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Dear Parents and Carers

A happy, if not different Easter to you all. I am sure like me, you experienced an Easter like no other. I, for one, managed my first Easter Sunday Mass at the Vatican, albeit via a video link. Most churches provided Easter services and liturgies, priests and catechists continue to be busy providing spiritual inspiration. Miss Keogh, our Chaplain, continues to send out prayer resources to students. The Easter Season lasts until Pentecost on 31st May. The Gospel readings over the next six weeks build to this point; each of us have been given a set of gifts by the Spirit, gifts we are to use for the building up of God's church and the transformation of the world, difficult though that is at this time. I hope over Easter you had an opportunity to reconnect with your children and to take time together as a family.

Thank you for everything you have undertaken to manage home learning before the Easter break. At the time of writing, the 'mood music' suggests little change to the lockdown, so the new term of remote learning will commence on Monday 20th April. Some students will be pleased to receive new work, others less so. For some, re-establishing remote learning routines will be difficult and require encouragement. Many staff are keeping to the rhythm of the timetable when setting work. Next week is a Week One. Staff will continue to set work through SIMS Engagement for Years 7-10 and for Year 12, important assignments will be available through Teams. If students still find it difficult to log on to SIMS Engagement or to access the work, they must email their Form Tutor.

For many of our students, levels of anxiety will have increased over the holiday. Sadly some of our community will know of bereavement or have family members who are seriously ill. Please keep in contact with us, we will do what we can to support you.

We have a process in place to track the engagement in learning alongside random sampling of parents and students. We may contact you by email or telephone if it appears that a student is struggling or has not engaged with school work. We would like to know what else we can do to help.

The school continues to offer a term time provision for the children of key workers and those students who are identified as 'vulnerable'. This remains an emergency service and at the discretion of the school. Please do not try and use this service if you do not fall into these categories.

Most parents who are key workers have already identified themselves to us and we have remained in contact with them but if there is anyone else who falls into this category and has not yet done this and who now needs a provision for their child / children, please do email

Provision@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Vulnerable children are those with social workers, family support workers and students with an EHCP. We have a database of those students and parents have already been contacted regarding the provision from 20th April.

The advice from the Government still remains that children must stay at home wherever possible and only use the service at school if, at the last resort, there is no safe alternative. This is the first principle of the Government guidance.

Please can I reiterate that parents are not to send children to school unless they are key workers or vulnerable students, as defined by the Government.

Please email Provision@oaklandscatholicschool.org by 12:00 noon on Friday 17th April. We may not be able to provide provision for late requests. You will then receive an email from school confirming your child's provision.

No child is to be sent to school if the family is self-isolating.

I feel that it is very important for us to stay connected and I would like all of our students and parents to continue to stay in touch. To this end, Form Tutors will continue to email each student once a week. Subject staff are using the message facility within Teams.

Any whole school communication that is published for parents will be issued during the afternoon period, and ideally only once a week. We will of course communicate separately with various groups of parents on an 'as needed basis'.

By working together I am sure we can chart our way through the difficult days ahead.

Good luck with the remote term, thank you for everything you are doing, keep safe and keep in touch.

You all remain in my prayers.

Yours sincerely



Mr Matthew Quinn
Headteacher