



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Following announcements by the Government yesterday, I would like to provide you with the following updates:

School Closures:

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced that schools will close for all pupils, apart from the most vulnerable and children of key workers (estimated to be no more than 10% of school population), from Monday 23rd March 2020, in order to support the Government's action plan to combat the Coronavirus.

Vulnerable Children and Children of Key Workers:

We have written a separate letter regarding the extended school opening for vulnerable children and children of key workers.

Distance Learning Resources:

Schools have been preparing for this eventuality for some time now and have been developing distance learning resources. The schools will communicate how pupils can access these separately. From Monday, your child will be expected to work at home and spend regular blocks of time completing the activities set by the school, unless they are in the vulnerable children or children of key worker groups. We very much appreciate your support in ensuring our pupils complete these tasks to the best of their ability.

The vast majority of our students are now well-versed in accessing remote online learning system - Firefly. They need their school email and corresponding password – you will find this in the front of your child's planner. Once logged in, students will find a range of work (from different subjects) that they can do from home to support what learning would have taken place in school. Please note that teachers will update this when they can and ensure that work is set regularly – please do not email teachers asking for additional work. Whilst there is no substitute for learning in the classroom, we will do all we can to ensure your child's education continues as normally as possible. To support parents we have created a guide to Firefly – this is available on our school website. Should you have any technical issues or questions about Firefly we have created a helpline – firefly@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk

SATs, A-Levels and GCSEs:

The Secretary of State for Education also announced that these tests and examinations will not take place. In a statement to CEOs and school leaders, he said:



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'We can confirm that we will not go ahead with assessments or exams, and that we will not be publishing performance tables for this academic year.'

'We will work with the [education] sector and Ofqual to ensure children get the qualifications they need.'

We do not have any details as to how the Government will achieve this, but as soon as we do, we will share them with you.

Staff in our schools have worked tirelessly and often in challenging circumstances to keep schools open this week. I am most grateful for their wonderful hard work. I would also like to reassure parents and carers that we are fully committed to providing a suitably challenging programme of study for all our children and young adults during the period of school closure.

We continue to pray each day for all those around the world who have been affected by the Coronavirus.

Yours sincerely

Sean McClafferty
Chief Executive Officer
St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust