



# St Cuthbert Mayne School

Joint Catholic and Church of England 11-18 Comprehensive School Dioceses of Plymouth and Exeter

Headteacher  
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Dear Parents,

## Remote Learning

As we come to the end of the first week of this new national lockdown, I want to thank all parents for their support and patience as we move our whole teaching and learning operation online. I want to thank all parents for working in partnership with us to support their children learning remotely, we recognise that some of you will be juggling your own work commitments as well as supervising remote learning. We know it's not easy to balance everything and we will offer as much support as we can remotely, along with making contact with parents on a weekly basis to check-in and see how things are going. Some parents have told us that their children have too much work, while others have said their child does not have enough. We will be working hard to ensure all students have a consistent and balanced remote learning experience.

On our school website we have created a new tab called 'Lockdown 3.0'. This is where we will post support for students and parents. Please visit this area of the school website before making contact with us.

Where possible, your child should be using their normal school timetable as a framework for completing remote learning e.g if your child has maths for lesson 1 on a Monday they should be completing maths remote learning during this time. Your child's remote learning is set through Google Classroom. If they do not know which week we are on in the school timetable, they can access their timetable through ClassCharts to check. A guide has been uploaded to the school website to help students with this.

To supplement your child's learning we are offering some live events in addition to the work set through Google Classroom.. Some will be live lessons and others will be live Q&A sessions, which is an opportunity for students to ask the teacher questions about their learning in that subject.

A timetable for live events has been uploaded to the school website.

Please check the Lockdown3.0 tab on the website from Monday for information on how to access remote learning from various devices.

## Provision for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers

School remains open for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. Students should be working from home where possible and this provision should only be used as the last resort. Parents of vulnerable children and those parents who are critical workers can book a place in school by completing the online form emailed out to parents yesterday. Please do not just send your child to



school without booking a place. We have the minimum number of staff on site to operate the school safely based on places booked. If your child just turns up we may have to send them home if we can't supervise them safely.

### **Mobile Data Allowance Scheme**

The government announced this week that parents can apply to have their mobile data increased free of charge to support eligible children with remote learning. The school acts as the 'middleman' by supplying information to network providers who will then decide if you are eligible. If you wish to take up this opportunity you will need to click on the following link to enter your information. This will then be uploaded to the government portal. <https://forms.gle/ygtiicckicEQZj4UA> . Please complete this by Monday 11th January at 9am so that we can send the first requests through for the DfE and service providers to action at their end.

### **Daily 30 Reading**

This year one of our school priorities is to get more students reading. In Key Stage 3, all of our students read for 30 minutes each day when they are in school. Vulnerable students and the children of critical workers will all be reading for 30 minutes each day in school regardless of what year group they are in. We would encourage all students who are working remotely to read for 30 minutes each day. It would be great if parents can support their children by reading at the same time too. We're doing this to develop a culture of reading, improve literacy skills and give students opportunities to live life to the full by enjoying reading and everything that it brings including:

- Knowledge
- Creativity
- Better life opportunities eg, income
- Longer life expectancy eg, through health literacy
- Wellbeing and good mental health

### **Top tips for Reading:**

- You may wish to start or finish the day with some reading or any other time where there is flexibility (eg, lunchtime).
- Physical books are encouraged to give students a break from screens, but if online texts are preferred then that is fine too.
- Your child can select from any fiction genres and can read suitable non-fiction too, including magazine articles and newspapers. Some children may prefer audiobooks to listen to, or read to someone in their household.
- The school library will be releasing information about the e-library service and other reading opportunities via the school's social media accounts
- Year 7 students can still access AR quizzes
- Year 7 and Year 8 students will still have library lessons and Reading Journey tasks as part of their Library Lessons in their English Google Classrooms

## **Numeracy**

To support students to develop their numeracy skills we have moved our Numeracy Ninja programme online. Students can access the Numeracy Ninja programme through their Google Classroom. Students are encouraged to complete 1 session of Numeracy Ninja each day. This comprises 3

sections of work (tables, number operation and advanced numeracy skills) lasting 6-7 minutes. Students can access the Numeracy Ninja questions through the PDF booklet and find the answers to the questions in the PowerPoint prepared by teachers. Paper copies are being sent home to those who do not have access to the internet.

In addition to Numeracy Ninja, all students have access to Times Tables Rock Stars, which is another programme we use in school. The passwords to access Times Tables Rock Stars can be found in the Google Classroom.

## **Free School Meal provision**

This week the government has announced that it would be making provision for Free School Meals to be provided once again to eligible students. Full details of what is being proposed hasn't been shared with school at the time of writing this letter, however we expect them to relaunch the national voucher scheme which we used during the last lockdown. We will write to all parents as soon as we receive further details.

## **Year 11 and Year 13 examinations**

The government has announced that all GCSE and A-Level exams will be cancelled next summer. The Secretary of State for Education is working with Ofqual to agree how exam grades will be awarded using teacher assessments. It is really important that students in Year 11 and Year 13 work hard during this period of remote learning because we will need to complete assessments when school reopens to support our judgements. We will be writing on Monday to all parents of Year 11 and Year 13 students.

Finally, can I wish you and your family a very safe weekend.

Yours sincerely,



James Down  
Headteacher