



Thornleigh Salesian College

Headteacher
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Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the mid-point of this half term I wanted to write to you with some updates.

The transition to a full remote learning timetable has, in the main, gone extremely well and I am grateful to all parties; parents, staff and students for adapting so well to this new way of working. Whilst we all cannot wait for the safe re-opening of schools it is encouraging to see such determination and resilience from everyone in ensuring that we continue our learning through the lockdown.

As we all get better each day at methods of learning remotely there are some key things that are developing. We are improving the strategies that we use in remote lessons to encourage task completion, written work and independence. This will also mean that there are times during some lessons where teachers ask students to work on a task for a set period of time and then come back into the lesson to submit their work. By using strategies such as this it also means that throughout the day students are also getting opportunities for 'screen breaks'. This need to have breaks away from the computer screen is an important one, as is the need for some physical exercise during the day. I would encourage your child to take part in the fitness challenges that are being sent out by the PE department.

There are a number of resources on our website to support students to look after their emotional well-being and I would encourage you to access these.

If your child is in Year 11 or Year 13 I am sure you still have questions about the awarding of grades this summer. The Department for Education and the regulatory body Ofqual have launched a consultation that closes next week. As a school we have responded to this consultation. Once the final guidance for schools is published we will communicate with you to inform you of the process. Please try not to listen to the 'noise' of the media or make assumptions about what is going to happen-once we have the guidance we will let you know.

Finally it is at this time of year that as a Salesian community we would be making preparations to celebrate our feast day-and this year is no different-Don Bosco Day is going virtual! We are celebrating the feast of St John Bosco next Friday 29th January. On this day students will not have their normal timetabled lessons, instead we will have a whole range of activities, from the Thornleigh Big Quiz to Taskmaster along with a range of well-being opportunities and of course our Don Bosco Day service. Please encourage your child to take a full and active part in the day-there are a host of glittering prizes up for grabs as well! At a time when we are all feeling the effects of lockdown and isolation it is important to take every opportunity to celebrate the good in our lives, and the amazing community that we belong to. Miss McKenna and the chaplaincy team will be sending out more information next week to your child.



I look forward to sharing our feast day pictures with you after next week.

Thank you for all that you are doing to keep your child engaged with their learning, it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Andrea O'Callaghan
Headteacher

