



Friday 3 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I trust you and your families are safe and well and beginning to adjust to recent national restrictions. Circumstances like this can often bring out the best of us - it was hugely heart warming to stand outside last Thursday evening at 8pm to hear the Clap for Carers echo around my neighbourhood. A huge thank you to those of you working so hard on the frontline to support our most vulnerable at this time.

Thank you for your continued messages of support that we are receiving from you. As I shared in our Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers last week, we are all having to adjust to new ways of existing and working, which will naturally create challenges along the way. We will continue to work together to ensure the model is sustainable for all concerned. We are aware some families are feeling rather daunted by the number of tasks set across subjects, along with the demands on access to IT in the home. We understand this and I would like to reassure you we will not be taking a 'hardline' on this. We do not underestimate the scale of the challenge for parents/carers, many of which are having to manage their own working lives around this. Please feel empowered to make decisions about routines and expectations that are relevant to your child/children and your circumstances. With less immediate opportunities for praise from teachers, please fill the gap.

Heads of House and pastoral staff will check-in with families where it appears work is not being accessed to see if they can support. Easter break will be a welcome rest for all of us as we continue to support our friends and families, and digest the impact around us. To confirm, we will not be setting work for the Easter break as we recognise the importance of giving our whole community a break during such unprecedented times.

We continue to provide care provision for vulnerable children and those of key workers who cannot be safely looked after at home during the Easter break. We have been in contact with all our families who asked to discuss this and if you wish to discuss further, please contact Steve Colebourne at colebournes@skdrive.org. As per the latest guidance, everyone should now be limiting contact with people outside of their household but we appreciate that the demands on key workers may change in the coming weeks across key sectors, such as health.

Year 11 and Year 13 students

We recognise this is an anxious time for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Ofqual, the exam awarding body, this morning released guidance on the awarding of student exams grades for summer 2020. We will digest this guidance and continue working on this over the coming weeks as a priority. I share below a letter for students along with a guide including full details released this morning.

Letter for students

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

Full guide on awarding of grade for Summer 2020

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPO_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf

Evolving our online learning with students

During the last two weeks we have been piloting a form of online learning focusing on raising levels of engagement through 'live audio lessons'. These have involved explanations of tasks with the ability of students to ask the teacher questions which can then be answered live during the presentation. These can also be recorded and shared on the class google classroom. We will be exploring this further and will share further information at the start of Term 5. Online resources continue to develop and the BBC is evolving its [Bitesize from the 20 April](#) which may help you at home.

Staying safe online

There is a lot of support available to keep your child/children safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers. Please take time to talk about being safe online at home.

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

Year 10 Work Experience and Year 7 Paris Trip

We are sorry to confirm we have taken the decision to cancel the Year 10 Work Experience. The Year 7 Paris trip will not go ahead and we are working with the travel and insurance company to return money to parents/carers. Finance will be in contact with you but please bear in mind this will take some time to process as companies prioritise according to the date of the trip.

Year 8 Parent/Carer Evening

We are working on a solution to share feedback with parents/carers based on the latest progress check and will be in contact once we are in a position to share the most recent progress check.

Music Lessons

We have been working with North Somerset to continue this much valued provision. Lessons are able to continue online if you wish to pursue lessons directly through the North Somerset Music Service. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr Francis Black francisblacka@skdrive.org.

Food Bank vouchers and Free School Meals

As we begin the Easter holidays, we recognise that many families will still be facing difficult circumstances. Schools do not provide meals for their students during school holidays. However, given the unprecedented times we find ourselves in, we will continue to provide lunches for families throughout the holidays. Next week, we will deliver on Monday 6 April and will include meals for 6 days to cover Easter Monday. Families whose children receive free school meals will shortly receive order forms for lunches to be delivered on Tuesday 14 April.

After the Easter holidays, we will move to the government's supermarket eCode voucher scheme. These vouchers will be emailed directly to parents. Families will then receive an email which contains a 16-digit eCode and a link to the redemption website: www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk. Where we do not hold an email address for parents/carers, we will order vouchers on behalf of families and send them to your home address. We understand that for some families, especially those unable to leave the house, lunch delivery will be your preference. We will continue to do this for families who request it. If you have any questions about hampers or the new eCode voucher scheme, please email crockerk@skdrive.org.

We continue to offer food bank vouchers from school. These can be redeemed at food banks across Bristol and North Somerset and are available to all families of all pupils' families who are facing food poverty. Please contact ballj@skdrive.org should you wish to request food bank vouchers. If you are able to donate food items to The Bristol Foodbank or The Clevedon District Foodbank, please do and help support those facing hardship.

Unfortunately, the Department for Education has warned that fraudsters are targeting parents of children eligible for free school meals. Some families have received an email requesting their bank details, claiming this will enable their children to continue receiving meals through school closures amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The DfE has issued a notice to schools, urging parents to delete the scam email immediately.

New Deputy Headteacher appointments

In other news for the school, I am delighted to confirm the appointment of two new permanent Deputy Headteachers at St Katherine's School. Matt Maw will be joining us from Bristol Cathedral and Choir School after Easter and Kate Richards from Orchard School will join us in September. These are excellent appointments to the school as we embark on the next phase of our improvement journey. I look forward to welcoming them to the school community when we return to school.

St Kath's School Community

Please take time to look at our new community website designed to inspire us all, keep us all informed and to recognise the great work of our young people.

<https://sites.google.com/skdrive.org/st-kaths-school-community/home?authuser=0>

On behalf of all my colleagues, thank you for your continued patience and support.

Stay home, stay safe, stay strong.

Best wishes





Justin Humphreys
Headteacher

Headteacher: Justin Humphreys

St Katherine's School, Ham Green, North Somerset BS20 OHU

T: 01275 373737 E: school@stkaths.org.uk www.stkaths.org.uk

 St Katherine's School  @stkathsschool