



**Stay at Home**  
Protect the NHS and save lives

## 01 | Headteacher Article

### Staying Connected

It is strange to think that just two weeks ago, on Wednesday 18th March, the Prime Minister shut all schools down. This is almost unprecedented but so is our ability to adapt to learning online and staying in touch. Twenty years ago, the closing of schools would have meant no learning beyond what you had in your house or could print online. Thirty years ago, and it would have been only the books you had in your house and a pen and paper.

Now we are in a position to set work online and stay in touch via email, text and social media. This is not the whole of the school experience, but it is a worthy and willing substitute for what will hopefully be a short period of time. Also, as our children are all being kept inside, they can stay in touch with their friends in a meaningful way. They must of course remember politeness and courtesy in all their online communications just as they do in their face to face communications.

A Catholic school develops the whole child academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Perhaps at home in the coming weeks pupils and students could spend some of every day on these four aspects. Academically, they should do the work being set for them online; a personal research project and as much reading as they can manage. Emotionally, they should stay in touch with friends and have good conversations with family members each day rather than just sitting on a computer. Physically, they should do some exercise either following an online programme like the one offered by Joe Wicks every morning or use the garden if they are fortunate enough to have one. Spiritually, they should spend some time in prayer. Again, the internet is a good source of ideas for prayer or the rosary is an excellent idea as it offers a mediation on the life of Christ. Or you can just sit quietly, hands together and listen to the Voice of God. Please do "Stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives," and I will be so pleased to see you all back at Thomas More just as soon as possible.

God Bless you all

*Mr. N. Walters*



## Year 9 Cambridge University Trip

Once we arrived at the university, we were taken to the student accommodation facilities. Briefly speaking with some of the students I felt like I began to understand the importance of university. It was clear to see the differences between university and school. For example, an important reason to go to university is to study and research a subject further to get a degree in your desired subject. I think this is important because most jobs require degrees nowadays. After we arrived, we were then grouped with students that are currently studying at the university and were taken on tours. We were able to see students' rooms and living spaces; the sports hall; the gym; the cafeteria and lecture rooms. I enjoyed this experience because I was able to learn more about going to university and how I can benefit from it massively in the future.



*Tyra Anglin-Smith (Year9)*

## Safeguarding

### Mental Health Apps & Family Support

The safeguarding team continues to work remotely and onsite when applicable. We are still able to act on any concerns and support staff and families when necessary. For parent and family support, access Family Lives. The website is confidential and free.

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

0800 800 2222.

If you are experiencing a personal crisis, are unable to cope and need support, these messaging services and apps can offer advice and support.

**If your life is in imminent danger, please call 999.**

### We can help with urgent issues such as:

- Suicidal thought
- Abuse or assault
- Self-harm
- Bullying
- Relationship challenges
- Low mood or depression
- Struggling with food
- Not sleeping wrell
- Feeling overwhelmed

**childline**  
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME  
[childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk) | 0800 1111

TALK TO US  
**OFF THE RECORD**



### Support and Advice

C.A.L.M 0800 585858  
(Campaign Against Living Miserably)  
Childline 0800-1111  
[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)  
Young Minds 020-7084 5050  
[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)



A number of students from years 9, 10 and 11 recently took part in the Intermediate UK Maths Challenge, here is question 12 from the paper can you solve it?

Farmer Fatima rears chickens and goats. Today she returned from market and said, "I sold 80 animals, and now there are 200 fewer legs on my farm than before!"

**How many goats did she sell?**

A) 15 B) 20 C) 25 D) 30 E) 35

**Solution at the bottom of the newsletter**

## Sixth Form

### Coronavirus: How Will Grades Be Awarded?

Last Friday most UK schools shut down indefinitely, cancelling exams, and leaving thousands of students confused about their future. With information constantly changing it's understandable that a lot of you will be worried about your grades, but the Department for Education and your teachers are working together to make sure you get the grades that you deserve. This article is updated daily to ensure you have the most up to date information.

#### What will happen to your grades?

The government have announced that examinations regulator Ofqual, and your teachers will provide you with a calculated grade for your A-Levels. Your teachers know you and your work the best so grades will be awarded fairly and will take into account:

- previous attainment, including GCSEs and mocks
- non-exam assessment (course work)
- the grade your teachers believe you would have been awarded should you have taken the exam

The grades will be awarded at the end of July.

Source - <https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com/blog/post/coronavirus-how-will-grades-be-awarded>



#### Solution

20 goats were sold.

Full explanation and more problems can be found online...

<https://www.ukmt.org.uk/competitions/solo/intermediate-mathematical-challenge/archive>

## Spirituality Corner LAY CHAPLAIN



### Prayer of the week

Dear God,

We thank you for your protection over us day by day. Your word says that when we go through difficult times, you will be with us. Continue to protect us and help us to be strong and courageous.

We pray for all the medical staff around the world. Protect them and give them courage and wisdom as they work tirelessly to save lives.

Keep us safe O God, for in you we take refuge.

We ask all these in Jesus' precious name.

Amen.

