



## Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 9 October 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

We have now completed six weeks of the new academic year and thank you to everyone for all you are doing to keep us all safe as a community - it is the actions of each and everyone of us that will enable us to stay open for all students for as long as possible. We continue to 'Tighten Up Together' and we must all continue to take precautions both in school and in our communities. There are a number of reported positive cases in neighbouring schools which serves as a reminder that the virus is still very much with us in our communities.

We are finalising some changes to our uniform expectations and reviewing our PE arrangements with a view to returning to changing rooms in a carefully managed process before the end of Term 1. Further details to follow. We still do not have any visitors to the school and thank you for booking appointments and for observing our protocols should you have to visit.

Thank you to those families who were able to join our [Parent/Carer forum](#) yesterday evening. A recording will be available on our school website shortly along with the minutes.

Our celebration of Black History Month continues with our Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) group leading this work alongside Mrs Jefferson. Our diversity at St Katherine's is one of our strengths and it is great to see students learning and educating each other about their heritage and culture across the school, resulting in students knowing and understanding more about our world - Educate Celebrate and Give voice - the words of our EDI group. We look forward to the assembly by students next week.

As I mentioned last week, students are reading more than ever at St Katherine's and our daily start to the day is calm and quiet with all students enjoying quality reading time. There are so many great books out there and if you are not sure where to start, take a look at our inspired [recommended reads](#) list. Please discuss your child's reading with them and continue to encourage them to read each day. We know reading before bedtime is a great routine to establish and a calm way to prepare for great sleep in preparation for the next day.

Another repeated weekly reminder - students are taking good ownership of their books and remembering them well on the whole. We encourage all parents/carers to take a look at the work completed for the week and ask your son/daughter to talk you through what they have done each week. This will help us all as we try and encourage each student to take responsibility for their books, learning and homework as we do our best to fill any gaps in important knowledge and skills.

Our COVID messages are below. No changes to draw your attention to this week. I recognise these messages are repetitive but the importance of us all remaining vigilant is vital to keep our full school functioning.

#### Tightening up together

- **Hands** - washing and hand sanitising our hands more often - there are multiple hand sanitising stations in each block, hand sanitisers in each classroom and new stations on entry to the school are being installed for staff and students. [New NHS Hands Face Spade video](#).

- **Face** - the incorrect wearing and safe hygienic keeping of face coverings is a concern. We have reshared this video with students this week - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN\\_WTk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk) - and tried to help them understand the importance of wearing a face covering safely at all times
  - **Changes - from Monday**
    - **All students arriving at school wearing a face mask will be required to place their facemask in a resealable bag at the front of school.** All students wishing to wear a face covering, must use a new face covering once in school.
    - **All students are to sanitise their hands on arrival at the front of school**
    - All students travelling on coaches will be required to place their facemask in a resealable bag once they step off the coach;
- **Space** - we are asking staff and students to give each other space throughout the day, including at the start and end of the day to protect our bubble structure.

### Self isolation guidance

If you have been asked by Public Health England to self-isolate, we need to remind you that this is a legal requirement. The reason you or your children are being asked to self isolate is because we want to stop the spread of the virus. There are significant penalties for people who do not adhere to the self-isolation guideline. Self-isolation means that the person concerned cannot leave their home or garden. A self-isolating person can travel in the household car as long as they do not leave the car or come into contact with anyone from another household. They cannot visit other households or, for children, accompany parents to the shops.

Reminders from last week which are still all relevant:

- 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.**

A reminder of some 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 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](#).

Kind regards

Mr Humphreys  
Headteacher

### WHO TO CONTACT AT ST KATHERINE'S

For queries about:	Name	Contact:
Safeguarding	Mrs K Crocker	<a href="mailto:crockerk@skdrive.org">crockerk@skdrive.org</a>
Courses, assignments or resources		Subject Teachers
Access to online library resources	Ms Wyld	<a href="mailto:wylidl@skdrive.org">wylidl@skdrive.org</a>
Technology related	Mr A Francis-Black	<a href="mailto:francisblacka@skdrive.org">francisblacka@skdrive.org</a>
SEND	Mrs F Slater	<a href="mailto:slaterf@skdrive.org">slaterf@skdrive.org</a>
Curriculum	Miss K Richards	<a href="mailto:richardsk@skdrive.org">richardsk@skdrive.org</a>
Learning@Home resources	Miss K Richards	<a href="mailto:richardsk@skdrive.org">richardsk@skdrive.org</a>
Personal well being		Tutor or Head of House
General queries		<a href="mailto:school@skdrive.org">school@skdrive.org</a>
Free School Meals		<a href="mailto:kilgallond@skdrive.org">kilgallond@skdrive.org</a>
Reading logs	Immalee Wild	<a href="mailto:wildi@skdrive.org">wildi@skdrive.org</a>
Sixth Form	Geraint Davies	<a href="mailto:daviesg@skdrive.org">daviesg@skdrive.org</a>

### MESSAGES

Mr Francis Black	All years	<b>Chromebook Loans</b> - Over the lockdown period we loaned out over 100 Chromebooks to support students with their Learning@Home. These devices are now required in school so that each year group bubble can be provided with its own IT access. If you have a school Chromebook please ensure that it is returned to SSO as soon as possible. Once we have completed a full audit of devices and secured our in school provision we will once again contact families with limited IT access at home and discuss the best way for us to support.
Mr Maw	All years	<b>Road Safety</b> - If your child walks/cycles to and from school, please remind them of the importance of behaving safely and appropriately on the journey. We have spoken to



		individual students where we have been made aware of unsafe behaviour but with the nights drawing in it is more important than ever that students are putting safety first on their travels. If your child cycles to school, please check that their lights are working and that they have the appropriate safety gear.
Miss Richards	Year 11	<b>The Year 11 Preparing to Perform evening on 3 November has been cancelled. Instead, we will be sharing a series of videos which will talk you through the Year 11 mocks, how you can support your child to revise effectively and a range of useful strategies to help them manage the challenges of the year.</b> The videos will be shared in the week commencing 19 October.
Mr Davies	Year 11	<b>Our virtual Sixth Form Open Evening will be held on Wednesday 18 November, 6pm-7pm.</b> Information about how to register will be shared soon, but if parents have any questions in the meantime, feel free to email me on <a href="mailto:daviesg@skdrive.org">daviesg@skdrive.org</a> .
Mrs Ivey	Year 10 & 11	This week Year 10 and 11 students have been given letters to take home regarding science revision guides. Only Year 11 students who did not buy a guide last year need to purchase a guide. The deadline for purchasing revision guides is 20/10/20 via parent pay. If you have any questions please contact me at <a href="mailto:iveyz@skdrive.org">iveyz@skdrive.org</a> .
Mrs Ivey	Years 7-11	This week science teachers have discussed with classes how learning@home will work in science if students are absent from school. These presentations explain how students can continue to learn from home: <a href="#">KS3</a> <a href="#">KS4</a> It is essential that all students have joined their class and year group science classrooms. The access codes for the classrooms are on class charts. If you have any questions please email your child's science teacher.
Ms Wild	Years 7-9	Please support your child to complete their digital reading log each day to record their reading at home - at least 20 minutes every day. Many thanks.

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

No letters home this week

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

Wednesday, 18 November	18:00-19:00 Sixth Form Open Evening (Virtual)
Friday, 23 October	End of Term 1
Monday, 2 November	Start of Term 2: <b>INSET Day - School closed to students</b>
Tuesday, 3 November	Students return to school

**ST KATHERINE'S SCHOOL**

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