



Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | 15 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

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

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the announcements and updates from the Department For Education this week we have been making a number of adjustments across the site in preparation for facilitating some interaction with teachers for Year 10 and Year 12 pupils during Term 6. We continue to remain open for our vulnerable students and those children whose parents/carers are key workers. Should you need support please contact crockerk@skdrive.org.

We recognise this is an anxious time for all parents/carers, students and staff within our community. We will continue to work effectively with each other and have today circulated a survey to Year 10 and Year 12 pupils to understand their current thoughts and feelings and we will use their responses to help us plan their transition back to school. We recognise this will take time.

We are aware of the many challenges parents/carers face in supporting their child(ren) transition back to school and would be grateful if you could fill out the following survey:

[Parents of Year 10 and Year 12 - return to school survey](#)

We will communicate full details of how Year 10 and Year 12 will return to school at the beginning of Term 6. Please continue with your efforts in supporting and engaging your child in the work set by their teachers. We appreciate all you are doing.

We continue to evolve our Learning@Home programme and are working hard to listen to the feedback from parents/carers, along with students to maximise the experience and engagement. Please find below a link to the summary of your feedback. Years 7,8,9,10,12.

[Parent/Carer Feedback May 2020 for Year 7-10 and Year 12](#)

As I mentioned last week we are in the middle of Ramadan. Yesterday I was delighted to attend the virtual Iftar at 8pm before breaking my fast at 8:57. It was a great experience, both mentally and physically. I learnt more about the significance of Ramadan and was interested to hear how families have been enjoying Ramadan this year under the current restrictions - there are positives to be drawn from all situations. Throughout the day as long as I was occupied, I found the time passed quickly and the thought of food and drink remained buried deep in the back of mind. Fortunately, there is an awful lot to think about at the moment! Along with Mrs Crocker and Mr Maw, I know the thirst we were all feeling from around 7pm was particularly profound. A glass of iced cold water at 8:57pm has never tasted so good. Our thanks to all those involved and to Ismaeel Akram for his work in coordinating this great project. An annual event in the St Katherine's calendar.

Should you require any support during the period of lockdown please do not hesitate to get in touch - school@skdrive.org

Stay home, Stay safe, Stay Strong



Justin Humphreys
Headteacher

WHO TO CONTACT AT ST KATHERINE'S

For queries about:	Contact:
Safeguarding	crockerk@skdrive.org
Courses, assignments or resources	Subject Teachers
Access to online library resources	wylldl@skdrive.org
Technology related	francisblacka@skdrive.org
Curriculum	francisblacka@skdrive.org
Learning@Home resources	stewarda@skdrive.org
Personal, social-emotional	Tutor or Head of House
General queries	school@skdrive.org
Free School Meals	finance@skdrive.org

MESSAGES

School	All Years	Further updates to our guidance for learning from home can be found here. This will be updated regularly with new items highlighted in yellow and shared every week via this communication.
School	All Years	Whilst teachers will not be able to provide feedback on every piece of learning@home, each faculty has set out clear guidance on the type and amount of feedback that students can expect to receive. This guidance can be seen here . If you are concerned that your child has not received the expected feedback then please contact subject teachers in the first instance.
School	All Years	Class Charts remains a vital means of tracking the learning@home that is being provided for your child. Login codes are available for both student and parent accounts and these can be obtained by contacting your child's tutor.
School	Key Worker Families	We are aware as the government begins the process of easing lockdown restrictions, a larger number of key workers may be asked to return to work. If you anticipate you may need to send your child to school from 1 June, please contact Mr Colebourne (colebournes@skdrive.org) so we can confirm arrangements.



School	All Years	<p>At St Katherine's School we are really fortunate to be well supported by our School Nurse who holds a clinic for children each week. The School Nurse team has been in touch to remind us that they are still available to support children and their families during these uncertain times.</p> <p>They can offer support and guidance with a range of physical and mental health issues and the details of how to contact them can be found on the poster they have asked us to share with you. School Nurse Poster</p>
Student Website	All years	<p>The St Katherine's School Community website is now public so parents can access it too and students can get onto it without logging in. It is a valuable resource for students where they can enter house competitions, view student artwork on the 'Wall of Fame', find wellbeing tips, cooking challenges and much more. There is a dedicated section for Years 12 and 13.</p>
Student Email	All years	<p>Students receive a weekly email on Mondays at 10 with a message from Mr Humphreys, house competitions, wellbeing tips and more. If you would like to also receive this email, you can subscribe here.</p>
School	All Years	<p>Families in Focus information bulletins for Families and Practitioners during Coronavirus. This has been put together by the FIF teams across the city and it has lots of information and activities that families can use during these difficult times.</p> <p>Information Bulletin for Families Part 1 Information Bulletin for Families Part 2</p>
School	Families whose children are entitled to Free School Meals	<p>School meals supermarket vouchers will be provided during the half term school holidays.</p> <p>Thank you all for persevering with the Edenred website that has experienced significant difficulties in coping with the demand for supermarket vouchers. We are pleased to report that the website's capacity is greatly improved and many families have reported that there is no longer a wait when you try to get online. If you have not yet redeemed your vouchers please try again and contact finance@skdrive.org if you continue to experience difficulties.</p> <p>We understand that the Department of Education will not be issuing vouchers to families over the forthcoming half term holidays. Schools would not normally provide meals for children during the school break. We are acutely aware that the difficulties that we experienced at the start of the scheme will have meant that some families were further disadvantaged. In addition, the current circumstances mean that some of our families are facing additional hardship. Therefore we are pleased to be able to inform you that St Katherine's School will provide vouchers to cover the school holiday regardless of whether the Department of Education meets the cost.</p>
English	Years 7 -10	<p>A useful tip to support your child with their English: ask them what their target is to improve their writing. Help them to go back to the last piece of marked work to find their teacher feedback, and then ensure they always put their target at the top of their new piece of writing, and use the highlight tool to demonstrate where they are meeting their target. This will enable them to take ownership of their own progress and accelerate it!</p>



Mrs Maringo	Years 7-9	<p>MFL updates</p> <p>Year 7</p> <p>Year 7 students surprised us with the maturity and creativity with which they wrote their essay on ‘The things that inspires me the most about learning French / Spanish’. They developed some really interesting arguments and expressed their opinions and perceptions into very well-written pieces of work. They also researched the ten most interesting facts about Spain and France and we were delighted to learn new things about these countries. We are still in the process of marking these wonderful pieces of work. Well done Year 7, you should be very proud of yourselves!</p> <p>Year 8</p> <p>Year 8 had to complete their second Cultural project last week and this time they had to research about someone who contributed to the French or Spanish culture. Once again, we were impressed with the diversity and the quality of their work. From Gerard Pique to Leonardo Da Vinci, we read some really unusual and absorbing accounts on why our students chose the famous person they wrote about. Another great piece of inspiring work from Year 8, well done!</p> <p>Year 9</p> <p>Year 9 students have completed a brilliant project using their listening and reading skills! The aim of the project was to critically analyse a documentary or film in French/Spanish. We have shared clear success criteria and we have been astonished by the quality of work submitted! Our students have been incredibly creative and often chose to analyse critically acclaimed films. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. We are still in the process of marking all these projects and we can undoubtedly say that we are very proud of you Year 9 pupils!</p>
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LETTERS THIS WEEK- click [here](#) to see all letters from this academic year

All Years	Letter to Parents/Carers - 11 May 2020
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