

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 11 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

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

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers

St Katherine's is buzzing once again with a full complement of students. On the whole, students have adjusted well to the new routines and naturally, we have made some tweaks after listening to feedback from both staff and students. We have taken time this week to help all our young people understand the reasons why we have structured the school in bubbles and with a one way system.

Students have risen well to the challenge of looking after their books and we encourage all students to pack and prepare their bags the night before to avoid disappointment in the classroom. Please take a moment each week to review the content of each subject book. Thank you for your support in ensuring students are coming to school fully equipped each day.

Our new Year 7s have had a wonderful first week at St Katherine's, getting used to their new environment and thriving in their classes. Well done Year 7. No doubt there will be some tired heads this evening!

For those who were unable to make the Year 7 parent/carer information evening this week, please see our [recording of the evening](#).

As schools across the city and country return, here a few important points to share with our community.

- (1) Should we have a positive case at St Katherine's School during the school term, we will be following advice from Public Health England, as per government guidance and our risk assessment. We will write to parents/carers immediately as part of this process.
- (2) Our year group bubble structure will help us reduce any impact on the school community. Our buses form a further bubble structure and in the event of a positive case, this will be included as part of our process.
- (3) We have 'interaction tracing' in place through Classcharts and through our allocated seating on buses (which has now settled down).
- (4) We have daily routines and control processes in place within our community and cleaning both during and at the start and end of each day to keep St Katherine's a COVID 19 safe environment. However, we recognise all schools are vulnerable and we all remain vigilant.

We are aware some families have had problems with booking tests. Feedback to date suggests refreshing your browser does sometimes result in more tests coming up at a local testing station so please do persevere if unsuccessful initially.

Please see the [quick reference guide](#) for parents/carers regarding Covid-19 pupil absence.



Can I remind all parents/carers to observe the following with their child(ren):

- In accordance with Gov.UK [Safeworking in education, childcare and childrens' social care](#) and our risk assessment, we ask all families to observe the following: **to minimise contact with individuals who are unwell, if you are showing symptoms of coronavirus or have someone in your household who is, you should not be in a childcare setting, school or college. You should be at home, in line with the [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)**
- **Face coverings are a legal requirement when travelling on public transport for students in Year 7 and above. Students must wear face coverings on the buses as per our risk assessment and the legal requirement. No face covering will result in no travelling on the bus unless you have discussed this with school in advance due to the exceptions listed on gov.uk.** Should you need support in obtaining a face covering, please contact us immediately.
- To help us manage the collection at the end of the day, please arrive at or after the departure time where possible to ease the congestion. We appreciate families with multiple siblings will overlap. **Students must exit the site promptly and not gather at the top of school.**
- To help us manage the entrance to school in the morning and protect our bubble structure, **please do not drop your child/ren off until 8.40am.**

There are a number of surveys we would welcome your response to this week. Please take a moment to complete them.

We are here to support all our young people with their learning at all times and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further support in any of the adjustments we are making. Please refer to the 'Who to contact at St Katherine's' table below. We are always keen to hear your feedback and please share this using this [form](#).

Mr Humphreys
Headteacher

WHO TO CONTACT AT ST KATHERINE'S

For queries about:	Name	Contact:
Safeguarding	Mrs K Crocker	crockerk@skdrive.org
Courses, assignments or resources		Subject Teachers
Access to online library resources	Ms Wyld	wyld@skdrive.org
Technology related	Mr A Francis-Black	francisblacka@skdrive.org
SEND	Mrs F Slater	slaterf@skdrive.org
Curriculum	Miss K Richards	richardsk@skdrive.org
Learning@Home resources	Miss K Richards	richardsk@skdrive.org
Personal well being		Tutor or Head of House
General queries		school@skdrive.org
Free School Meals		kilgallond@skdrive.org

MESSAGES

School	All Years	The St Katherine's Open Day scheduled for Saturday 26 September has been cancelled. Friday 25 September, therefore, will be a normal school day and not an early finish.
School	All Years	<p>We now have a waiting list for seats on the school buses. If the waiting list grows further we will be in a position to negotiate a fifth bus from Turner's. To add your details to this waiting list please complete this online form or phone 01275 373737 and leave your details with the receptionist.</p> <p>With all seats on the 4 new routes now allocated we must ensure that the 3 basics rules are followed by all users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sit in your allocated seat ● Wear a face mask at all times ● Wear a seat belt at all times. <p>Students who fail to follow these rules will be reported via the bus monitors and families will be contacted to discuss the ongoing use of the service for that student.</p>
School	All years	<p>IT Access</p> <p>The last six months have shown us that when working from home, access to reliable IT is crucial. In order to safeguard the learning of all students we would appreciate it</p>



