

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 29 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/Carers

Thank you for your continued feedback regarding our Learning@Home programme. We continue to actively review our provision and would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete a questionnaire below: ● [Year 7](#) ● [Year 8](#) ● [Year 9](#) ● [Year 10](#) ● [Year 11](#) ● [Post 16](#). Students continue to impress their teachers with their work and we are celebrating some of this work - there is so much - on our [student community website](#). We look forward to seeing the outcomes from our 'screen free' day next Wednesday. Thank you for continuing to do your best in supporting your child/children with their education.

We are reminding everyone about the timings of the school day to ensure the lunch break is 45minutes (12:30 - 1:15) as this has been raised by parents/carers. Based on the Prime Minister's announcement this week regarding school reopenings, we hope to update you on details at the start of Term 4, giving two weeks notice to schools and families.

Thank you to those parents/carers who joined us at our Parent/Carer Association meeting on Thursday. Minutes and the presentation on uniform is available on our [website](#). All feedback to Mr Maw. We are considering our school day and curriculum for September 2021, building on the successes and positive feedback from the last two years, including some of the changes enforced upon us since reopening in September 2020. We will be sharing our proposals with parents/carers on the 24 February 2021 at 6:30 - 7:30. We do hope you can join us.

Reminder Year 11 | Year 12 | Year 13 - DEADLINE midnight tonight

The Department for Education is currently consulting on the summer exams and awarding process. Year 11, 12 and 13 Parents/carers along with students are encouraged to respond

Details

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

Link to online response - <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8BYI4T/>

Since the launch at the start of term, The St Katherine's Lock Mileage Challenge has notched up no less than 3192 miles. Keep your children active and make sure they log their miles - it is great to see students dominating the top of the walking chart. Some houses are beginning to build a lead....

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](#).

Best wishes

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 Wylld	wylldl@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 Crocker	All families	<p>Next week is children's mental health week and students will receive important messages in tutor time and assembly about the importance of taking care of their mental health as well as signposting sources of support for anyone that is struggling.</p> <p>We know that young people have been impacted significantly by the restrictions Covid-19 has placed on our lives.</p> <p>We are well supported at St Katherine's School by Wellspring who are a local charity that support our students and provide our counselling services.</p> <p>Children's mental health week is another opportunity to shine a spotlight on the importance of young people's mental health.</p>
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		<p>The theme of this year's children's mental health week is 'express yourself' and encourages young people to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas in a positive way.</p> <p>Wellspring have created this poster for students and their families that includes how to access support and an invitation to work with the charity to further shape their services.</p>
Miss Richards	All families	<p>Thank you for your ongoing Learning@Home feedback. We recognise that at times, it can be difficult for students to step away from the screen and take a break. All lessons last for 45 minutes and so please encourage your child to take a break from the screen in between lessons, at breaktime and during lunchtime. Students should follow the timetable as detailed below:</p> <p>8.55-9.25am: DEAR/Tutor time 9.30- 10.15am- Period 1 10.15-10.45am-Break 10.45-11.30am-Period 2 11.45am-12.30pm-Period 3 12.30-1.15pm-Lunch 1.15-2.00pm- Period 4 2.15-3.00pm- Period 5 3.00-3.15pm- Screen free@3 exercise</p> <p>Our first screen free day will be taking place on Wednesday 3 February. Please see the KS3 and KS4 activities here. The Post-16 activities are linked here. Your child/children should choose an activity to complete each hour - they should select a different theme at a time that suits them throughout the day. Your child/children will not be required to log into the classroom or complete any lesson based tasks on this day. Instead, encourage your child/children to engage in the screen free day - if you can, why not take part in one of the hours!</p> <p>We will be celebrating the efforts of your child/children on this day and would love to see them share their outcomes in any format via Mr Scott at scottd@skdrive.org.</p> <p>If your child is attending the onsite provision on 3 February, please ensure that they bring a container with them in order to bring home some homemade treats!</p>
Miss Gardiner	All years	<p>Hot off the press! Issue 5 of the Careers Bulletin. This month there are some fantastic opportunities for students across all school years to get involved in. Any questions regarding careers please email Miss Gardiner: gardiners@skdrive.org</p>
Mrs Grocock	All families	<p>Free Sanitary Products We have a large stock of sanitary towels and tampons in school that we would normally distribute to students throughout the day/week. If you would like to receive free packs of tampons or sanitary towels delivered to your home, please email studentsupport@skdrive.org</p>
English	All years	<p>We are delighted to bring Bishop's Stortford College Festival of Literature to St Katherine's students.</p> <p>Year 7</p>

