



Bishopton Road West, Stockton-on-Tees
T: 01642 704970
E: enquiries@ourladyandstbede.org.uk W: www.ourladyandstbede.org.uk



OUR LADY & ST. BEDE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Headteacher: M Wilkinson
CEO: M Regan OBE, DL M.Ed., B.Ed (Hons)., FCIEA, CEA
Chair of Directors: Cyndi Hughes LLB (Hons), M.Ed., M.Phil

31st March 2020

Dear all

Hope you are all safe and well and adapting to our new routines and working patterns. Thank you for your support and patience as we all learn to adapt in these difficult times.

Below are a few helpful resources and information that I hope you will find useful.

Be safe and strong.

God Bless

Mo Wilkinson

Free School Meals Voucher Update

The Government have released today further information regarding the national scheme to provide supermarket vouchers if your child is eligible and currently in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

The vouchers can be used in the following supermarkets:

- Morrisons
- Tesco
- Sainsbury's
- Asda
- Waitrose
- M&S

All vouchers will be made available to the adult with caring responsibility for the named child.

The vouchers should not be redeemed for any age-restricted items, such as alcohol, cigarettes or lottery tickets.

The vouchers will only be available during term time. However, the Stockton HUBS will still be open during holiday periods to support families with lunch each day.

We are currently working with the Government and our families to establish the best method in making these vouchers available. Once we have further details about this we will publish further updates.

If you feel that you maybe newly eligible for Free School Meals then please follow this link to Stockton Council's webpage and make an application:

<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/schools/school-meals/>

Once an application has been made parents/carers should make contact with the local authority, who will verify eligibility and award free school meals.





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Year 11 Pre-Public Examination Data

As you will be aware GCSE examinations are not taking place this summer and grades will be awarded under a different system. The GCSE grades will be awarded by Ofqual and informed by teacher's assessments based on performance in mock examinations, non-examined assessment and a prediction of what grade pupils would have attained in the summer examinations. The grades awarded will be subject to moderation and will be a fair reflection of the work that pupils have put in. The distribution of grades will reflect those obtained by pupils in our school in previous years. Whilst we await further detailed guidance from Ofqual about how the process will work we have postponed sending out the pre-public examination data at this point. Ofqual intends to make GCSE grades available to students in July with the opportunity to sit the examinations early next academic year should students wish to do so.

Liturgy Resources

Please be aware that liturgy resources for Primary and Secondary daily Acts of Worship, a link to daily Mass from Cathedral and also a simple Sunday Mass reflection with Act of Spiritual Communion for families to use in the absence of being able to go to Mass this weekend are now available on our website. There are also a bank of spiritual support available in the same area of the website. (Top righthand corner of main screen under Liturgy)

Mental Health of Children

Deacon Jeff, one of our Governors, also happens to be a mental health chaplain for TEWV. He has kindly shared this link for supporting the mental health of children.

<https://www.tewv.nhs.uk/supporting-your-childs-mental-wellbeing-in-uncertain-times/>

Careers Learning Opportunities:

There are several free online courses available for Year 11 pupils on a course/topic you might want to do in the future. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are free online courses on 1000s of topics, designed by universities. They are very accessible even if you are not thinking about university and are for anybody with an interest in the topic.

They could be a great way to:

- keep in touch with a course or topic you are interested in,
- acquire even more knowledge,
- prepare for your future course at uni or for a career.
- And, they will look great when you mention them on your personal statement, CV or application!

You do not need qualifications to start the courses. They usually take a few hours a week over 2-4 weeks.

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/adviser-zone/home-learning-activities-students#link-2>

Teams

Please can we remind parents and carers that Teams is a public learning platform, the messages sent on the App are visible to all pupils in each class. With this in mind, we would ask that if parents would like to inform school of information regarding their child, or their child's work in a specific class, could they please do so in the usual manner, by ringing school on our school landline and leaving a message with the office. During this time, please only contact the school if the concern / query is urgent.

As you know, teachers are setting tasks for pupils in their usual lesson time. However, this does not always mean that the pupil will need to complete the tasks and upload them within the lesson. We want to support our pupils as much as possible in this difficult time and understand that the work needs to be manageable. Teachers will set reasonable deadlines for all tasks.