		<p>if you could take a few minutes to complete a survey of your home IT access. This will enable us to plan for how we can best support students should it become necessary for some of them to once again work from home. If you cannot access the online form then please call 01275 373737 and a member of the St Katherine's team will go through the survey with you.</p>
Miss Cave	All years	<p>Free school meals – are you eligible? We are asking families to check whether they are eligible for free school meals for this academic year.</p> <p>The Coronavirus Pandemic has left many families with different financial situations than before. The worry is that more children will be left facing hunger and malnutrition because parents and carers are struggling financially and are not aware of what they are eligible to claim.</p> <p>You do not need to make a separate claim for free school meals if you are already in receipt or have applied for Housing Benefit or help with your Council Tax.</p> <p>To see if you are entitled to Free School Meals you can apply here</p>
Mrs Slater	All years	<p>Dyslexia friendly classrooms strategies We have put a number of whole school strategies in place to help support pupils with dyslexia in the classroom including adjusting their seating position, non-white backgrounds on presentations, extra time, the use of a laptop and printing materials (when necessary).</p> <p>Reasonable adjustments - coloured overlays and coloured books Although we keep a small stock in school, we ask that parents provide and replenish this equipment so that they can order exactly the right colour and shade for their child. We will provide and replenish in exceptional circumstances such as financial reasons.</p>
Miss Adams	All years	<p>I have emailed all instrumental lesson timetables to parents; if you have not received this please contact me on: adamsa@skdrive.org. Please help to support your child by reminding them to bring their instrument/music etc on the correct day.</p>
Ms Wyld - LRC	All years	<p>We are gradually introducing lots of different ways for students to access books. Years 7, 8 and 9 will still be having a fortnightly library lesson where they have the opportunity to choose/change books.</p> <p>All students can now log in to their details on the library system to see what they have on loan, and to renew and reserve books. Here are some basic instructions to get started.</p> <p>For those not so sure of what they would like, I am operating a click and deliver service. Students just need to complete this reading profile, and I will choose a small selection of books (all carefully sanitised) place in a biodegradable bag and deliver to the tutor base.</p>
Finance	All Years	Low Dinner Account Balance Alerts



		<p>In order to set up alerts on your Parentpay account, select Communication, Alert Setting. This facility allows you to set a balance below which Parentpay will e-mail out a reminder to top up. Please be aware that e-mail reminders are free but text messages are charged at 6p per message. Alerts can also be set up for new payment items.</p> <p>Bank Transfer Facility on Parentpay</p> <p>It can take up to 8 days for a bank to accept a new Parentpay mandate. Please do not make any payments using the bank transfer facility until the mandate has been authorised as this will lead to failed transactions. Dinner accounts can go overdrawn as a result of failed transactions. Payments should be made using debit/credit card as these payments are authorised before they come down to the school.</p>
School	All Years	<p>Student lockers. Due to Covid 19 restrictions only Years 8 and 9 may use lockers in their allocated Year blocks (Year 9 MFL and Year 8 Library corridor). If your child is in Years 10 or 11 with a locker key, can you please ask them to return it. We are looking into acquiring outside lockers for other year groups.</p>
Mr Benchama	Year 8	<p>I have been very impressed with Year 8 at the start of the year. Their enthusiasm, excitement, and responsibility has shown clearly in their learning. As new Head of MFL I have become aware that some students may not be happy with their language option and I am conducting a survey about which language they would prefer. Your feedback would help us decide which language we can offer. Please complete this online survey to help us with this. If you cannot access the online form then please call 01275 373737 and a member of the St Katherine's team will complete this with you over the phone.</p>
Miss Richards	Years 7-11	<p>Students will shortly be completing a series of assessments in class over the course of the term. These are designed to provide the school with useful diagnostic evidence of strengths and weaknesses that your child may have. The results will be used here at school for supporting planning and intervention strategies. A letter will be shared summarising the assessments that each year group will be completing.</p> <p>Please reassure your child that these tests are specifically designed not to require any prior revision and we do not wish them to be unduly worried about the process. If they are feeling anxious, please ask them to discuss this with their tutor.</p>
Ms Wild	Years 7 -9	<p>All students will record their reading on their own Digital Reading Log. These will be shared with students via their Reading Google classroom and explained on their first library lesson. All students are expected to read for twenty minutes every day at home.</p>



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

Years 7-11	Literacy Assessments
All Years	Quick Reference Guide for Parents/Carers - Covid-19 Pupil Absence

UPCOMING EVENTS - click [here](#) to see all upcoming events

Monday, 21 September	Years 8-11 Parent/Carer Information Evening (Virtual) 19:00-20:00 - Virtual Open Evening Year 7 Flu Immunisation Programme
Thursday, 24 September	
Monday, 28 September	

ST KATHERINE'S SCHOOL

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