



## Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | 26 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 Parent/Carers,

Life at St Katherine's School continues to return to normal with more and more students coming back on site this week. As we interact with more and more students on site, one thing is abundantly clear; students miss their teachers and teachers miss their students. We are frustrated as a staff body at the ghastly impact of COVID 19 on our community and are frustrated by the disruption caused to schools. The pace of students returning is very gradual as we endeavour to help students make progress by providing each student with what they need. We look forward to seeing our whole Year 10 year group before the end of term. None of this is ideal and we recognise this is less than ideal for many students across all year groups. However, we know there is a national desire, supported by the government to get schools back to 'normal' in September for all year groups and we are expecting detailed guidance on this next week. We welcome this and will keep you fully informed as our plans emerge.

All parents/carers have received their progress reports and we know as a school many students have struggled to keep motivated over such a long period of time without formal structures. With Year 10 returning for a day before the end of term, we will continue to work with families in Years 7-9 and will be exploring how we can offer further support to those facing the biggest barriers.

The summer holidays will be a welcome rest for our whole community after such a disruptive and challenging couple of terms. However, we have mapped out key topics and content for six weeks with resources across all subjects and year groups and will be sharing this with you at the beginning of July. Our aim is to try and ensure this key content is secure with all our learners to support a smooth transition in September. We will share any provision North Somerset and Bristol are offering during the summer break.

Well done to all those students who have been embracing their [Reading Challenge](#). We know reading provides access to a world of opportunity and taking time to read is vital for all young people. If we did nothing else, but read with and encourage our children to read it would provide them with a gift for life. You will be delighted to know Lucy Wyld, our wonderful librarian, has been working hard on procedures to reopen the library and this will begin from next week with strict and safe protocols in place for all concerned. This will be a reserve and collect service. Students should email Ms Wyld with details of up to two titles they would like to borrow, or with details of the kind of read they would like and Lucy will do her best to select some books. Students will then be emailed when their books are ready to collect and this will include instructions on how to do this safely. They should also bring any books for return when they visit. Students should not come to school until a collection slot is confirmed. Please do take advantage of this over the next three weeks to get the summer reading organised.

Our commitment to reading has never been stronger and Ms Jefferson will continue to grow and develop our strategy next year. Feedback from parents/carers and students has echoed how our ten minutes DEAR (Drop Everything And



Read) time is not long enough and so from September DEAR time will be twenty minutes each day, trimming our longer than average lunch break from 45minutes to 35minutes. We will review the impact of this in Term 2. We are grateful to our parent/carer members of our [Parent/Carer Association](#) for ongoing dialogue with the school and as we embark on our third year of meetings, we are looking to hold some of these on Zoom, removing the barrier of trying to travel across Bristol at a set time which we know has been a problem for many parents/carers attending in the past. We are also exploring holding these in a Bristol location, close to many of our families next year so we hope you will be able to join us. We welcome more members to the group and details will be shared in future weekly comms.

Our [Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) group](#) continues to be very active and is forming an important platform within St Katherine’s as defined by their aims:

- To **educate** our community and the wider world about equality, diversity and inclusion
- To **celebrate** the contributions of marginalised groups to history and our contemporary society
- To **give voice** to all members of our community, providing them with the tools to talk about equality, diversity and inclusion in a mature and informed way

One of the most striking elements of the work over the last month has been to encourage everyone within our community to educate themselves and talk about the Black Lives Matter movement and Pride. Giving voice to young people in an appropriate setting is proving powerful alongside us all listening carefully to each other. Take a look at some of the recent work engaging students and staff and thank you to those who have shared how powerful and helpful you feel this work has been in helping to discuss these topics with your child - [St Katherine’s Online School Community](#).

Thank you for your continued support at this time and please continue to share your feedback with us using this [form](#).

