

ALL HALLOWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Acting Headteacher: M A Baines



22nd May 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

We are coming to the end of what I know how has been a half term that has thrown up challenges for all our students and families. I am ever impressed by the community's response and the determination to make the best of the situation we have. In times of adversity, we have all found a way to dig deep and find the very best virtues.

I was speaking to my grandmother, who will soon turn ninety, about the challenges that have gone before and those that lie ahead. As a former Drama teacher and with a lifelong passion for poetry, she quoted the last few lines from Tennyson's poem 'Ulysses'. I thought I would share them with you:

*We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.*

Setting work post half-term

As I have previously written, we have been reviewing how we set remote learning students and we have made some changes that we hope will make it easier for students to access work and hopefully will add variety to make it more engaging for you. Mr Halton has written some instructions, which you will find on a separate letter and has lent his voice to you in a [video guide on YouTube](#).

Staff changes

Mrs Evans (RE), Mrs Boniface (Head of MFL), Mr Morrish (Head of English) and Paula Thackway (Attendance and Admissions Officer) will be leaving the school this half-term to continue their careers elsewhere. We offer our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for their service to the students of this school. We hope we are able to say proper goodbyes soon, but until then please remember you will be always be part of the All Hallows Family.

From 01 June we welcome Carolyn Davey (Mathematics), Kirsty Clarke (Attendance and Admissions Officer) and David Ragg (Assistant Headteacher, RE) to the school. I know how much they are all looking forward to working with our students and families.

Invitation from Bishop Philip Egan, Portsmouth Diocese, to join him for Mass

Please join me in the mornings for Eucharistic Adoration, Morning Prayer and Mass in my private chapel in Bishop's House, Portsmouth. I am live-streaming the Liturgy over these days. The liturgies are simple and I (or Fr. Philip, Bishop's Secretary) usually offer a short message, inspired by the daily Readings. At the Mass, you are invited to make a Spiritual Communion. Details of how to connect are given on the special page on the Diocesan website [here](#)



twitter.com/allhallows



All Hallows Catholic School



Year 11

We hope that you have been enjoying the bridging work for Sixth Form that has been published on SharePoint. Those who have been offered a place at Sixth Form will receive an email at the start of June detailing 'next steps'. If you had initially decided that you wanted to go elsewhere after Year 11 but have changed your plans, please do not hesitate to email sixthform@allhallows.net.

Year 13

A Level Results Day will be on Thursday 13th August this year. As soon as we receive guidance as to the process for the day itself, we shall be in touch with you regarding our arrangements. As the June UCAS deadline for decision-making approaches, those students who have yet to confirm their 'Firm' and 'Insurance' university courses are advised to contact Mr Jones and Mrs Brennan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support to the students during this time. We would not be able to make the remote learning work without your continued assistance and for that we are all truly grateful. Please do keep in contact with us, we are here to help and to look after each other just like any family would.

Trips

Unfortunately, at this time we still have no further information about the summer trips. Although it is looking increasingly unlikely that they will go ahead, many tour operators are not cancelling trips until they are within 30 days of the due travel date. Our advice to parents remains the same; please continue to make your regular payments and should the trip be cancelled then we will raise a claim via our insurance to refund parents in full.

We appreciate this is a frustrating situation, but we thank you for patience and understanding. As soon as we have more information we will be in contact with those affected.

PTA Quiz Night – Friday 29th May

Whatever your family like to do to have fun, you will enjoy the All Hallows PTA online family quiz on 29th May, from 7.30-9pm. Raffle prizes and donations are welcome. [Fill in this form to get joining instructions](#).

The highlight of my week is always writing letters to students celebrating their efforts, achievements and contributions to their families. Please do keep sending nominations and sharing pictures of your work and activities with your teachers or on Twitter.

I wish all members of the All Hallows family a restful, joyful and hopefully sunny half term. Please do continue to keep your loved ones in your prayers, as we keep you in ours.

Stay Alert, Control the Virus, Save Lives

Yours faithfully



M A Baines



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Acting Headteacher



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