



**St Cuthbert's  
Catholic High School**  
*Live life in all its fullness*

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**Headteacher:**  
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Dear Parent/Carer

18 March 2020

Yesterday and today we have had a larger number of staff notifying us that they should be self-isolating with some of these having to be sent home or called home within the school day, based on the latest government guidelines. By tomorrow, this will reduce our staffing capacity significantly. In these circumstances we would usually seek to close the school. We are very aware of the impact this would have on the community and, therefore, we are proposing to open our school to a limited number of students only from tomorrow, 19 March 2020. This will be determined by parents identifying which of the following categories best supports their current circumstances and informing us via MyED:

**A. All Year 11 Students**

Who are not self-isolating and not symptomatic should attend school.

**B. Parents/Carers Supporting Home Learning**

Where possible we are encouraging families to keep their children **at home** and support with their learning if they are well enough to do so. Staff have uploaded resources onto the school's website, which they have been shown how to use. **All children should be reading throughout the day. All children can follow their school timetable and study the subjects for that day. Year 7 & 8s have Knowledge Organisers and the instructions for their use is on page 2. Year 9 & 10s can follow the resources on the website. Year 11, as Year 9 & 10s and in addition prepare for GCSE exams following the advice given by their teachers.**

**C. Students in receipt of Free School Meals**

The school will offer continued support in school for as long as is feasible. This will include providing break and lunch as well as supervised learning within school. The school hours currently remain the same.

**D. Parents/Carers working within the NHS or providing wider essential emergency service support**

The school will remain open for supervised learning. The school hours currently remain the same.

**E. Parents/Carers unable to support home learning**

School is open for parents/carers who are unable to organise home supervision and are reticent about leaving children unsupervised at home.

The school is currently assessing how many of its staff will be able to support this partial opening strategy and must stress that given the current climate, the health and safety of our students and staff will remain paramount. This may impact further down the line, but we will endeavour to do this for as long as possible and will keep you updated moving forward.

Obviously, if we have more students in school than safely accommodate, we will need to rethink this strategy. We therefore urge you to consider carefully whether you can support home learning in any way, so that we can avoid total school closure if at all possible.

We understand how unsettling the current situation is for all our families and will continue to support you and the wider community in the best way we can.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Twist  
**Headteacher**

