



Saint Benedict
A Catholic Voluntary Academy

To all Parents & Carers

Dear Parents and Carers

In my weekly update last week I mentioned that we were looking at reviewing our remote learning plans. So far the content we have been setting for pupils has involved a wide range of tasks but they have not been live. Having piloted live form sessions in Year 7 tutor time last week, staff and pupils were very positive about being able to communicate directly in this way and this week Year 9 have been following suit with other year groups about to join also.

We have been looking carefully at the evidence of best practice in online teaching over the past few weeks and feel that including live sessions as part of the curriculum would be of real benefit to our students. I know many of you feel the same way and so I am pleased to say that from Monday 25 January we will be introducing some live teaching in Years 7-11 in addition to that currently offered in the Sixth Form.

The evidence shows that there are also real benefits to much of the types of work which teachers are already setting, particularly in allowing students to work at different paces and to review recorded video content. Much of our online learning will continue to feature these techniques but by ensuring pupils can meet regularly with their teachers, they will be able to stay connected and receive instant feedback from teachers directly.

Having now distributed over 350 laptops to families, pupils are much better connected across the school. This means that all pupils will be able to access the live sessions.

This week staff have had training in how to use Microsoft Teams to most effectively teach online. I am sure you will appreciate that this is more complicated than it sounds trying to manage classes of up to 32 online. Many staff also have young children at home who themselves are expected to access online learning regularly. We have given them the flexibility to decide on time slots for the sessions. These will be pre-planned across the school and links to all of these live sessions will still be uploaded to Satchel One so that there is still one place to visit for you and your children in order to access the learning for the day.

Teachers will be aiming to arrange live sessions in the morning wherever possible in order to support pupils with a healthy structure to the day. Teachers will be monitoring attendance at live session so please communicate to your children that attendance is not optional.



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Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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Teachers will begin to upload invites to Satchel One for next week over the course of this week so please encourage your children to check sessions in advance for next week so that they know when they have a live session for different subjects.

The regularity of live sessions for different year groups will be as follows:

Years 7, 8 & 9

Pupils will have a live lesson in English, Maths, Science, Religious Studies, Modern Foreign Languages and Humanities fortnightly.

Years 10 & 11

Pupils will have a live lesson in English, Maths and Science weekly and in other subjects fortnightly.

Years 12 & 13 will continue to have at least one live lesson per fortnight.

Teachers will continue to set work for all other lessons in the same way that they have been doing. The live lesson will replace what would have been set by the teacher on that day meaning pupils will not be set extra work. By moving to this blended approach of live (synchronous) and pre-recorded (asynchronous) teaching, pupils at Saint Benedict will be able to benefit from the best of a range of approaches to remote learning. Year teams will continue to make regular contact to help you and your children manage any issues which may still arise.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Gritton
Headteacher



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