

20<sup>th</sup> January 2021



**ST HILDA'S**  
CE HIGH SCHOOL

WISDOM  
HOPE  
COMMUNITY  
DIGNITY  
EQUALITY

## PARENT AND CARER UPDATE

Dear parent/carer

I want to start this update by sending you our thanks for all of your support. We know that this lockdown is tough for you all too, and once again we find ourselves juggling home learning and our own jobs and commitments. The fact that so many of you have been so positive during our calls to you and in emails means a lot. I was particularly touched by the number of emails to Ofsted you sent on our behalf saying how happy you were with our remote learning. The fact that you take that time to let us know you are happy means a great deal. That does not mean to say that we think we have the perfect home schooling system. We appreciate the ideas and suggestions you also have to get better, and would be grateful if you could complete this survey by clicking here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gsIUyD0XnE2CnSSqmUfkEFTjccddUT5GtCUAP9-oqFxUN1ExUEhFME9MOVdJVDJNQk1TTjRJSkQzRC4u>

### PASTORAL SUPPORT

Our students' experience of home learning is dependent on who they are. Some love live lessons, some find them hard to keep up with and would prefer recorded lessons, some like to work through the work set and not have any live lessons, so we believe a mix of all of the different approaches may be best, but we will also be sending our students a survey too very shortly. However, the one constant is that our students need communication. This is why maintaining contact not just in our live lessons is important. To date, we have made in excess of 1400 calls and sent 150 welfare emails. Please note, our calls are No Caller ID due to safeguarding purposes. Our next step will be to set up small groups of people in the same form to have a chat with their tutor too.

### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

We have provided over 160 laptops to students since March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020. The Government provided us with 40 of those laptops. We understand that sharing devices at home makes live lessons very difficult. We can offer printing facilities too here, but teachers have been asked to use electronic marking systems to save on printing for families.

Our SEND Team is working incredibly hard to support students in lessons and in school. We are using the technology we have in Teams to trial the use of breakout rooms. We will also be supporting some small group catch-ups for our students. Details to follow.

Our website has all of the support for you in one place and access to our form time activities too, <http://www.st-hildas.co.uk/learning-from-home/>

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## PARENTS' EVENINGS

We use a company to schedule our parents' evenings for us. This allows you to choose the time you would like to attend. One of the best bits of this arrangement, from your feedback, is no standing in long queues and the timings not working! There was a technical fault last Thursday; a national outage. This means that we have rearranged the Year 11 Parents' Evening to this Thursday. Teachers will be running this from 10 a.m. to 2.50 p.m. to fit in around your working day and to allow for more flexibility. **This will mean that teachers of Year 11 will be setting online learning instead of live lessons for this day for all of their classes.**

Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place after Year 11 on Thursday. We appreciate the frustration in not being able to get to see all of your son or daughter's teachers, but there are only a specific number of slots. There will be a further Parents' Evening around Options time too.

Year 7 appointments will be available the following Thursday from 9.30 – 3.00 p.m. We will inform you by letter of when the booking system opens.

Some of you have asked about sharing the parents' evening with someone else who isn't with you; your partner who is at work, or your child who is at home and you are at work. This link explains how to do that very simply. <https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

## SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

There is a really good link to a variety of support documents for everyone in the family, ranging from support for choosing A Level courses, dealing with teenagers and virtual work experience. There may be something of use to you in it!

[https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR2NJgg\\_qHcd\\_r1fsqVk53IOxoZfKRCivPe\\_2UkgkjBxwLlZqYTiIEWIeOnA](https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR2NJgg_qHcd_r1fsqVk53IOxoZfKRCivPe_2UkgkjBxwLlZqYTiIEWIeOnA)

## ATTENDANCE

We need to keep accurate attendance figures, even though schools are closed to the majority of students. Please email [attendance@st-hildas.co.uk](mailto:attendance@st-hildas.co.uk) if your son or daughter is unable to do their lessons due to illness or another reason. We then let the teacher know not to expect the student in their lesson.

Our [covid@st-hildas.co.uk](mailto:covid@st-hildas.co.uk) inbox is still there for those of you reporting your child has tested positive, or to alert us to any support you or they may need due to Covid. This support is for them when they are at home learning and when they return to us, which we pray will be soon!

## EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

You may have seen that the Government has cancelled all GCSEs, A/S and A Levels and BTECS our students would have taken in summer. There is an Ofqual consultation on what we think should happen now. They have extended the invite to reply to our students and parents/carers. I have pasted the link below. If your son or daughter is in Year 11, 12 or 13, I would recommend you and they take a look at it. It is a long read and we in school will update you on the final decisions and how we will further support your son and daughter with their studies.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021/how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021-html>

Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours and we are really looking forward to having all of our students back in school,



Jo Code