



27 March 2020

Principal: Mr S Brierley MA NPQH

Dear Parent/Carer,

Coronavirus update 7

I'm writing to update you about how our school is responding to the Coronavirus outbreak. As I wrote last week, we have closed as a school and instead are providing three other services, viz:

- on-site childcare for children who have been identified as 'vulnerable', or whose parents are 'key workers';
- online learning for all registered pupils; and
- safeguarding, again for all registered pupils.

On-site childcare

We have had between 3 and 6 children in school each day this week, and have offered them childcare during normal school hours (and up to 3:15pm on Thursdays). If you qualify for childcare provision (for example, because you work for the NHS), and no other childcare arrangements can be made for your son or daughter, please let me know (by e-mail at scbrierley@stmargaretsacademy.com).

The arrangements for next week are unchanged. St Margaret's will continue to provide childcare for those who are entitled to it, and who need it.

At this point in time we are anticipating that we will be able to continue to offer childcare throughout the Easter holidays, although not over the Easter weekend itself. Further details will be given in next week's update.

On-line learning

Mr Slater writes:

"Thank you for all your patience and hard work supporting your son this week.

"1 We appreciate it has been a real challenge for many pupils and parents/carers with limited access to computers, unreliable internet connections, forgotten passwords, new online resources – all this takes time to resolve and we understand. We have encouraged teachers to communicate to pupils that we understand that many pupils are working very hard and not to worry if they do not have time to finish all the work the teacher has set. They can always have a go at the work set for next lesson. All we ask is that they do their best and try to submit something.

"2 It is important to keep a balance. We do not want any pupils doing more work than they would do on a normal school day. If your son is finding the work for one subject or lots of subjects is taking longer than is reasonable to complete tell him to stop and let us know. No one will get into trouble and we will do our best to help.

“3 Keep sending any queries to the Virtual Team at itsupport@stmargaretsacademy.com. We, along with our pastoral team, will be seeking to support those pupils and parents/carers who have not, for a variety of reasons, been able to regularly access the online resources.

“4 Try to have a break this weekend – Whilst we can only go outside for exercise once a day at the moment, don’t go on Show My Homework; try to do something else that you enjoy instead.”

Safeguarding

Dr Silverstone has asked me to remind you that Form Tutors will be e-mailing out to their tutees every Monday morning, to maintain contact and to check on your child’s welfare; we would be very grateful if they could respond by 10:30am on Wednesday (to save us following up!). E-mails will be sent to students’ school e-mail addresses.

If you would like any assistance in the safeguarding or welfare of your son or daughter, there is a comprehensive document outlining what assistance is available on our website at <https://www.stmargaretsacademy.com/docs/Letters/2020-SafeguardingAndGeneralWellbeingAdvice.pdf>

Finally

I am sure you would want to join me in thanking all the staff who have enabled us to ‘repurpose’ our provision at such short notice this week. Inevitably, there have been some hiccups along the way, and I would ask for your forbearance as new routines and ways of working become embedded. Do let us know if there is anything we could do better! But by and large, the transition seems to have gone as smoothly as any of us dared hope, and I am grateful both to my colleagues to their hard work, and to you, the parent body, for your support and best wishes, at this extraordinary time.

I’d particularly like to pay tribute to **Andrea Ellison**, one of our cleaners, who is leaving today us for pastures new after four years’ service to our Academy. She leaves with our thanks and best wishes – if nothing else, the last two weeks have demonstrated what a vital job our cleaning team does! All the best for the future, Ms Ellison.

Please continue to put an arm (metaphorically if not physically) around our young children at this unsettling and uncertain time. They need our perspective and support more than ever right now.

Yours faithfully,



Stephen Brierley
Principal



CALM.
FOCUSED.
SAFE.



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL