



Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | 1 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Here are the latest school messages and updates for your information plus details of any letters sent home during the last week.

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite remaining indoors for 95% of the day, time continues to pass quickly and it has now been 43 days since I spoke to our Year 11 and Year 13 students in our canteen, and one or two days longer since speaking with the other year groups in special assemblies we held as events were unfolding. At that point in time it was difficult to predict how events would unfold. I trust you and your families continue to be safe and well and continue to adjust to current conditions. It appears many of us are at least our fourth or fifth iteration of a daily or weekly routine, searching for the perfect balance. I am not sure it is out there and therefore we must all continue to do the best we can to manage ourselves and our families during this time.

As a school we continue to evolve our approach and I am grateful to the Year 10 and Year 12 parents/carers who completed our surveys last week. Thank you for your feedback and comments which are being communicated this week and next week. In summary students in Year 10 and Year 12 are able to access our online platforms with the level of work being provided 'just right' for the vast majority of parents/carers who responded. 84% of respondents reported their child is engaging with teachers, with 80% successfully completing work. Where children are not successfully engaging, we are developing an academic mentor programme to support these children with the completion of work, starting next week. 92% of respondents judged the communication to be between 3-5 with 5 being effective. Fewer students than expected have been accessing our St Katherine's Online Community website which Mrs Robinson kindly setup during our first week of lockdown. You might not be aware that your child is accessing this page and I commend it to you - a wealth of resources, some fun engagement activities from staff, a few competitions and useful wellbeing resources - <https://sites.google.com/skdrive.org/st-kaths-school-community/home?authuser=0>. You will need your child to log into the site.

I am conscious the volume of information we continue to share at this time is significant and I hope you continue to find the Weekly Communication effective. As we conclude Week 4 of the school time lockdown, I am keen to take a temperature check with parents/carers to help us improve what we are doing during this period of remote learning. This week, we would like the parents/carers of Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 to complete the survey below. We will share a summary of the surveys with you next week. Surveys for Year 11 and Year 13 will follow next week. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

Please complete by Tuesday 5 May 2020.

[Year 7 Parent/Carer Survey](#)

[Year 8 Parent/Carer Survey](#)

[Year 9 Parent/Carer Survey](#)

Should you require any support during the period of lockdown please do not hesitate to get in touch - school@skdrive.org

Stay home, Stay safe, Stay strong

Justin Humphreys

Headteacher



MESSAGES		
Mrs Crocker	All Years	<p>Mental Health and Well-being resources from the Education Endowment Foundation</p> <p>One of the most important ways to keep mentally healthy is to have routine and structure, and to maintain a healthy sleep pattern. During lockdown, this is more challenging to ensure than usual but we certainly feel the effects of being a little disordered when it happens. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) have produced a series of checklists to help parents and children manage their routines.</p> <p>Supporting home learning routines: Planning the day https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_parents/Supporting_home_learning_routines_-_Planning_the_day.pdf</p> <p>All the EEF materials to support home learning can be found here: https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources#nav-covid-19-resources</p> <p>See further resources at the bottom of the Weekly Communication this week.</p>
School	All Years	<p>Monday 11 May 2020 will be an INSET day to allow staff to undertake important training. Communication on this day will be limited. Thank you for your understanding.</p>
School	All Years	<p>Further updates to our guidance for learning from home can be found here. This will be updated regularly with new items highlighted in yellow and shared every week via this communication.</p>
Mrs Crocker	All families	<p>It is our aim to make contact with all students while we are not together in school. This means we will be calling home and will speak to the children as well as parents/carers. Please therefore be aware that you may receive a phone call from a withheld number during normal school hours and this may be your child's tutor or another member of staff that knows them well trying to keep in touch.</p>
Mrs Slater	All Years	<p>The North Somerset Educational Psychology Service (EPS) have a phone helpline set up for parents to help with any Covid 19 related issues. They are offering a 30 minute consultation with a 30 minute follow up if needed.</p> <p>Message from EPS: <i>'If you are a parent/carer of a child in Somerset or North Somerset and would like to speak to a Psychologist with any concerns arising for you, or your family during this time, then The Educational Psychology Service is here for you. We are able to offer an initial 30 minute telephone consultation (discussion) and a potential follow up call, of another 30 minutes if appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>Calls will be offered Monday-Friday, during usual working hours.</i></p> <p><i>If you would like to access this service, then please email EPSHelpline@somerset.gov.uk with the following information: Your name, The name of your child's school (or 'EHE' if Electively Home Educated), Times and dates that you are not available for consultation, If email is not possible, then call 01823 357000.</i></p>



