



6th April 2020

Dear Parents,

I take this moment to write to you about how all the schools in our multi academy are responding as best they can to the Covid 19 'lockdown'.

I would first like to thank you as parents and carers who have supported each of our eight schools as they endeavour to provide a continued education for our young people as well as ensuring that those who are vulnerable, those whose parents are key workers and pupils who are in receipt of free school meals have their needs met. I thank all those parents who have written heartfelt messages to Principals and staff at each of our schools expressing gratitude for all efforts made so that no young person is disadvantaged during this national emergency. My experience is that as a community we reflect the picture in the country as a whole where we are doing our best to work with others in cheerful sacrifice so that lives are saved, the NHS can cope with this unprecedented situation and in the words of Queen Elizabeth we will 'all meet again'.

I would also like to thank the staff in our schools for making sure that all that needs to be done is done. They are providing work for pupils, on a rota staffing each of our schools daily so that those parents who are key workers can go to work and make sure our country is safe. I particularly thank the multi academy ICT and Premises staff for essential work and to Principals and Heads of School who meet regularly sharing their experience in order to improve and adapt the service we provide during the 'lockdown'.

To that end I remind parents that all schools in the multi academy apart from St. Edmund Campion have their Easter Holidays from inclusively Friday 10th April 2020 – Sunday 26th April 2020. St. Edmund Campion's Easter Holiday dates which were set before they joined the multi academy are inclusively Saturday 4th April 2020 – Sunday 19th April 2020. During the stated holiday period no new work will be set by staff and the setting of work will resume at the start of the new term i.e. from 20th April at St. Edmund Campion and 27th April at all the other schools.

We are continuing to offer provision Monday-Friday for vulnerable children and children whose parents are critical workers over the Easter holidays. Towards the end of last week all schools put out a letter assuming that parents have made alternative arrangements for the Bank Holiday weekend (Good Friday and Easter Monday). In this letter it did state that if you are a key worker and it is essential for you to attend work on these two days and you have no other arrangements, please email the relevant school as soon as possible and we will do our best to help you. Please make sure this request is with the school tomorrow (7th April) by 10am. We are having a meeting tomorrow afternoon where we will sort out the logistics of accommodating small numbers of children on these bank holidays and I will be asking the leaders of each school to communicate exact arrangements with parents who have requested this provision.

I know parents and young people will be worried about more medium term concerns like primary school admissions, places in the sixth form as well as how public examination grades will be formulated. Please try not to worry unduly as we are preparing for a return to normality and welcome clarity from the national government in this regard.

St. John Paul II Multi Academy

Registered Office: c/o St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Little Sutton Lane, Sutton Coldfield B75 6PB

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Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL): Mr J.B. Farrell

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This is the beginning of Holy Week and in your preparation for Easter, the greatest Christian festival, we can take comfort that often suffering has to be endured not resisted against. The last known words of the dying St. John Paul II that 'Jesus never came down from the Cross'. I am hopeful that the message of Jesus' death and resurrection that through sacrifice we can all be saved is particularly helpful during this time of acute national need, I would point everyone to the spiritual experiences that come in the form of the internet with not only links to the Vatican and Pope Francis but Masses streamed from local parishes. Please see examples of local and worldwide links below.

<https://www.sacredheartaston.com/>

<http://www.churchservices.tv/suttoncoldfield>

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

My thoughts and prayers are with everyone and the important thing is to keep on thinking of others. If you have any queries, please use the enquiry@ email address for the relevant school.

Yours sincerely,

John Farrell
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St. John Paul II Multi Academy

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