

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | 5 June 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 and Carers

This past week has been difficult and has left me saddened in so many ways along with all members of our community. The death of George Floyd has provoked many deep emotions of anger, sadness and disbelief of what our eyes have seen. It is a dark reminder of the challenges society faces across the globe and we will stand together as a community at St Katherine's in taking action to educate our young people.

"ACCEPTANCE IS ONE OF OUR VALUES AND WE CONDEMN EVERY FORM OF DISCRIMINATION. WE ARE ENRICHED BY OUR DIVERSITY IN ALL ITS FORMS AND WELCOME AND CELEBRATE PEOPLE FROM ALL RACES, CULTURES, RELIGIONS, PHILOSOPHIES AND LIFESTYLES. DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO DRIVE CHANGE FORWARD. WE STAND TOGETHER."



We have this week prepared materials which have been shared with staff and students to help shape our thinking across our community and our Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Group including many students, are meeting to consider how we drive this much needed change. I know a number of students have stepped forward this week to join the group which is the action we need from within our community. I was delighted to read a poem written by Evie Roberts expressing her thoughts and calls for unity at this time - through the actions of our young people we can drive change. Elise Caddick shared her thoughts and reflections with teachers this week along with some useful examples to help educate our community. It is this positive response and action which will drive this change forward and the movement from words to deeds is what we all need to see. We have included a range of books we commend to our learners to educate them about discrimination and these are part of our summer reading challenge. Full details are included below.



We continue to make preparations across our site in preparation for wider opening from the week commencing the 15 June for Year 10 and Year 12 and will confirm full details early next week. Please see the [letter](#) I circulated on Tuesday outlining the scope of this limited provision based on government guidelines. All our plans are subject to any updated guidance from the DfE.

Our Learning@Home programme and delivery continues to evolve and colleagues are now actively trialing new and safe remote access opportunities to support engagement and to help inspire our young people further. Video and audio will become a weekly experience for our learners and we hope this will directly support student progress across their subjects. Average time spent per day is 4hrs, with some managing up to 6hrs which is encouraging. We recognise that some students are not managing this and we will continue to work with parents/carers to encourage deeper levels of engagement during Term 6. Please continue with your efforts in supporting and engaging your child in the work set by their teachers by establishing clear routines for them. We appreciate all you are doing. Reports for students in Years 7-10 and Year 12 will be posted to parents/carers at the end of next week.

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

Stay home, Stay safe, Stay Strong

Justin Humphreys
Headteacher

WHO TO CONTACT AT ST KATHERINE'S

| For queries about: | Contact: |
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| Safeguarding | crockerk@skdrive.org |
| Courses, assignments or resources | Subject Teachers |
| Access to online library resources | wylidl@skdrive.org |
| Technology related | francisblacka@skdrive.org |
| Curriculum | francisblacka@skdrive.org |
| Learning@Home resources | stewarda@skdrive.org |
| Personal, social-emotional | Tutor or Head of House |
| General queries | school@skdrive.org |
| Free School Meals | finance@skdrive.org |
| Key Worker / Vulnerable Children Provision | colebournes@skdrive.org |

MESSAGES

School All Years **Black Lives Matter**



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| | | <p>Everyone at St Katherine's School was horrified by the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.</p> <p>We understand that his death and the protests that followed will have had a direct impact on many of our students and their families causing upset, anger and hurt.</p> <p>We accept these genuine emotions and want to support everyone who feels the pain of racism.</p> <p>We respect that our students may want to talk about how they feel and may be finding it hard to find the right person to share their feelings with.</p> <p>The whole school community at St Katherine's School is here to support you and we encourage you to reach out to a member of staff that you trust if you want to talk. You can also speak to Childline 0800 1111 or Call Hate Out Call: 0808 801 0576 Text: 07717 989 025</p> |
| School | All Years | <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>Behaviour support for families</p> <p>The pressures of working from home alongside home learning coupled with feelings of isolation and anxiety will no doubt impact on children's behaviour and many families will be experiencing difficulties supporting and managing challenging behaviour. Beacon House have published this compassionate and pragmatic guidance for parents to help children to manage their behaviour and emotions at home.</p> |
| Mrs Ivey | All years | <p>Students have been given details of the online Cheltenham Science festival this week. The festival continues over the weekend with free online shows which may be of interest to you and your family. The festival programme can be found here: https://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/science-home/whats-on/grid</p> |



