



St Ursula's Convent School

A Humanities College and Teaching School

Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London, SE10 8HN

T: (0)20 8858 4613 F: (0)208 269 0237 E: admin@stursulas.com W: www.stursulas.com

Headteacher: Mrs Catrina Hamilton NPQH, Bed.Hons, Accredited SENCO

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – Year 11 Information Friday 20th March 2020

I write to you again as our Year 11 girls leave. This has in effect been their last day at St Ursula's. Under the circumstances we did our best to give them a send off, although it was nowhere near what we what we would normally do.

We had a Liturgy and then they signed their shirts – a tradition that happens every year. We have not been able to give them their Serviam Badges as yet but we have them on order. The Girls did fantastically well considering the pressure they are under. I am proud of them all.

I wanted to update you about the **GCSE public examinations**:

The Prime Minister announced that this year's academic exams in May and June will not now take place. The Secretary of State for Education published a statement saying:

"We can confirm that we will not go ahead with assessments or exams, and that we will not be publishing performance tables for this academic year. We will work with the sector and Ofqual to ensure children get the qualifications they need. My Department is working closely with local authorities, representatives of early years, schools and head teachers, regional school commissioners and bodies such as Ofsted and Ofqual about how to deliver this change as effectively as possible. And we will do whatever is necessary to support local authorities, settings, schools and teachers through the weeks and months ahead."

Without further information, this places us in a very difficult position, unable to answer all the questions that you and your children will have. However, we are reassured that no student's progress will be impeded as a result.

Year 11 students must continue with their examination preparation despite this announcement because the government has not yet outlined its methodology for determining students' progress/grades. Students should remain focused until we find out what methodology will be used in the absence of exams.

Today, we began to collect their PPE papers in case the Exam Boards need additional evidence. They have been asked to bring in any outstanding papers from home on Monday 23 March 2020 between **10am and 11am to School Reception only please.**

Due to the nature the current situation and social distance, we have hope you understand we have to be strict about the timings for this.

Please, resist the urge to email and phone with questions at this time. Staff in school are still under additional stress with an increasing number of colleagues unable to attend school through sickness or self-isolation requirements. We cannot be reply to individual parents separately asking the questions that we all share. I will continue to provide answers and guidance as soon as I am able.





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Working from home

Teachers will be providing remote learning activities for students during this indefinite school closure. Whilst it is important for students to continue their studies, we must be realistic about what is achievable, which includes being aware of the competing demands on students, parents and teachers in their homes during these challenging circumstances. Remote learning of this scale is something new to us all; our guidelines and expectations will evolve over the coming weeks.

Please ensure your daughter remains as focused as possible over the coming months.

Please continue to monitor the school website regularly

www.stursulas.com/news/coronavirus-update/ for any further announcements. Finally, thank you to all those parents/carers who have contacted us in different ways to express their appreciation for how we have been keeping your children safe in such challenging and uncertain times

Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours faithfully

Catrina Hamilton

Catrina Hamilton
Headteacher