Mrs Crocker	All families	<p>As family circumstances change due to the current restrictions, it is important to consider whether your child is now eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>Your child will be entitled to free school meals if you get any of these benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● income support ● income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) ● income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) ● support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 ● the guaranteed element of Pension Credit ● Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190) ● Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit ● Universal Credit with annual take home pay/net earnings below £7,400 (which equals £616.67 per month) benefits not included <p>Applications can be made here.</p> <p>During this period of school closure the government is funding supermarket vouchers for all children that are eligible and families that newly qualify can quickly join this scheme.</p>
Mrs Crocker	All Years	<p>If we were together in school this week, we would be looking forward to the annual House awards evenings where we celebrate the students that have made significant contributions to our school community and have had the greatest academic success. We are committed to making sure that these students are recognised for all they have done and will celebrate their achievements as soon as we are able.</p>
Mr Bates	All Years	<p>I would like to bring your attention to a new feature that has recently been launched on Snapchat in the last few weeks. The popular social network app has just released its “Here for you UK” feature which is intended to help any users who may be experiencing mental health issues, and provide a platform for help support and advice. If you search “Here for you UK” you can access this information. Also there is a special “Here for you: Special Edition” which focuses on information from the World Health Organisation (WHO) about Covid-19.</p> <p>The links below provide more information on this new feature as well as guidance on how to engage with your child about their Snapchatting.</p> <p>https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/snapchats-here-for-you-uk/ https://www.snap.com/en-US/news/post/introducing-here-for-you</p>
Mrs Ivey	All Years	<p>Next week the science faculty can offer students the opportunity to speak online to scientists. Students can find the sign up details for this activity on their class science google classroom page. The live online chats will take place as follows:</p> <p>Monday 4 May at 2pm - live online chat with psychologists</p> <p>Wednesday 6 May at 11am - live online chat with biologists studying disease</p> <p>Thursday 7 May at 3pm - live online chat with physicists</p>



		<p>This is a fantastic opportunity for students to ask scientists about their work and career pathways. A science teacher from St Katherine’s will be present for each online chat. More information can be found here and on your child’s google classroom page.</p>
Miss Adams	All Years	<p>Please be aware that there are 2 virtual cross Trust music projects for students to get involved with; Lockdown project #1; Something Inside So Strong (this is ONLY for students who were rehearsing this song in prep for the CST concert prior to school closure) Lockdown project #2; Virtual Concert (open to ANY student)</p> <p>Although the deadline for project #1 has now passed there is still opportunity to get involved in project #2; the virtual concert. You are invited to video yourself performing any piece of music in any style. We are hoping to make the virtual concert a regular feature so please send in your performance even if after the initial deadline.</p>
Miss Adams	All Years	<p>Just a reminder that a valuable and simple piece of home learning students can be doing at the moment is practicing their instrument; this is an ideal opportunity for them to get to grips with their scales, practice those exam pieces or just learn a piece of music they have always wanted to play</p>
Miss Adams	All Years	<p>Virtual music projects; one thing which is becoming clear during the lockdown is the value of music in helping to keep spirits high and people feeling connected. If your son/daughter has been involved in any virtual music projects we would love to know about it. Please feel free to email me with any links; adamsa@skdrive.org</p>
Mrs Weatherson	All Years	<p>A variety of virtual talks this week including: Monday 4 May, 2pm: Carl Jones, Award Winning International Creative Director <i>Carl's talk will focus on fake news, how to spot it and will share a practical checklist you can use to assess whether what you're seeing on socials or in the media is fake.</i></p> <p>Wednesday 6 May, 10am: Retired Consultant Breast Surgeon and Breast Cancer Patient, Author, The Complete Guide to Breast Cancer <i>Liz's talk with 11-18 year olds will focus on how to cope when bad things happen, developing resilience and self-care strategies during difficult times and how setting goals can help.</i></p> <p>Thursday 7 May, 10am: Penguin Talks in Collaboration with SFS – The Squiggly Career. This talk will take place on the Penguin YouTube page via the link. <i>Authors of The Squiggly Career, Helen Tupper and Sarah Ellis, share practical tools, exercises and actions to help you grow in confidence, stay curious and ultimately prepare for, and enjoy, the squiggly world of work.</i></p> <p>Full schedule can be accessed here.</p>



