

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 8 January 2021

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/Carer,

A busy first week back at school and I trust you have found the communications helpful from the school, clarifying all arrangements and news updates.

For families with children in Year 11, Year 12, Year 13, there have been a number of important communications this week, keeping up with the announcements regarding exams. Please see the letters on our website and you can access our 'update assembly' on your child's google classroom should you wish to. Our thoughts are very much with the students and families who are experiencing such disruption during this time. Rest assured, all decisions we make are always in the best interests of young people and we emphasised this to students in our 'update assembly'.

Regarding the summer exams for Year 11, 12 and 13, yesterday afternoon the Secretary of State indicated a form of 'teacher-assessed grades' will be used to award qualifications this summer. Ofqual, the exams regulator, will now draw up more detailed proposals which will be shared later this term. Until we have further information, our message to all students is to continue working hard, attending all lessons, submitting all work, asking for help where needed to ensure they continue to produce their very best work for each of their teachers. The work students are currently completing is as important as ever.

A huge thank you to all those offering to volunteer with the mass asymptomatic testing programme. This has been setup this week in our lecture theatre and we will begin testing next week for those on site. Given the current low numbers of processing we are able to run the testing programme with current staffing levels. However, we will be in contact when we are preparing for the return of pupils to school.

If you have not already completed our consent form, please complete the [RAPID TESTING FORM](#) for each child.

Request for in school provision

We continue to provide in school provision for the children of critical workers and those who may have difficulty engaging with Learning@Home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study). The government definition of a critical worker includes "Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections". Further details can be found by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Whilst we recognise provision is open to students where one parent/carer only is a critical worker, we would ask that you only request this provision where it is necessary. Our Learning@Home provision means that teaching staff are delivering a full timetable of lessons, resulting in limited availability of staffing on site for those studying in school. We are continuing to follow our safety first principle which is resulting in limited numbers in each room so we can observe social distancing as best as possible. Therefore, if one parent / carer is a non-critical worker working from home, we would ask that, where possible, you consider keeping your child / children Learning@Home.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation during this time.

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	wylidl@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
Reading logs	Immalee Wild	wildi@skdrive.org
Sixth Form	Geraint Davies	daviesg@skdrive.org
Anonymous way to report a concern about a student: Tell Someone Form		

MESSAGES

Mrs J Ball	All families	Our local Foodbanks have been in touch to let us know that they will continue to operate as normal during this further lockdown period. We are able to refer families to the Foodbank when they require support so please do not hesitate to contact me via ballj@skdrive.org if we can help in any way.
Mr Francis Black	All Years	Over the period of the current lockdown we have suspended our regular bus services and added two temporary routes for students who still are still attending school. Details of these routes can be found here . All students may use these routes without charge and drivers have been instructed to allow anyone with a St Katherine's uniform or a valid Sixth Form ID badge to travel.

Mr Francis Black	All Years	<p>Further support is available for families who are experiencing difficulty with internet access. We can either make an application on your behalf for additional 4G data through your mobile phone provider or in some cases provide a 4G router. Please contact your child's Head of House to see if you are eligible for this support. We have also produced videos that show how to set up Chrome and to work with Google Classroom.</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>
Ms Wyld	All Years	<p>All students can access the St Kath's eLibrary using this link. This gives access to a fantastic range of ebooks and audio books while working from home. To login, the original password details are needed, so please just get in touch for a reminder.</p> <p>Yr7 & 8 students can still take Accelerated Reader quizzes at home, so do use the eplatform to keep quizzing.</p> <p>Here are all our links.</p> <p>The public library service also has a brilliant range of online resources you can access for free! It's easy to join LibrariesWest remotely if you're not already a member, and you'll be able to start exploring straight away.</p>
Mr Dawes and Mr Thomas	All Years	<p>THE ST KATHERINE'S LOCKDOWN MILEAGE CHALLENGE. Please see the attached form for all the information needed! Some key points; a new form must be submitted for each effort, parents/carers if you enter please attach yourself to your child's House and finally, this is non compulsory and just for fun!</p>
Mr Cook	All years	<p>In PE we are currently looking at different ways to try and increase student engagement with physical activity while they are learning at home.</p> <p>As of the start of Term 3, PE lessons may differ slightly between classes while we experiment with different types of activities & delivery to see what works best with our classes. Teachers may try live lessons, pre-recorded lessons, directing students to specific tasks for completion, publishing details of open activities or referring students to a bank of activity ideas.</p> <p>All PE activities are optional and students are welcome to try activities that they can find on their Google Classroom for PE or do their own physical activity. We would encourage students to build some physical activity into every single day, not just when they have PE lessons.</p> <p>If you have any questions about PE lessons, activities or classes then please contact me - cookd@skdrive.org.</p>
Mrs Crocker	All Years	<p>Avon and Somerset Constabulary in response to Covid19 is offering two further dates to its free parents' webinar about online safety.</p>

		<p>Covid 19: Online Safety for parents webinar: “It is never going to happen to my child...”</p> <p>Content: Overview of online risks. Exploitation of children online. Technical protective and safety measures available. Top tips on starting a conversation with your child about the internet and how to work together to use the internet safely.</p> <p>Presenters Androulla (Andri) Nicolaou, Prevention Officer and Coordinator Kristian Evans, Cyber Protect Officer Drew Jefferies, Cyber Protect Office Verity Weston, Youth Project Coordinator</p> <p>To book a place, please follow Eventbrite link below.</p> <p>14 January 2021 7pm- 8.30pm https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-safety-for-parents-it-is-never-going-to-happen-to-my-child-tickets-133344289359</p> <p>8 February 2021 7pm – 8.30pm: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-safety-for-parents-it-is-never-going-to-happen-to-my-child-tickets-133347623331</p> <p>For further information or any queries, please email CyberProtect@avonandsomerset.police.uk</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Rebecca Marshall A&S Pathway and Partnership Coordinator and Youth Project Coordinator Team Manager</p> <p>Email: Rebecca.Marshall@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk Mobile: 07802 874574</p>
Miss Richards	Year 11	<p>For those students who have online maths and English tuition, this will continue as normal in the coming weeks. Students have been sent an email with the tuition link.</p>
Mr Hodgson	Year 9 and Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh	<p>The coronavirus doesn't mean you will miss out on DofE - far from it! Although some activities will be cancelled, keep going with your sections! There are lots of ideas and opportunities here, as well as lots of online activities. If you need to change any of your sections, you can do this on eDofE. It's even more important now to keep active, keep helping others and working on skills - so why not get rewarded by completing your DofE! Expeditions are still planned for the summer for both Year 9 and Year 10! Any questions about DofE please contact me - hodgsont@skdrive.org</p>
Mrs Ivey	Year 8 and 9	<p>Year 8 and 9 students were due to sit assessments this term, I can confirm that these will still go ahead. Year 8 and 9 students have been revising for these assessments as homework before and over the holidays. Now that we are learning@home Year 8 and 9 students will revise in class instead of for homework. Year 8 and 9 will both sit their assessments, on Monday 18</p>

		January in their science lessons, as online assessments (set via the google classroom).
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LETTERS - click [here](#) to see all letters from this academic year

All Years

- National Lockdown
- Vocational Examinations

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

Wednesday 27 January
Thursday, 28 January

18:30-19:30 Parents Association meeting (Virtual)
16:00-19:00 Year 7 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)