



# Bishop Douglass Catholic School

*An Academy School in the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust*

Headteacher: Mr Martin Tissot, MA, MBA, NPQH

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s)

## **SCHOOL CLOSURE TO PUPILS FROM 23 MARCH 2020**

No doubt you have seen the government announcements about the imminent closure of schools to pupils from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, for the foreseeable future. The purpose behind school closures is to try and contain the spread of the coronavirus. It is therefore vitally important that during this enforced time, children avoid meeting other children socially, and keep to their family groups. To the extent that it is possible; families are asked to 'batten down the hatches' and socially distance themselves from others in order to protect themselves, their families and the public at large. The prime minister emphasized yesterday that, above all, children should not be looked after by elderly relatives or grandparents, as those in vulnerable groups are at greater risk should they catch the virus.

Our school will be closed, to the vast majority of pupils starting from next week. Parents and carers who may need care for their children because they themselves are key workers or because there are certain care needs, should email the school at [schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk) by 3pm Friday, according to government guidelines.

We are committed to making arrangements for such pupils to be looked after, at school if appropriate, by staff who will still be working in school. We will be seeking to make vouchers or credit payments to those families for children eligible for free school meals and will give more details as soon as possible through the school website. Should any family need assistance they are asked to email the school on the email address above and we will do what we can to help.

The prime minister also said that examinations will not take place in May and June (GCSEs, A-levels) but affirmed that the government will make sure that young people get the qualifications they need. We do not know at this stage what will be arranged. However, it is important that our pupils remain focused on their academic studies and that those due to take examinations and tests this year, should keep busy, review their notes and study packs and complete work set by their teachers. We are making work available to students through a variety of learning platforms and ask parents to ensure that a significant proportion of the day is set aside for study. **Showmyhomework** will have work for your child to review/complete in line with their normal school timetabled lessons and we are hoping, that teachers can remain contactable. Other learning platforms available are SAM

Hamilton Road · East Finchley · London N2 0SQ

T 020 8444 5211/3 · F 020 8444 0416 · E [schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk)

[www.bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk](http://www.bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk)





# Bishop Douglass Catholic School

*An Academy School in the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust*

Headteacher: Mr Martin Tissot, MA, MBA, NPQH

learning, MyMaths, Mathswatch and Active Learn. If your child has any problems logging in to any of these please contact [IT@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:IT@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and support in response to this unprecedented situation. We will maintain regular contact with our community via updates on our school website [www.bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk](http://www.bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk).

Staff and governors would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family well. I have no doubt that we will prevail and I look forward to seeing all again in happier and healthier circumstances. It is important that we maintain our sense of community and I am sure that the effort of daily kindness and mutual support for all will continue and increase.

May God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Henderson  
Head of School

