

Dear Students,

With the first few weeks of school closure behind us, and as we begin what would have been a new term, we wanted to send some words of advice and encouragement around learning from home while school is temporarily closed.

We know that many of you are doing a wonderful job in completing the work provided by your dedicated teachers, and we want to congratulate you on this! Although it may feel strange not to see and hear from your teachers in person, they are enormously proud of the way in which you are engaging with the home learning tasks that you have been set. It is not easy to demonstrate the discipline, focus and commitment that working at home entails, and we know that these skills will prepare you well for whatever your future may hold. I know that for many of you the novelty of being at home will be beginning to wear off, and you may be finding it difficult to motivate yourselves, but it is imperative that you do not give up! Your home learning is allowing you to develop those invaluable skills which you will come to rely on in later life: deep critical thinking, creativity, independence, resilience, problem solving, self-discipline, and the ability to engage with a wide variety of intellectual material. Our current situation, although enormously challenging, presents you with a unique opportunity for personal development, and the completion of the work your teachers set for you is a vital part of this.

To make it easier for you to access your work, from 20th April we are going to have a single folder, located in the shared area, where you can find all of the work your teachers have set. This folder will be called **'Closure Work'**. All of the subject files containing your work will be placed into this folder. Please check this folder, for updates on a weekly basis. You should still continue to upload completed work to the 'Hand-In' folder. The 'Students – Working from Home Guidance' (attached & available on the school website in PowerPoint and Word formats) contains clear instructions outlining how you can access this work.

I have also included some tips for learning at home, and important links to other online platforms that may support you in keeping your minds active and engaged.

From time to time, your teachers may also send you emails so it is vital that you check these regularly.

Whilst it is important that you keep on top of your work as best you can, we place the greatest emphasis on asking you to ensure that you look after yourselves and your families. The kindness, compassion and support you show to your loved ones, friends and the wider community is what makes you truly St. Marys' students. It is also important that you continue to make time for yourselves; enjoy your hobbies and wider interests, and above all take delight in spending time with your families.

With all of our very best wishes,

Mrs Fletcher