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| | | Events are available via youtube or in some cases zoom. Events this weekend explore topics such as oceans, artificial intelligence, explaining the world through physics, drones, diets, anatomical drawing, and polar expeditions. |
| Mrs Collins | All Years | A reminder that there are lots of resources to experience live theatre in your own home during lockdown via the school community website under the 'Performing Arts' tab. The National Theatre Youtube Channel and WhatsOnStage YouTube channel have free live stream performances weekly for you and your families to watch! |
| Ms Jefferson | All Years | On Monday, we launch The Great St Katherine's Reading Challenge. Details here . All members of the school community are challenged to set themselves a personal reading target. As Frederick Douglass said, "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." The Black Lives Matter campaign promotes positive change through education; encourage your child to read one of the texts from our BLM list here . Further recommendations are welcome! |
| Ms Hayer | All Years | "My Week of Work" from Tuesday 9 June - Friday 12 June, all students will have the opportunity to gain insight into the world of work. Pupils will be able to choose from five key economic sectors in which to gain insight. They will hear from employers, learn about the businesses and complete virtual work tasks. This is particularly relevant for Years 9-13 but all students are welcome to register on https://learnliveuk.com/my-week-of-work/ . There are also Career themed sessions available at Oak National Academy all week (8-12 June) https://www.thenational.academy/ . Please let Ms Hayer, WEX Coordinator know if you take part in any of the activities: haverr@skdrive.org Please do encourage your son/daughter to participate in this week especially if they were due to complete a WEX placement this summer. |
| Mrs Slater | Lexia | A reminder that the SEND Team has sent emails to all pupils who have been allocated this provision and copied parents in with login details. We will also be issuing praise postcards to pupils who achieve the target set. If pupils haven't logged on, we will be contacting home to help support them. If a pupil continues to not log in to this valuable provision, unfortunately we may have to consider issuing their licence to someone else. Thank you for your support with encouraging your children to log in to Lexia. If you have trouble logging on email Mrs Slater: slaterf@skdrive.org. |
| Ms Wyld | Ebook platform | The school library comes to you as we are pleased to launch our new eplatform to students this week! This gives free access to a fantastic range of over 1300 ebooks and almost 800 audio books. These can be viewed on almost any device, and your screen can be adjusted in lots of ways to give a really comfortable read. We know that encouraging students to read regularly is one of the most powerful things we can do. Not only does this help improve skills across all subject areas, but reading for pleasure |



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| | | can also be a highly effective way to improve our mental health. Do please explore what's on offer, and here are the instructions to get you started. |
| Ms Jefferson | Year 10 | By this time next year, Year 10 will have finished their English GCSEs. The work being set is invaluable preparation for the Year 11 exams. Please encourage your child to contact their English teacher if they are struggling to get started. |
| Mrs Ivey, Ms Jefferson and Miss Daniels | Year 10 | Mrs Ivey, Ms Jefferson and Miss Daniels have recorded a message to give advice to year 10 as we start term 6 . The message has been posted on all year 10 google classroom pages and can also be viewed here: https://youtu.be/oHl8Hr7EwkY |
| Ms Jefferson | Year 9 | From Monday, Year 9 will begin to study poems from the GCSE poetry anthology to give them a head start for Year 10. It is very important that students do not miss out on this key content. |
| Mrs Maringo, Mrs Aubret, Mr Mitchinson | Year 7, 8, 9 | MFL House competition starts this week! Every Year will have an exciting project to complete over the next two weeks: Year 7 will be creating their own comic book in French or Spanish, Year 8 will be compiling a French or Spanish restaurant menu and Year 9 will be showing off their artistic skills by creating a grammar song. More detail can be found on Google Classroom and Classcharts. Each work submission will bring three points to their House, and there will be additional points for the quality of work, the creativity and the language used. The best pieces of work will be displayed on the St Kath's website. It is a great opportunity for our students to earn points for their House, be creative and continue their language learning! |

LETTERS THIS WEEK- click [here](#) to see all letters from this academic year

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| All years | Covid-19 Update - 03 June 2020 CST Information for Parents and Carers |
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