



# Courage Compassion Vocation

# St Teresa of Calcutta MAC



**Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School**

*"Justus et Tenax Propositi – Just and Firm of Purpose"*



**Holy Souls Catholic Primary School**

*"a place where we pray together and everyone is important"*



**Holy Trinity Catholic School**

*"all are respected as equal and where differences are celebrated"*

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your family are well. I express my deepest sympathies to any of you who have lost loved ones or friends during these past months. All our prayers and best wishes go to you and all families affected.

These are unprecedented times and the past months have been extremely challenging. Lockdown and isolation have affected us all. We found closing our doors to our pupils and members of our community to be extremely difficult. As parents you have taught your children over these past weeks, you have our admiration in how you have adapted to this challenge. You will all have stories to tell and I hope the bonds of community will be strengthened and we learn that we are stronger together.

I wanted to update you on the current situation in the St Teresa of Calcutta MAC and the three schools within the MAC, Archbishop Ilsey, Holy Souls and Holy Trinity. All staff in each school have been working hard over the past 8 weeks to continue to provide an education for your child, most often in a virtual context; and to remain open to support the children of key workers. I would like to thank all staff for their hard work and for your support as parents for the MAC and its schools.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, the Government announced that there would be a phased reopening of schools. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 expected to return first but only at a point when all statutory risk assessment and health and safety requirements are fully adhered to and quality

assured by School Leaders, Local Governors and Board of Directors. Later, secondary children in Year 10 and Year 12 will be provided with an opportunity to have some 'face to face' time with their teachers prior to the summer break. Reopening will only take place once all statutory health and safety procedures are quality assured. It is our intention for each of our schools to be fully compliant with all DFE regulations and guidance before they begin this phased reintegration of youngsters. To ensure that this happens you can rest assured of our complete diligence in this matter as we seek advice and clarity from the Local Authority, our Archdiocese and Teacher Associations and other Trade Unions. Detailed plans and proposals are currently work in progress with final drafts being viewed and approved by Governors in the days ahead. Staff are being trained to deal with the demands of reopening. You should check individual school websites and other communications to see how individual schools are adapting to reopening.

The health and safety of all is at the centre of our thinking.

Reopening will be challenging for all. We cannot expect that your child's school experience will initially be the same as it was when schools closed in March. We must adjust to a new normal that will not be the same as it was before. Schools are having to respond to a pace of change that is both unprecedented and extremely challenging. We are reading updated information daily and are learning new things all the time. As a community of schools, we are planning to make all learning as meaningful and purposeful as possible within the parameters of a socially distanced, hygienic, and safe environment. Patience, flexibility, and collaboration is needed from all if we are to meet this objective.

Thank you in anticipation of your support in this matter and I am sure you can appreciate the difficult balancing act that all schools face in combining a huge desire for youngsters to return with ensuring that every single safety measure is put in place accordingly. As we adjust to this new normal together as a family of schools, we look forward to collaborating in partnership with parents to ensure that each child has the absolute best quality of education in a secure and safe environment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

G. Alexander  
Catholic Senior Executive Lead