



**St Antony's
Roman Catholic School**

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

29th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I write after the Prime Minister made his announcement on Wednesday 27th January that schools will remain closed to all (except vulnerable students and children of critical workers) until Monday 8th March. I know this will come as challenging news to many of you but, please be assured, that the high quality remote education which is already being delivered will continue. Lots of useful information can be found on the [Remote Learning](#) page of the school website including teacher email addresses and KS3 'live' lesson timetables. Thank you so much for what you are doing to support your child in their continued education. We know it's tough and we empathise. Our staff who are home schooling are finding it tough too. We can all, however, only do our best and this is what we strive to do each and every day.



Teams is proving to be a very useful platform for our remote delivery - staff and students are fast becoming more and more skilled and we are learning more about its strengths and weaknesses from an educational point of view as the days progress. The Chat function is an essential part of Teams but can cause issues in a lesson delivered to a full year group. In this instance, the Chat function should not be used. Following parent feedback, work for a particular day will be set by 6pm the previous evening. The calendar will be used as follows for all of the times that a lesson should be taught (as per usual student timetable):

1. If the lesson is live, the meeting reads Live Lesson RE (or whatever subject)
2. If the lesson is not live, the meeting reads Assignment RE (or whatever subject)
3. If live lessons and assignments will have already been covered by the time spent earlier in the week on subject learning (especially because of the KS3 'live' timetables), the meeting should read Learning Catch-up or Development

If students have completed learning or need a change of focus for the day, we strongly recommend that students support their long-term educational and employment chances, and their wellbeing, by reading as much as possible. Please see Helpful Documents link for remote reading. And we are very excited to be imminently launching a new reading initiative with Bedrock Learning. Please see the [Literacy](#) page of the school website with favourite books of the St Antony's staff and some of them reading excerpts from these.

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Headteacher: Mrs F Wright



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Thank you to those parents, mostly of Yr7 and Yr8 students, who completed the parent survey a fortnight ago. The responses were overwhelmingly positive. We have addressed a number of points made i.e. adding more 'live' lessons for KS3 and reducing the number of 'live' lessons for KS4 and this has been well received by students and parents. We are currently developing our systems for remote feedback and assessment and I look forward to sharing these with you. Next Friday (5th February 2021) I will host another Parent Q&A at 4pm. Please email head@st-antony.com if you would like an invitation to attend and to also send in any questions you would like addressing.

We are continually mindful of the mental health of our students as the lockdown and school closure continues. Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and lots of resources can be found [here](#). The theme this year is Express Yourself and, with this in mind, I am inviting all students to produce a collage that expresses who they are as a person. This collage could include photos, pictures, lyrics, quotes and anything else which enables them to express their inner and outer qualities, interests and passions which makes them who they are. I have made a start on mine, which I show on the accompanying video, and I look forward to seeing many of yours. They can be dropped off at reception or photos of them emailed to me on f.wright@st-antony.com. Sheets of A3 paper are available at reception.

When I meet with parents at school in whatever context, you will frequently hear me say that success for the children comes from school and home working closely together. This is nevermore apparent than in current times. I thank you in advance for your continued support.

With kind regards,

Mrs Wright – Headteacher



The favourite prayer of many of the St Antony's staff members