

# Blessed George Napier Catholic School and Sixth Form

## A Youth Sport Trust Lead School for Inclusion

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Compassion  
Respect  
Truth  
Service  
Forgiveness



19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Coronavirus

I am sure that you were as concerned as us when you heard the announcement from the Minister for Education last night saying that schools would close tomorrow until further notice for most students.

#### How will my child's education be managed during prolonged school closure?

I would like to reassure you that our staff have been working extensively on plans for homeworking in the event of school closure for several weeks. We will use the 'My VLE' online learning platform to provide work to students: <https://bgn.myvle.co.uk/login/>. We asked all students to ensure that they know how to log-in and that they can access the VLE. Please supervise your child and ask them to show you how they log-in at some point over the next few days. We will be monitoring their use of the platform to ensure they are working.

#### What is going to happen about GCSE and A Level exams?

We realise that Year 11 and Year 13 students and parents will be especially anxious. We will be asking all relevant questions on your behalf and we will keep you updated as the situation becomes clearer. The most recent statement from the Secretary of State for Education says: "We can confirm that we will not go ahead with assessments or exams, and that we will not be publishing performance tables for this academic year". We will update you further when we know more and will work with the sector and Ofqual to ensure children get the qualifications they need.

#### What are my responsibilities as a parent once school closes?

It is essential that you ensure your child understands the dangers but, as far as possible without frightening them. It is critical for all our health that children stay in their own home and that they do **NOT socialise or congregate in groups**. We discussed the importance of **social isolation** with students in Assembly this week.

Parents have responsibility for safeguarding children during school hours and you must ensure they are **at home and safe**.

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Principal: **Mr Fraser Long, B.Eng (Hons), MA.** [headteacher@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@bgn.oxon.sch.uk)

An academy within The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company which is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity registered in England and Wales with company number 9113542 and registered address Addison Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9DG.

"The school's contribution to pupils' personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is exemplary. Pupils go out of their way to do good things. They act as positive role models for younger children." *Ofsted, June 2017*

Teachers will be using the VLE to communicate with students every day – starting with morning Assembly resources on Monday 23 March. Their tutor will contact them twice a week and all class teachers will set work, following their current timetable as far as possible, using the ‘Homework’ feature on the VLE. Please bear in mind that, following the advice from the government, some staff are currently self-isolating.

**What do I need to do if I am a keyworker?**

The school will remain open for the children of keyworkers if there is no adult at home who can care for their child. Please email [office.4600@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.4600@bgn.oxon.sch.uk) immediately if you are a keyworker. Categories of keyworkers so far confirmed include NHS staff, police, teachers and delivery drivers. **Please do not allow grandparents to care for your child.** If you fall into this category, do send your child to school on Monday at the normal time, even if you have not been able to make contact with us. **Do not send your child to school if they or anyone in your household are displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, in which case you will have to self-isolate for 14 days.** If your child becomes ill during the day the school will need a contact who can collect your child from school. Children who come into school will access the lessons set by their teacher through the VLE in exactly the same way that they would if they were at home. They will be supervised. However, they will not follow their current timetable or have face-to-face teaching with their class teacher. Obviously, we will need to plan exactly how this will work once we have a clear understanding of which children are in this group.

There will be some other students who may need to attend school and, if this applies to your child, we will be in contact with you.

None of us expected to be in this position, but I can assure you that we will do everything we can to support you and your children to get through this crisis. We must all play our part. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families. Please pray for our staff, some of whom are currently ill, and for their families.

Yours sincerely



Fraser Long  
Principal

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