

# ST. ILLTYD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Newport Road, Rumney,

Cardiff CF3 1XQ

Tel: 029 2077 8174

Email: [stilltydshigh@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:stilltydshigh@cardiff.gov.uk)

Website: [www.stilltyds.org.uk](http://www.stilltyds.org.uk)



# YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG ILLTUD SANT

Heol Casnewydd, Rhymney,

Caerdydd CF3 1XQ

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29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the announcement by the Welsh Government we can confirm that the school will continue to be closed until at least Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We have no confirmation of a school return date yet, but we could be looking at a staggered return of year groups after half term. We will confirm this as soon as we know.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend many of our pupils for engaging so positively in their online learning over recent weeks.

It is hard to stay motivated and focused in the current situation, but they are showing admirable levels of resilience and perseverance under incredibly difficult circumstances. The social aspect of school and just being with their friends is a huge loss and cannot be replaced by any amount of online learning. Their ability to keep going in such circumstances and over such a long period of time is a fantastic achievement and one which should not be underestimated. By doing so they are continuing to develop, and they will be in a better position for when we reopen and get back to being a physical, on site community again.

We are also extremely aware of how challenging this second lockdown has been for us all.

Managing childcare, family, home learning and work is far from easy especially at times when there seems to be no end in sight. The aim of notifications home highlighting any missing work is to keep you informed and not to add to this load, and I can only apologise if this has been the case. Please remember that we are here to help and do not hesitate to get in contact via the form tutor or Head of Year if there is anything which you feel you need information or support with. The website also continues to have information and guidance for pupils and parents which you will find useful, including exam updates for Year 11 and Year 10.

The school also remains open to vulnerable children and the children of Key workers. If you wish to take up this option, please contact the relevant Head of Year to make the necessary arrangements.

With regards to distance learning may I direct you to our blended learning guidance for parents on our website which outlines its planning and rationale. There is also a slight change to the online timetables from next week and again, please use the website to see how it affects your child. There is always a teacher available online to answer any questions pupils or parents may have and please do not hesitate to get in contact. We have provided 192 laptops to date and numerous internet connectors. If you have any problems accessing the learning resources or require any ICT support, please contact [itsupport@stilltyds.org.uk](mailto:itsupport@stilltyds.org.uk)

If there are any subject specific enquiries pupils and parents are reminded to contact their individual subject teachers. Any other enquiries please contact the Head of Year. This can be done via email and you will receive an email or telephone call back.

Many thanks for your prayers, ongoing support and feedback on all aspects of the school's work at this time, both the good and in those areas where you think we can improve. It ensures that we can continue to develop our provision in the best interests of all.

I hope that you all remain safe and have a restful half term.

Kind Regards,

D B Thomas  
Headteacher

*Together in Christ, we make a difference*