



Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College

Specialist Mathematics and Computing College

Principal: Mrs R Waugh BA (Hons). PGCE

CEO: Mr S G Bell, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

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16th March, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, we are experiencing extraordinary times. As a Catholic community, it is a time to truly demonstrate our Catholic values and virtues especially: compassion, love, selflessness, tolerance, wisdom, courage and self-control. We need the whole community to pull together to support each other; I have no doubt we will do this.

The government is now advising that all foreign trips are cancelled and this has been actioned for the Iceland trip. We will advise you of the status of future planned foreign trips over the coming weeks. The advice does not apply to trips planned within the UK but we will, of course, continue to respond to government advice and take appropriate risk assessments before embarking on any visit.

In line with government advice, pupils/students and staff are asked to stay at home for **7 days** if they have either a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above) or a new, continuous cough. This will help to protect others in the community while they are infectious. The government has advised that, if a person has these symptoms, they should not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. They **do not** need to contact NHS 111 as the NHS will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms. The **government** is clear that, if a pupil/student or a member of staff is in self-isolation, they:

- **must** stay at home.
- **must not** go to public areas, and **must not** use public transport or taxis.
- **cannot** go for a walk.

We ask you to use your judgement and thank you, in advance, for your co-operation regarding the above. Absences will not be authorised if a child is simply kept at home without displaying any symptoms or is seen in public as this does not follow the government guidelines.

The key advice remains as follows:

Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds.
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work.
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

Do not:

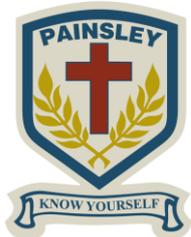
- touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.



National Teaching School
designated by
National College for
Teaching & Leadership



The Painsley Catholic Academy.
A company limited by guarantee registered in
England & Wales with company number 08146661.
Registered Office Address: Station Road, Cheadle, Staffordshire ST10 1LH.



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We have, and will continue to, teach pupils/students how to wash their hands correctly. Soap and sanitisers are available throughout the school and staff are being proactive in ensuring that children are protected.

You will be aware that schools in many countries have been closed. The UK government has not taken this action. Indeed, media reports indicate that schools may be forced to stay open even when Principals think there is good reason to close. However, this could change and we are developing contingency plans to deal with such a situation. The following is planned in the event of forced closures:

Subject to IT availability and performance, Year 10/11/12/13 will be expected to login to live streaming of lessons. They will be trained on how to do this in the coming days/weeks. Staff will take registers and contact will be made with parents if a child is not in the streaming session. This may be extended to other Years if we have more time to plan for forced closures; we will keep you informed.

Work for all Year groups/classes will be set on Show My Homework. This **MUST** be completed and emailed to the teacher. Email addresses will be sent to parents and pupils/students. Obviously, the work will be age appropriate. Any links to videos etc will be on the platform.

Teachers will mark work and return the work via email within 7 days. Some staff will use voice technology rather than written comments. Pupils/students will be expected to respond to the marking as normal.

If you do not have access to a computer/smartphone or internet availability, please contact school by 20th March and we will try to support you. If you have more than 1 child in Year 10/11/12/13, and they do not have their own computer or smartphone, again, please contact school and we will try to assist.

It is very important to stress that, even in the event of a forced closure, **your child will need to continue to work as if they are in school.** If your child is unwell, please telephone school in order for us to record the absence on the first day of being ill. They will then be exempt from the above work. We will notify you of any change to school telephone numbers if the need arises.

I hope you recognise that the above actions are being taken in the **best interests of your child.** We would not want them to be disadvantaged by this awful situation and will try our hardest to ensure this is the case. This is a very different scenario to one-off closures (such as snow days) as every indication is that, if schools do have to close, it will be for weeks if not months. We hope this will not be the case.

Once again, I thank you, in anticipation, for your support in these extraordinary times.

Please continue to remember all coronavirus sufferers and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R A Waugh
Principal



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