		<p>Award-winning author Kiran Millwood Hargrave will talk about her spellbinding new novel <i>A Secret of Birds & Bone</i> on Friday 12 February 2021 at 11.15am during their timetabled lesson.</p> <p>Year 7 & 8</p> <p>Inspiring poet and author Joseph Coelho will introduce his most recent book, <i>The Girl Who Became a Tree</i> on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 2-3pm during their timetabled lesson.</p> <p>Storyteller Emily Hanna-Grazebrook will deliver a spooky story session on Thursday 4 February at 2-3pm during their timetabled lesson.</p> <p>Year 8</p> <p>Highly-acclaimed writer Anthony McGowan will give an insight into his journey as a writer and talk about his award-winning novel, <i>Lark</i> on Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 2-3pm during their timetabled lesson.</p> <p>Year 9</p> <p>Best-selling author Anna McNuff will share stories about her awesome adventures with high energy and exuberance. Students will access the catch up link in an English lesson after half term.</p> <p>Year 10 & 11</p> <p>Best-selling author Anna McNuff will share stories about her awesome adventures with high energy and exuberance. Students will have the option to watch the catch up link during non-live lessons.</p> <p>Critically-acclaimed author Tom Ellen will discuss his bestselling YA books and processes involved in writing with a co-author. Selected students will be invited to this event.</p>
Mr Francis Black	Year 11	<p>All families of Year 11 students should have received an invite to the Year 11 progress evening in a letter last week. The online booking system is now open for you to make appointments. Please check your IT systems ahead of time to ensure the evening runs smoothly and use this template to record some details of the discussions.</p>
Mr Francis Black	Year 9	<p>All families of Year 9 students should have received an invite to the Year 9 Options evening in a letter this week. This includes some key resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options booklet. • Options planning form • Options hub • Options evening access link
Mrs Weatherson	KS4/5	<p>On Monday 1 February 10am - 11am there is an opportunity for KS4/KS5 students to hear from Dorothy Byrne, (Editor-at-large, Channel 4, Chair, Ethical Journalism Network & Former Head of News and Current Affairs, Channel 4) by clicking this link. She will share her insights into her career as a journalist. During her tenure, the channel's news and current affairs programmes have won numerous BAFTA, RTA and Emmy awards. Dorothy will reflect on how to be successful in the world of work and will question whether we can trust the media.</p>
Mr Cook	Year 7 & 8	<p>Enrichment</p> <p>Enrichment lessons are being delivered slightly differently while students are learning at home. PE are delivering live workouts for all Year 7 and Year 8 students when they have enrichment on their timetable.</p>

		Students should look out for the live link that will be shared with them before the workout.
Ms Wyld	Year 7 & 8	Year 7 & 8 students have been hard at work taking their Accelerated Reader quizzes since we returned this term. Between them they have quizzed a brilliant 215 books, reading a total of 12,408,684 words. Every quiz pass earns 3 house points, so keep up the good work! Three Year 7 & one Year 8 student have reached millionaire status since the start of January which is truly impressive, and we now have 4 multi-millionaires! Fantastic work everyone!
Miss Adams	All students who have instrumental lessons in school	You should now have received a letter from North Somerset Music Service regarding the arrangements for the organisation of online instrumental lessons during this period of school closure. Please ensure you complete the form which will enable the instrumental teacher to make contact with you. I have also set up a google classroom for all students who have instrumental lessons in school; this will be used to communicate important messages so please ensure you join it too. Please contact me on adamsa@skdrive.org if you have any questions.

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

All years Year 9	Screen Free Day - 3 February 2021 Year 9 Virtual Options Evening - 10 February 2021
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UPCOMING EVENTS - click [here](#) to see all upcoming events

Wednesday 3 February Thursday 4 February Wednesday 10 February Wednesday 24 February	Screen Free Day 16:00 - 19:00 Year 11 Progress Evening (Virtual) 19:00-21:00 Year 9 Options Evening (Virtual) Proposed changes to the school day
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