



St John Fisher Catholic High School

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Hookstone Drive, Harrogate, HG2 8PT

Head Teacher: Mr S Mort B.A. (Hons), NPQH

Telephone: (01423) 887254 Website: www.sjfchs.org.uk Email: office@sjfchs.org.uk

29th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Headteacher Update

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for the tremendous support which they are providing at home and to our wonderful students who are continuing to approach the current challenges and restrictions with such maturity.

Re-opening of School

The Prime Minister has announced that it will not be possible for a wider school return immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools from Monday 8 March. This is in response to national public health data, pressure on NHS capacity and it is in-line with the wider national lockdown measures to help minimise the spread of the virus and respond quickly to the new variant.

Our school will remain open to the students who are currently attending each day. All other students will continue to receive remote education at home. I am all too aware that this announcement places continued pressure on families and I am sorry that we cannot open the building to students any sooner. Please note however, that the school building will be closed to all students during half-term (Monday 15th – Friday 19th February).

Attendance and Behaviour for Learning Update

One of the adaptations we have made to our online provision of education during this period of school closure is to register all students for each of their timetabled lessons as we would normally do in school. Students in Years 7-11 are therefore expected to register for every lesson, irrespective of whether it is being delivered 'live' or they are working from uploaded materials.

Where lessons are not being delivered 'live', students must log into their Teams class within the first 10 minutes of the lesson and post a short greeting message to their teacher. Teaching staff will then complete and upload their register in Bromcom during the last 10 minutes of the lesson using the following codes:





St John Fisher Catholic High School

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Hookstone Drive, Harrogate, HG2 8PT

Head Teacher: Mr S Mort B.A. (Hons), NPQH

Telephone: (01423) 887254 Website: www.sjfchs.org.uk Email: office@sjfchs.org.uk

F - student has logged on within the first 10 minutes of a scheduled lesson.

Q - student has NOT logged on to access the lesson.

L - student has logged on after the first 10 minutes of a scheduled lesson time.

The same codes will also be used to register students during 'live' lessons. Those students who are accessing their education in the school buildings will follow the same procedures, however their attendance will be marked '/' as they are physically present on the school premises.

To support our registration procedures, we would like to request that as parents/carers you continue to notify us of any medical appointments and/or absences from lessons due to illness in the normal way. This will improve the accuracy of our registers but more importantly it will help to ensure our intervention and support of students who might be struggling to engage with our online provision is focussed appropriately.

We are also continuing to use Bromcom to monitor and support student behaviour and engagement in lessons. It is a familiar aspect of our students' school-based learning that we are keen to retain whilst they are being educated remotely. Whilst staff will continue to issue positive points for engagement in lessons, they will not be issuing any negative points. Any concerns that may arise regarding a student's perceived lack of engagement across several lessons will be followed up as part of our regular welfare checks for the student(s) concerned.

On the theme of behaviour and engagement with online education, we have been delighted by the determination, commitment and maturity demonstrated by most of our students during these unprecedented and adverse circumstances.

Disappointingly, we have also had some instances of wilful disruption of lessons by a small minority of our student body. It is particularly disappointing to think that we have within our community students who would choose to act in this manner, disregarding the education of their peers and the efforts of their teachers at such a stressful time for all concerned. Such behaviour is unacceptable and will result in appropriate sanctions.

Our Remote Learning Code of Conduct (accessed via the link below) outlines our expectations of students for online learning. Please click on the link to read and acknowledge receipt of our Remote Learning Code of Conduct.

<https://forms.gle/QfhVhqQNHsxnJd1N7>





St John Fisher Catholic High School

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Hookstone Drive, Harrogate, HG2 8PT

Head Teacher: Mr S Mort B.A. (Hons), NPQH

Telephone: (01423) 887254 Website: www.sjfchs.org.uk Email: office@sjfchs.org.uk

Remote Learning Update

Many thanks for your continued support of our remote learning and please commend your children on their efforts. You can now find a detailed guide to our remote provision on the school website <https://sjfchs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DFE-Remote-Education-Provision-January-2021.pdf>

As stated in the guide, we continue to advise our teaching staff to try to deliver a blend of live 'synchronous' lessons and also independent 'asynchronous' activities to help balance screen time. We hope that this will enable students to fully engage with their learning, whilst supporting guidance on the appropriate amount of screen time for individuals. Where parents have concerns about the remote provision, can we request that they do not contact the member of staff directly and use the office@sjfchs.org.uk email address, marking your email F.A.O. the Head of Department.

Next Thursday we are holding the Year 12 Parents' Evening from 4.30 - 8pm, which will run virtually on Teams. This being the case, we have advised staff, where possible, to limit their own screen time during the day. This may mean that there are fewer live streamed lessons for classes whose teachers are involved in the Year 12 Parents' Evening; where this is the case, lessons will be put onto the class Team for the students to access at the appropriate time during the day.

As we strive to improve our students' learning experience, it is our intention to gather parental voice surrounding your child's engagement with remote learning. Please look out for our survey next week which we will use to evaluate our remote learning provision and students' learning experience.

Remote Learning in the Sixth Form

For students in Year 12 and Year 13, a member of staff from the Sixth Form team will be in contact this half term to ensure that students are safe, well and engaging in remote learning. If any student does have a concern, either personally with health or mental health, or with work or technology it is vital that they let their Senior Tutor know. Senior Tutors can be contacted via Teams. Attendance is being closely monitored by the Attendance Officer in the Sixth Form who will be contacting parents where concerns have been raised. There are also a small number of laptops available for Sixth Form students where there is a specific need. Please contact the Sixth Form office at 6thform@sjfchs.org.uk with any requests.





St John Fisher Catholic High School

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Hookstone Drive, Harrogate, HG2 8PT

Head Teacher: Mr S Mort B.A. (Hons), NPQH

Telephone: (01423) 887254 Website: www.sjfchs.org.uk Email: office@sjfchs.org.uk

Online Safety Update

The lockdown period and remote learning means that young people are spending more time online and to that end we would like to encourage you to look at the National Online Safety platform.

National Online Safety provides:

- Information about online dangers and the newest platforms
- What online risks to look out for and how to protect your child

Please find below the URL you need to visit to register your account. You will need to complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer" from the dropdown:

<http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-john-fisher-catholic-high-school>

Once you have registered, you will be able to access a wide range of online platform guides on the latest social media channels and games, the NOS app and the 'Wake up Wednesday' bulletin. They also publish alerts concerning any dangerous crazes. This aims to help empower parents with the knowledge to protect their children from the dangers of the internet.

If you have any questions, or trouble accessing the platform please contact support@nationalonlinesafety.com.

A big thank you to those parents/carers who have sent e-mails with messages of thanks, encouragement, and support, these have been shared with all staff, and are much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

S. m. mort.

Mr S Mort
Headteacher

