

Inside 16-page Champions League special

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Newspaper of the Year 90p

Ronaldo puts United on the road to Rome



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring in their Champions League semi-final victory at Arsenal. The final is in Rome on May 27 Sport

IN THE NEWS

Church sued for £5m in child abuse claim

The Roman Catholic Church may face a series of US-style compensation claims over child abuse after Patrick Raggett, 50, a former City lawyer, won the right to claim £5 million damages. Mr Raggett told the High Court that his life was ruined by years of "insidious" abuse by Father Michael Spencer, a teacher at the Preston Catholic College in Lancashire. **News, page 3**

Calamity Brown

Gordon Brown used YouTube to present himself as statesmanlike, but his day was spoiled by a protest, a swastika collage and a John Prescott grimace. **News, page 6, 7**

Income tax warning

The basic rate of income tax would have to rise by 8-10p in the pound to return Britain's finances to balance by 2017-18, according to a think-tank. **Business, page 36**

ID cards on high street

Chemist shops are in talks about taking photographs and biometric fingerprints for national identity cards. The cost of the project has risen to £5 billion. **News, page 5**

'Mutiny' is crushed

Georgia claimed to have put down an army mutiny and foiled a plot to disrupt Nato exercises, but it dropped claims that Russia was funding a coup. **World, page 29**

Inside today

'Bombs, bullets ... my life as the Baghdad correspondent'

Deborah Haynes, times2



Exams to be scrapped in swine flu schools

Grades will be awarded on basis of coursework

David Rose, Alexandra Frean

Thousands of teenagers will be awarded GCSE and A-level grades without sitting exams under plans to cope with further school closures forced by swine flu.

Regulators said that pupils who could not sit papers would receive grades based on other evidence, such as coursework or predicted marks.

Contingency plans to cope with large-scale school closures will be discussed tomorrow at an emergency meeting involving exam board regulators and government officials.

GCSE and A-level exams are due to start next week. Primary school pupils are due to sit Key Stage 2 national

curriculum tests. Common Entrance Exams for private schools are to take place on June 1-4.

Five schools have been shut after pupils fell ill with the H1N1 strain. The number of confirmed swine flu cases in Britain has risen to 28 people; all have responded well to treatment. An American woman yesterday became the first non-Mexican fatality.

Sir Liam Donaldson, the Chief Medical Officer for England, warned against complacency, saying that flu viruses could change character and become dangerous "very rapidly" and that a larger wave of infections could be expected in the autumn and winter.

The Independent Schools Council has told members to consider setting

up quarantine rooms. The Health Protection Agency said shutting a school for at least a week was a precautionary measure when a contagious virus was "strongly suspected or confirmed".

The Joint Council for Qualifications, which represents examination boards in the UK, said that an established procedure known as "special consideration" would apply if "large-scale" school closures were necessary. A spokesman said: "Any candidate who

Reduce exam stress: give pupils more tests

Alice Miles, page 23

misses an exam due to swine flu either because they have caught it or due to a school closure will be able to put forward a case for special consideration."

Special consideration is usually applied case by case to pupils prevented from sitting exams because of illness or other unforeseen circumstances. A-level students must normally have completed 50 per cent of assessments and GCSE students 35 per cent.

Last year more than 300,000 exam marks were awarded in this way. The last time the procedure was applied on a mass scale was in 2007 after heavy floods in Hull, where 91 of the authority's 99 schools were closed and thousands had to leave their homes. **Danger of handing out Tamiflu, page 8**

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