor” initiative has been set up by St John’s Church, Crawley, to help meet the needs of families who may need some extra support at this time. They can help deliver prescriptions, be a “phone friend” to the lonely or isolated, carry out shopping for those who cannot get out themselves and they have helped deliver some food parcels on behalf of the “Easter Team”, a local foodbank. Please use the link below to contact them directly. Once contacted, they will assess your needs to see if they can help or refer you to other organisations which they are working with. If you do not have access to the internet, please feel free to contact them using 01293 522692. <https://www.stjohnscrawley.com/321/Love-Your-Neighbour-a-number-of-ways-in-which-we-can-all-play-our-part-to-reach-out-and-offer-much-needed-help-to-those-who-are-most-isolated-vulnerable-and-ill>

Finally, as we approach what would have been a day of national commemoration this Friday, despite being unable to engage in the VE day celebrations, Mr Hector has produced an excellent resource for families which is attached. As he notes:

Friday May 8th sees the 75th anniversary of VE day. Victory in Europe was celebrated on May 8th 1945 when Germany formally surrendered and World War Two in Europe ended (the war against Japan continued until the middle of August when the Atomic bombs were dropped).

The 75th anniversary would have been marked by a 3-day celebration, but much of this has been scaled back due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Appropriate events for a locked down country are going ahead however. Please see the attached sheet which provides more details and sources of further information.

I hope you find a suitable way to mark this momentous event in our shared history.

Finally, please continue to do everything you can to observe the lockdown measures, to stay safe and well. No one can put a timescale on when we will re-open fully and even then, it may not be “back to normal” but rest assured, and I can say this on behalf of all of the staff of St Wilfrid’s, this really is a day which we are looking forward to.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Michael Ferry
Headteacher

**Stay Home
Protect the NHS
Stay Safe**