Ms Wild	All Years	Quick reminder about touchtyping. This can be a good way of destressing/taking your mind off things whilst learning a valuable skills. If your son/daughter would like to have a go, drop me an email on wildi@skdrive.org .
Mrs Maringo	Year 11	I hope you and your families are well. As Mrs Crocker explained above, all tutors are contacting their tutees during the lockdown. Year 11 are still our wonderful tutees therefore the Year 11 team and myself will also be in touch! We have already spoken to so many pupils this week and it has been a pleasure talking to students and their families. Have a lovely weekend. Mrs Maringo, Year 11 Lead.
Mrs Weatherson	Year 11	Considering courses for next year? There is now a Year 11 taster course for BTEC creative digital media production and the google classroom code is: 63bhrbu
Mrs Weatherson	Year 9	There are now two google classrooms for students who are interested in either: GCSE photography (code to join: tsg3tcu) GCSE film studies (code to join: wmgrtte)
Mr Francis-Black	Year 7	Cancellation of the Year 7 trip to Paris has now been confirmed with our travel company and refunds have been made for everything except the deposit. Please be assured that this is covered under insurance and as soon as our finance team has completed the necessary claim the deposit will also be returned to families.
Mrs Maringo	MFL pupils	<p>MFL updates:</p> <p>Year 7</p> <p>Languages options:</p> <p>Each year, we ask our Year 7 pupils to choose the language they would like to study in Year 8 and up to GCSE. We take the pupil's choice into account as well as their work and progress in both French and Spanish. We have shared this information on the google classroom and many students have already chosen the language they would like to study. If you have not had this discussion with your child, I would be very grateful if you could ask them to choose their preferred option.</p> <p>They have a choice between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - French - Spanish - French & Spanish (dual linguist class) <p>You can also contact their teachers should you require further information/guidance. Pupils can email their teachers directly if they wish too.</p> <p>A reminder that all work is shared on google classroom and the class code is lsimgte, as a parent you can request access to the classroom. Thank you also to all those who have spent the last couple of weeks perfecting your favourite Spanish recipes. We have loved reading your work, including some great presentations on a range of traditional foods and some awesome photography. From gambas al ajillo, to various paellas and arroces, and even making the bread to go with your meals, gracias chicos! If your child has been unable to complete the project so far, we are going to extend the deadline until Monday.</p>

		<p>Year 8</p> <p>A reminder that all work is shared on Class Charts and Google classroom (the class code for students is: sramymg; as a parent, you can request access to the classroom).</p> <p>We have absolutely loved reading our Year 8's work on French and Spanish cities! They have found interesting facts and chose some amazing pictures. We all learned new facts reading their work and we hope they enjoyed discovering a little bit more about France and Spain. If your child has not completed their work yet, we are extending the deadline to Monday.</p> <p>Year 9</p> <p>Thank you for contacting your child's teacher this week. A gentle reminder that the "Step into GCSE" grammar booklet is not compulsory for pupils who are not studying a language in Year 10. Once your child has completed the booklet, they can confirm this with their teachers.</p> <p>Do you want to learn a language with your child? Download "Duolingo" on your phone/tablet and practice daily! You can even start a family competition and see who got the highest points at the end of each week!</p> <p><i>"To have another language is to possess a second soul." Charlemagne</i></p>
Mr Humphreys	All	<p>A reminder of the wellbeing resources shared before Easter</p> <p>Looking after our wellbeing - some useful sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Very useful starting point - https://mailchi.mp/bigpond/when-that-which-isolates-us-unites-us-strengthening-kids-teens-and-ourselves-in-the-time-of-corona-1016402?e=7c131e6b43 ● A BBC news page with advice for parents with some useful information about supporting children's mental health - https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-51959957 ● 3P Psychologies is a website from America which advises how parents can support and survive children while self-isolating. Several fun projects, as well as sound advice about children's anxiety: https://3ppsycholegies.com/2020/03/13/resources-48-covid-19-survival-tips-for-parents-10-activities-for-home/ ● Young Minds have also produced resources for parents that support children's anxiety around Covid 19 https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/ ● Another American website, the Centre for Disease Control and Protection, has an excellent web page on managing anxiety and stress with some specific advice for parents of children who may be experiencing stress. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F ● PDF Document. The British Psychological Society have produced advice for parents about how to talk to children around coronavirus https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files



		<p>/Coronavirus%20and%20UK%20schools%20closures%20-%20support%20and%20advice.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Hey Sigmund. This is an excellent website for parents/carers containing the latest psychological news and research. The following two pages focus on understanding children’s anxiety around traumatic events and a guide to parents about how developing children experience anxiety and fear. https://www.heysigmund.com/anxiety-in-children-after-world-trauma/ https://www.heysigmund.com/age-by-age-guide-to-fears • Talking about world trauma with kids- another great article from Hey Sigmund https://www.heysigmund.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-and-teens-about-world-trauma/ • The Royal College of psychiatry has an excellent web page for parents and carers on childhood anxiety https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/parents-and-young-people/information-for-parents-and-carers/worries-and-anxieties---helping-children-to-cope-for-parents-and-carers
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LETTERS THIS WEEK- click [here](#) to see all letters from this academic year

No letters this week	
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