



BISHOP HEDLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Penydarren, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9AN

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Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to write to you directly to update you on the current situation with regards school closures, examinations and the future support that you may need with your children.

As of 3pm tomorrow, the school will be closed to all pupils other than frontline key workers. We have no guidance how this will work practically. Staff have been expecting this and have been preparing pupils by making available resource via Google Classroom and giving learners paper copies where appropriate. As you will have seen, GCSE examinations have been cancelled and pupils will be awarded a grade based on predicted grades corroborated with examples of pupils work to support teacher's judgement. We have yet to receive specific details as to how this will work, as soon as we get this from the WJEC, we will publish details via our Social Media platforms. Pupils have been undertaking lots of mock examinations and assessments recently where staff have impressed upon pupils the importance of giving their very best in this. Understandably, pupils are upset at not being able to showcase their hard work and effort at the moment, but I am confident that our pupils, your children will be richly rewarded.

Another upsetting factor is the Leaver's Mass and prom that we have had no option but to postpone. The new arrangements for this will be that a Leaver's celebratory Mass and Awards evening will take place on the 10th September at 6pm in school, to which you and your family are invited. The prom has been rearranged for the 25th September.

There is some tension around support for learners who have queries about next steps for next year. The College at Merthyr Tydfil and Careers Wales are working closely to support pupils in this, in a remote way. Our Careers Advisor, Ruth Sullivan is available via email on ruth.sullivan@careerswales.com or on 07810830674 to answer any queries. The College have an admissions team available to answer queries and have asked that parents and pupils keep an eye on social media for further updates.

We are uncertain how long this closure will last, and want to ensure that Year 11 at least have a chance to say goodbye to one another. To that end, they will receive their leaver's hoodies tomorrow and have the opportunity to sign shirts before they leave tomorrow afternoon.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support for our staff and guidance for your children. It has been my privilege to watch your children grow and flourish into the fine young men and women they have become, I am so incredibly proud and humbled to have walked alongside them in this phase of their journey.

I wish you all the very best and please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have or indeed if you need support in anyway. Please look after yourselves, and take care.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Hopkins
Headteacher

