



# Saint Benedict CVA

## Head's Update for parents and pupils



**St Ralph Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

April 2020

Issue 2

Dear parents and carers  
I hope you are managing to settle into some form of routine as we adjust to this new temporary 'normal'. Teachers, who have been setting work daily, have been delighted with the hard work which their pupils have been putting in with lots of great examples of work being submitted every day. I hope your children are finding a balance of work and recreation time with

whatever exercise space will allow for. Please find some important updates below which we have been working on over the past week in order to support you and your children over the weeks ahead.

We very much appreciate all that you are doing to support us. While time with family is precious, this is a very stressful time for many and keeping your children focused on their work takes patience, love and

support, which can be challenging when resources and space are limited. You will all be in our thoughts and prayers and if you need anything or there is more we can be doing to support please do not hesitate to contact us on [enquiries@saintben.derby.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@saintben.derby.sch.uk)

**Kevin Gritton**  
Headteacher

### Year 11 and 13 Proms

**Year 11 and 13 Proms - A new provisional date of 11 September has been set for the Year 11 Prom and we are currently looking for a date for the year 13 Prom which we will announce when it is booked. Our year 11 and 13 pupils have still**

**said they very much want these events to happen and we are determined that we will all be able to celebrate their achievements over the years together with a great send off for all of them.**

### Children of Key Workers

There are a small number of children of Key Workers who will be attending school over the Easter period in order to enable their parents to continue to carry out their vitally important work for the

community  
My sincere thanks to the staff who are coming into school over the Easter break and the Bank Holiday weekend to enable this to happen.

### Curriculum

We have had lots of positive feedback from parents about Show My Homework which now seems to be working well for many pupils and keeping them very busy.

We are constantly refining the work we set based on the feedback we receive from pupils and parents and we are in the process of issuing some updated guidance on the timetable structure and the work which teachers will be setting from the beginning of next term.

For many year groups the changes will be minimal and will involve some changes to the structure of the day in order to simplify the setting of work and

to limit the amount set each day.

For years 11 and 13, after Easter, we will be trying to build in some work which will help these pupils prepare for the next phase of their education.

Can I please encourage all parents and pupils to continue to attempt whatever they are able to do in order to keep their minds active and the day structured.

We do not plan to set additional work over Easter as this is still a holiday but pupils are free to use this time to catch up on any missed deadlines if they wish to. See our website for more information

<https://bit.ly/2X2qbel>

### Safeguarding

We are continuing to carry out weekly checks on a number of our pupils who are classified as vulnerable and are working closely with social services to ensure these children and families continue to receive the support they need. Heads of year are also monitoring daily use of Show My Homework and are following up where they identify any issues or concerns. If you have any safeguarding concerns yourself please do not hesitate to contact us on [safeguarding@saintben.derby.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@saintben.derby.sch.uk)

## Free School Meals

This week we sent out our first set of vouchers to parents, either by email or by post which had been provided by our Multi Academy Trust.

The Government has now set up a scheme which all schools will be using which will work in a similar way but will be administered by a different company. The company which the Government is using is called Edenred and the next round of vouchers will be due to be issued on the week beginning 27 April. We are aware that some parents who may not have

been eligible for free school meals may now find themselves in a challenging financial position due to some businesses and self-employed people being adversely impacted by the national measures put in place.

If you are one of these parents please do not hesitate to contact us on enquiries@sainben.derby.sch.uk and we will do whatever we can in order to support you.

## Exams

We are still awaiting further guidance from exam boards with regard to the awarding of grades for this summer for the range of qualifications which Year 11 and 13 have been due to complete. We will inform you as soon as we have any more details. At Saint Benedict Sixth Form

we will ensure we are as fair as possible when enrolling pupils onto A level courses, building in some flexibility to take this summer's changes into account. The Government guidance can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2xYdHtV>

## Chaplaincy

We pray that you and your loved ones are safe during this time. Special prayers are being said for those on the front lines battling this epidemic. If this new normal has taught us anything is that we must love one another as God loves us. One way that chaplaincy tries to show love is by making itself available for prayer. You can submit your prayer request on the school website in the Stay Connected section. We also have daily reflections posted on the SaintBen Chapel YouTube Channel, saintbenchapel on Instagram and a podcast called The SESH by our own pupils on <https://anchor.fm/saintbenchapel>. If you are looking to celebrate Mass you have several options: Bishop Patrick McKinney on YouTube, <https://bit.ly/3a1PFlq> with Fr. David and <https://bit.ly/341VTky> Stay safe and God Bless. Jannice Richtoff.

## Wellbeing

The closure of schools and the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as a whole has the potential to be an anxious and uncertain time for children, young people, parents and carers. A reminder that at this difficult time school is here to support our community in any way we can.

Requiring no referral, the Kooth and Qwell services are available to everyone to provide access to counselling support from 12-10pm on weekdays and 6pm-10pm on weekends, as well as 24/7 access to online forums where concerns can be shared and discussed. The Kooth service is for children

and young people aged 11-18, up to 25 for children in care, and the Qwell service is for parents and carers whose children are aged under 18.

<https://www.kooth.com/>  
<https://www.qwell.io/>

Another useful site for young people and parents who may be struggling during this difficult time is YoungMinds. They are the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

### REMINDER

Please ask your children to check and respond to emails from heads of year.



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<https://bit.ly/39Dxnk7>