ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

a Catholic Voluntary Academy

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22 May 2020

Dear Year 12

I hope all of you and your families are well.

Firstly, I just wanted to congratulate you all on the really impressive way you have coped with the disruption to your school life over the last half term. You have been truly outstanding!

I know there have been challenges, but the resilience and persistence you have shown in overcoming these has been remarkable and you really should congratulate yourselves on that. Because of the way you have responded to all these changes, we have been able to continue with your courses, delivering new content and covering the curriculum as planned. As Mrs Taylor said, you have proved to be excellent independent students.

There will be more changes over the next few weeks, as most departments move to delivering some teaching via Teams. This will likely be a mixture of pre-recorded lessons and some live feedback sessions that will take place in your teaching slots. We are also hoping to be able to offer some face to face interventions in school over the coming half term. We will be in touch with you about any changes and developments as soon as plans are firmed up.

I know some of you have been worried about exams and assessments. A small number of students have already been contacted about doing a basic competency test in September, and their heads of department will be in touch with them next half term with more details about what this will entail. For the majority of you there will of course be additional tests within departments in the Autumn, and formal Mock Exams as usual in March. Some departments may ask you to do tests this coming half term to assess your progress, but we are not running any formal exams this term. We have decided that it is not possible to do this fairly in the current circumstances.

Next week is our half term holiday believe it or not! We recognise that you have had a busy and at times stressful half term. As well as all your academic work, we've asked you to start thinking about future plans and UCAS intentions. Because of this, we are asking staff to set only minimal work over the half term holiday, and you should take advantage of this to have a proper rest. It has been a busy and really quite stressful half term since Easter, and your priority for next week should be to have a break from your computer, get outside and have a change of activity, enjoy the sunshine and, of course, stay safe.

If any of you are at a loose end and missing academic activity, you might want to look at some of the supra-curricular activities that Mrs Taylor has already suggested to you. I have put a couple of links at the bottom of this email to interesting and mind-expanding activities – enjoy, or not, as you wish!

We are all missing you enormously, and really looking forward to being able to see you in person again. Remember, you can keep up to date with news by checking Facebook and the school website, as well as following us @vivastmarys, of course!

In the meantime, do have a good break next week.

All the best.

Mrs E Smith
Head of Year

Mr C Bradley
Assistant Headteacher

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1. https://www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures/

Link to public lectures at Newcastle University. Click on the Virtual Lectures

2. *Use the details below to log into some free magazine subscriptions we have through school:*

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1. Visit our log in page: https://exacteditions.com/login

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The six-digit code for St. Mary's High School is **526547**