Kind regards

Justin Humphreys  
Headteacher

WHO TO CONTACT AT ST KATHERINE’S

For queries about:	Contact:
Safeguarding	<a href="mailto:crockerk@skdrive.org">crockerk@skdrive.org</a>
Courses, assignments or resources	Subject Teachers
Access to online library resources	<a href="mailto:wylidl@skdrive.org">wylidl@skdrive.org</a>
Technology related	<a href="mailto:francisblacka@skdrive.org">francisblacka@skdrive.org</a>
Curriculum	<a href="mailto:francisblacka@skdrive.org">francisblacka@skdrive.org</a>
Learning@Home resources	<a href="mailto:stewarda@skdrive.org">stewarda@skdrive.org</a>
Personal, social-emotional	Tutor or Head of House
General queries	<a href="mailto:school@skdrive.org">school@skdrive.org</a>



Free School Meals	<a href="mailto:finance@skdrive.org">finance@skdrive.org</a>
Key Worker / Vulnerable Children Provision	<a href="mailto:colebournes@skdrive.org">colebournes@skdrive.org</a>

**MESSAGES**

School	All Years	The Parent guide to Learning@Home has been updated and now includes a link to the schedule of live lessons that are being delivered <a href="#">via Zoom</a> .
Mrs Crocker	All Years	<p><b><u>Free School Meals Vouchers Scheme Extended Through The Summer</u></b></p> <p>You may have seen on the national news that Marcus Rashford’s story of his childhood experience led to the government extending the scheme that supports families whose children are eligible for free school meals so that it will continue through the summer holidays for all children - including Year 11.</p> <p>If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals please apply straight away as the company administering the scheme will issue summer vouchers before the end of term. <b>Delaying applying might mean you miss their deadline. Please apply today.</b></p> <p><b>You are able to apply for free school meals at any time and families that become newly eligible will receive these vouchers from school as soon as they qualify.</b> Therefore, if you think you may be eligible please apply through the North Somerset website. Details are below.</p> <p><a href="https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/schoolmeals/freeschoolmeals/">https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/schoolmeals/freeschoolmeals/</a></p> <p>Qualifying benefits for free school meals Your child will be entitled to free school meals if you get any of these benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• income support</li> <li>• income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA)</li> <li>• income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)</li> <li>• support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999</li> <li>• the guaranteed element of Pension Credit</li> <li>• Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)</li> <li>• Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit</li> <li>• Universal Credit with annual take home pay/met earnings below £7,400 (which equals £616.67 per month) benefits not included</li> </ul> <p><b>How to apply</b> Free school meals entitlement is for the child, not the family, so you will need to apply for each child. You will need your National insurance number to apply.</p>
Miss Ivey	All years	<p><b>The scientist next door project is offering families the opportunity to connect with local scientists during lockdown.</b> Find out more here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.scientist-next-door.org/">https://www.scientist-next-door.org/</a></p>



		<p><b>The I'm a Scientist project is continuing to offer free online chats with scientists on their website until the end of July.</b> The online chats take place several times a week in the morning, afternoon and evening. Parents are encouraged to join in as well as possible. You or your child can log in here: <a href="https://summer20.imascientist.org.uk/">https://summer20.imascientist.org.uk/</a></p> <p><b>The National Physical Laboratory is offering weekly challenges for students to do at home on the theme of measurement.</b> For more information go to their website: <a href="https://www.npl.co.uk/measurement-at-home">https://www.npl.co.uk/measurement-at-home</a></p>
Ms Jefferson	All years	<b>If your child has not yet submitted their target for The Great St Katherine's Reading Challenge, please encourage them to do so.</b>
Ms Jefferson	All years	<b>If your child wants to be involved in our work around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, please encourage them to email me at <a href="mailto:jeffersonj@skdrive.org">jeffersonj@skdrive.org</a>.</b> We would also be interested to hear any feedback about the resources we have been creating to promote awareness of Equalities - the Educate and Celebrate podcasts as well as the DEAR Article of the Week are on the community website and tutor Google classrooms. We also encourage you to support your child to access the PSHE lessons which have been shared.
Bristol Old Vic	Years 11, 12 & 13	<p><b>Opportunity for BME students with Bristol Old Vic:</b></p> <p><b>The Bristol Old Vic is looking for Black / minority young people who would like some training in comedy. If you or someone you know might be interested, please read on and sign up by THIS MONDAY, June 29.</b></p> <p>Comedy is one of the easiest art forms to get involved in. It can take a lot of work to make it in the comedy world, but when you start you don't need equipment. You don't need to know the right people or even get the right type of education.</p> <p>And the comedy scene all of the U.K. is craving out for a greater range of voices. TV producers and agents and comedy club promoters want to see new and different types of voices and stories.</p> <p>Bristol has an amazing comedy scene and has produced some of the most famous comedians in the country. From Russell Howard to Stephen Merchant. But we haven't had enough people from a big enough range of communities get involved in comedy. Those people that the tv producers and comedy people want.</p> <p>And we want to help. We want to support young Black / Asian / Traveller people in Bristol start their journey into the world of comedy. To explain how to write and perform, how to develop, how to make it big, how to make loads of money being funny.</p> <p><b>On Wednesday July 1st from 5-7pm we will be launching a project where we will try and hook up young (16-30) BME people with people from the comedy industry who can guide them through the world of comedy.</b></p>



