

## **MESSAGE FROM HEAD TEACHER TO PUPILS – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Dear all

I just wanted to touch base with you to say how proud and impressed all the staff at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy, have been, with the determined way you have gone about and handled the new and different challenges Covid-19 has presented.

You have shown strength of character beyond your years, not just in your learning, but also in your emotional resilience and willingness to adapt to new ways of working.

Furthermore, despite these strange times, the standard of your remote work in all subjects, has truly been phenomenal and a credit to your emotional and professional resilience.

You have undoubtedly observed that every day in the press, there has been swirling media speculation around when and how schools might reopen.

At a secondary level, advice and guidance is still being formulated by health and government advisors to ensure that future on-site pupil re-engagement, is safe, effective, and manageable for the whole school community.

We ask for your patience during this transition phase as we consult with professional bodies to ensure we get re-engagement right for pupils, staff, and families.

I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you, that all staff are working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that when the day finally comes for you to return to school, you can do so in the knowledge that you will be safe, welcomed and supported.

Despite unintentional and unhelpful educational batching into year group categories by the media, we still see each and every one of you as a unique and valued member of our school community and as such will work with each of you on an individual basis to ensure we make re-engagement, when it eventually comes, as smooth and supportive as possible.

While I am not in a position at the present moment to give you a definite date for your return to school, rest assured that we are determined to ensure that when you do, you will have all the emotional, social, spiritual and academic support necessary to ensure a smooth transition.

In the meantime, we will continue to remotely support and reassure you in these difficult and unprecedented times, and ask that for now, you continue to keep being brilliant, keep calm, keep learning and keep safe.

Best wishes

Mrs Wilkinson