



COVID-19 Update: 19th March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I would like to update you on the response of Saint Francis Xavier College to COVID-19. As you will be aware, we have now entered the "Delay" phase of the Government's plan and the advice, updated daily, is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

College Response

There are currently up to 25 staff members absent from work as a consequence of the need to self-isolate or having care duties for children of a vulnerable age. It is with great regret that I have decided, in consultation with the Chair of my Board of Governors, to close the College in terms of face-to-face teaching with effect from 4pm on Wednesday 18th March because I can no longer ensure a safe teaching environment for the young adults in our care. We have now received direction from the government that this closure to students will be indefinite until we are advised that we can re-open.

Staff members will continue to teach students and assess work remotely through electronic means and we have been ensuring that all students have access to electronic resources. This can be achieved, as a minimum, via a mobile phone if there are no other electronic means available at home. Completed work can also be uploaded by a mobile phone to the College network for assessment and students will be receiving reminders and updates through their College email about this.

The planned progress information evening due to take place on the evening of Thursday April 2nd will not now take place and there will be a postponement in our sending home progress reports (KAPP reports) and the outcomes of the March session of mock examinations. We shall let you have these as soon as we can resume and organise those communications.

There are some specific things that we need all students to do and we would ask for your support in this so that we can maintain a teaching and learning relationship with your son/daughter/charge:

- Check their College emails on a regular basis
- Check the website for information related to closure/opening of the College
- Ensure that they have received a remote learning plan and resources for each of their courses (their teachers will be making these available next week)
- Ensure that they know how to submit work to their teachers and how to receive feedback
- Make arrangements so that they can study at home or at another safe location away from the College.

- Be as organised and proactive as possible. Inevitably these arrangements are going to require them to take more responsibility for their own learning.

Examinations/Higher Education Applications

I am aware that one of the most significant causes of anxiety for students and parents is the news that summer examinations and final assessments for BTEC/UAL will not take place and how this disruption might impact upon those holding university offers. We have, to date, received no detailed guidance or information on what the government strategy will be but no student will be disadvantaged and qualifications will be awarded. Teachers will continue to cover qualification content as planned. Any student in receipt of bursary or free college meals will receive a regular, flat rate payment to their bank account.

I shall update you regularly on the situation and notify you immediately if there are any significant developments.

Contact the College by email on info@sfx.ac.uk if you have pressing enquiries.

We shall do everything we can to discharge our education responsibilities remotely in this unprecedented situation.

Warm regards

Stella Flannery

Principal