		<p>Mark Olver is a Brislington boy who has used stand up to travel the world and has got to work on some of the biggest shows on tv like 8 out of 10 Cats, Last Leg and Ranganation. He will be joined by friends and contacts from all over the world of comedy to give you a taste of what's available and how to get there. And then we will ask you what you want.</p> <p>The next steps. To offer more online stuff. To put on gigs where you live. To do workshops and courses.</p> <p>Bristolian people are natural storytellers, naturally funny people, natural comedians. And we want to help you, if you're a twitch gamer or a youtuber, an actor, a writer, a naturally funny mc. If you've got funny bones, or you know someone with funny bones send them our way. We can help you turn those abilities into ways for you to experience how amazing the world of comedy can be.</p> <p><b>To sign up, please email <a href="mailto:Engagement@bristololdvic.org.uk">Engagement@bristololdvic.org.uk</a> by Monday 29 June to be added to the list.</b></p>
Mrs Maringo	Year 11	<p><b>Today marks the last day for our Year 11 pupils.</b> We have put together this <a href="#">last assembly</a> to wish them farewell. Thank you for your support during the past five years, your help has been invaluable.</p> <p>We will miss our wonderful Year 11 pupils and we hope to see them all at the prom!</p> <p>If you have any questions about hoodies and yearbooks please do get in touch with Ms Andrews. Thank you, Mrs Maringo</p>
School Immunisation Team	Year 9	<p><b>Your child is due their routine vaccinations</b> which unfortunately, due the Covid lockdown, were cancelled in school.</p> <p>Immunisations are one the most important Public Health initiatives. Immunisation is one of the most successful and cost-effective health protection interventions and a cornerstone of public health. High immunisation rates are key to preventing the spread of infectious disease, complications and possible early death among individuals and protecting the population's health through both individual and herd immunity.</p> <p>We are now able to offer the opportunity for your child to receive their cancelled vaccination in a community clinic setting. <b>We are currently able to offer appointments at:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kingswood Locality Hub, Alma Road, Kingswood , Bristol BS15 4DA Telephone: 01454 868387</li> <li>● Pill Clinic, 3 Station Road, Pill, North Somerset, BS20 0AB Telephone: 01275 373104</li> </ul> <p><b>Please ring the number of the clinic that you would like to attend – either Pill or Kingswood. Clinics will be running over the Summer period.</b></p>



Ms Wild	Year 9	<b>We will have a Zoom discussion at 11.30am on Friday 3 July to support Year 9 with their English learning this week.</b> All students welcome. The details will be posted on Google classrooms on Tuesday with their assignment.
Miss Adams	All students who have instrumental lessons in school	Instrumental lesson payments for terms 1 and 2 are now open on parentpay. Please make payments by <b>Friday 3 July</b> . A <a href="#">letter</a> has been sent home regarding the provision of these lessons in September; please be aware that lessons may need to be delivered online, depending on the social distancing measures in place at the time. The letter gives further detail. Any questions beyond that please email me on; <a href="mailto:adamsa@skdrive.org">adamsa@skdrive.org</a>
Mr Cook	Years 7-10	<b>PE Kit</b> The Sports Shop in Portishead is open for business but they have made some changes to manage customer numbers/social distancing in the shop and you will need to telephone them in advance to book a 15-minute appointment - <b>01275 842573</b> . Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries with regard to PE kit this year: <a href="mailto:cookd@skdrive.org">cookd@skdrive.org</a> .

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

No letters this week	
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