

Notes and updates to parents (Monday 4th May 2020)

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope this update finds you and yours safe and well.

As we navigate these difficult times together as a nation, I am under no illusion how much of a strain it has put on parents in terms of keeping their children engaged in education and remote learning and I wanted to take this opportunity to again thank you for working with us in partnership as we adapt, embed and refine new learning and teaching routines.

Staff are currently in the process of calling home to every family to offer and provide support and I thank parents for the positive comments you have already articulated around the educational and pastoral support our school is providing for your children during these unprecedented times. Your comments are much appreciated, and we all look forward to future days when we can return to communicating via good old face to face conversation rather than text, app, or email!

That said, I think there are some aspects of our current new remote learning technologies that we should keep in terms of home learning when schools return to relative normality. Many staff have commented on the high standard and quality of remote home learning work completed by pupils over the last few weeks. To ensure we celebrate and acknowledge such achievement, we now share pupil "work of the week" with the whole school community in every subject area each Friday.

At Our Lady and St Bede, we believe that celebrating talent and achievement is of the utmost importance. We perhaps need to make an extra effort to recognise, celebrate and appreciate the many talents and achievements within our school community even more so when we are in such unprecedented times.

To that end, please make sure you read the first addition of our new bi-annual magazine "Engage" which you can find on our [website](#) and linked to our Facebook page. We hope it brings a little ray of light to a somewhat cloudy educational sky.

Future editions will continue to celebrate the many successes, achievements, and talents of pupils at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy and feature news and articles showcasing and sharing the many opportunities and experiences on offer to our pupils.

As always, I will endeavour to keep you updated regularly as and when new guidance and information becomes available. A reminder that this Friday is a national bank holiday and that teachers will not be setting any work on TEAMS that day. Normal lessons will resume online on Monday 11th May.

On behalf of the staff at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy, I thank you all for your continued support and patience and look forward to the day when normality resumes!!

Best wishes



Mo Wilkinson