

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust  
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**Headteacher:** Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

26 March 2020

Dear Parents

I am enormously appreciative of all the support that you have given the school and staff at this difficult time.

We have already received constructive feedback related to remote learning. Remote learning is not a new concept; if you are of a certain generation, you will remember Open University lectures on television at unsociable hours of the morning. This form of teaching and learning is not without its challenges. For this reason, we will be sampling a random number of parents and students each week to 'test the water'.

Many students have found the work being set through SIMS engagement very accessible. I understand a few students have found it difficult to access the SIMS app, if this is the case, they can access SIMS Engagement through any web browser, on a PC, Laptop or phone via [www.sims-student.co.uk](http://www.sims-student.co.uk). They will need to Log in using their Office 365 email address and password.

Some students have found creative ways to access work including using a Smart TV. Many of the resources on SIMS are also copied on Teams. Some staff are emailing students directly, but it is not possible for all staff to do this for all the students they teach on a regular basis.

If your child is having difficulty accessing remote learning, in the first instance please email your child's form tutor. Please also encourage them to be realistic; provided they have tried to complete the work, that is fine. Some parents are saying that their children are finding they cannot complete all the tasks set for one day.

Students need to check their emails daily as they will be receiving messages from the Chaplain, the Safeguarding Team and their form tutors (all students should receive a weekly email from their tutor).

I am sure by now all parents and carers will have talked to children about social distancing and what this means, this includes children not inviting friends around when you are at work or arranging to meet up outside. It is important that you and they stick to the rules. This is a difficult time for everyone. Most students are familiar with social media and I am sure they are using this to keep in contact with friends. Remember though it is important for youngsters to moderate on-line time including gaming.

Life in school and for those home working has developed a new rhythm. I want this to be echoed in the manner by which we communicate with you. Communication to parents from the school will be posted between 2.00pm and 5.00pm each day when required. You will continue to receive a text and an email, letters to parents will be posted on our website. Our intention is for parents to receive one post a day.

All the information related to school closure including advice for parents and students can be found at a single point on our website: <https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/coronavirus/>

The latest post on the website includes information on independent learning, some of this information has been sent to students.

Staff will continue to communicate with students using SIMS Engagement, Outlook Email and Teams. Work will be posted as and when it is authored by staff.

A number of parents have provided us with examples of written and project work undertaken by students. I have heard of children undertaking wonderful activities at home including baking cakes at home for the first time, making furniture with parents or writing quizzes for the family related to their learning. If parents are happy to share these stories, perhaps with a few pictures, we will include these in other whole school communications.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes and keep safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Quinn', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr Matthew Quinn  
**Headteacher**