



Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | 19 June 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 Parent/Carers,

This week has been an absolute delight as we have welcomed back more students into our community and the school is filled with more voices, with expressions of joy and laughter echoing from rooms and corridors in the sixth form and across English and the computer rooms. There has been a great sense of relief across the site as we begin to return to 'classes', albeit in a different structure. Students and staff have been fantastic in embracing our new way of working making sure we all play our part in keeping ourselves and each other safe. From conversations with many students throughout the week, they understand the urgency and need to fully engage in the Learning@Home programme and I have referenced the analogy of a car that has not started for a long period of time - sometimes it can take a few turns to warm the plugs until it finally fires up!

Learning@Home

We have been working with families and students this week and I share some feedback with you:

1. **Routine** - routines for each day are important and the tips below should be part of each day. When during the day is not so important, but ideally they need to be present at some point.
2. **Exercise** - some form of exercise is critical to feed your brain - the release this gives your body and brain is key. A walk, a run or one of the Youtube videos which require no equipment.
3. **Targets** - working with your child, set realistic targets - start small and build - setting and completing 3hrs of work is more effective and satisfying for your child than timetabling 6hrs, becoming overwhelmed and giving up.
4. **Positivity** - if your child has fallen behind with work and is struggling to get going as a result, **look forwards not backwards**. Start from Term 6 tasks and get the routine, exercise, target in place from Monday 22 June 2020.
5. **Sleep** - teenagers tend to enjoy sleeping. However, keeping to a regular sleeping routine is important. Students need to be sleeping well and the pattern of this sleep needs to be as regular and consistent as possible. Agree when downtime begins in the evening, devices away, reading book out, lights out by an agreed time.
6. **Procrastination and distraction** - routines are important so when your child states they will do an hour, make sure it is an hour and without distraction. If your child has done their best within the hour, they can share/submit this work to their teacher. They can then see what your child has managed to complete within the time. Phones are everyone's nemesis and they need to be out of sight if any quality concentration and quality work is going to be achieved, reflecting the true ability of your child. Similar websites, apps on the device they are working on.

Screen time - the amount of time a person spends on their device - beyond any work taking place needs to be monitored and can be controlled on many devices. Checking in with your child and talking about this would be a good starting point. Conversations with students this week highlight Tik Tok, Instagram and Youtube as being apps they agree to spending far too much time on - they need conversations with parents/carers to help guide them.

A point of reflection, especially for Year 10 and Year 12 students



One of the first things to become clear as the current pandemic unfolded was the way in which students would be assessed for qualifications in Year 11 and 13 would need to change. In 2020, grades will be awarded through a process in which teachers have considered all the available evidence from in-class work to mock examinations. This delivers centre assessed grades which are then moderated by national regulators before being ready to present to students in August.

We do not yet know how grades will be awarded in 2021, but what if we are unable to deliver a full exam season and that once again teacher judgements will have to form part of the process? All students in Year 10 and Year 12 must therefore recognise that the work they produce now may form part of an evidence base in assessing their final grade along with any examined component. It is vital that students engage fully in Learning@Home and demonstrate to teachers the full extent of their capabilities. We await further guidance from the Department for Education on how schools will operate in September but we must ensure we establish good routines now so we are able to continue to engage and be successful with Learning@Home moving through next year - homework has always been an important part of education.

If there are concerns about a student’s well being that make it difficult for them to focus on Learning@Home then this must be clearly communicated to the tutor or Head of House so that we can support this together.

As I have mentioned in previous communications, we are grateful for all the support you are providing for your child(ren) and we recognise the wide range of personal circumstances and challenges you are facing. We are here to help and support you and please do get in touch should you need to, using the key contact details below.

Thank you for your patience with the release of the reports this week and Year 9 reports will be issued on Monday 22 June 2020.

We will continue to build on the success of this week and will issue a further update early next week of the next phase of our reopening between 29 June and 17 July 2020. We continue to work to the government guidelines and the Department for Education advice is not yet available about what our provision will be in September. Once this is confirmed we will keep you fully updated.

Thank you for your continued support at this time and please share your feedback with us using this [form](#).

Kind regards

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	wylidl@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
Key Worker / Vulnerable Children Provision	colebournes@skdrive.org

MESSAGES

Team Pride	All Years	<p>Happy Pride month! Lockdown has been an uncertain and anxious time for a lot of us. Some children may be feeling like they want to talk to someone but not ready to speak to their parents about being LGBTQ+ and not ready to share this with their families yet, or they may be out at home and parents may be looking for advice and ways to support their child. Here are some resources that may help:</p> <p>https://bristolmind.org.uk/support_type/lgbt/ a list of support organisations including: http://genderedintelligence.co.uk/trans-youth/Bristol for Transgender young people and their families https://imaanlondon.wordpress.com/ Muslim LGBT organisation (social media accounts for this group are more current than the website) https://www.akt.org.uk/ for LGBT young people who need help with housing (have not been safe at home) https://www.otrbristol.org.uk/ mental health help for all young people.</p>
Mrs Ivey	All years	<p>The Royal Society of Biology is offering two competitions for students.</p> <p>‘Our changing world’ is the theme of this year’s Royal Society of Biology Photography Competition. Life on Earth is dynamic, and you are invited to capture these transformations. The competition has two age categories, each with a cash prize: 18 year olds and over (£1000) and anyone under 18 years old (£500). Submit your images by 24 July 2020 at: https://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/rsb-competitions/photography-competition</p> <p>The Nancy Rothwell Award 2020 specimen drawing competition for 7 – 18 year olds is also open for submissions. Prizes include an experience day at the Royal Veterinary College. The deadline for entries is 31 July 2020 at: https://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/rsb-awards/nancy-rothwell-award</p>



Mrs Ivey	All years	<p>The I'm a Scientist project is continuing to offer free online chats with scientists on their website until the end of July. The online chats take place several times a week in the morning, afternoon and evening. Parents are encouraged to join in as well as possible. Monday 22 June - Sunday 28 June is National Insect week, and there will be live chats on the theme of insects Monday to Friday at 2:00pm. Tuesday 23 June is International Woman into Engineering Day. Special live chats will take place to mark the day at 11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:00pm and 6:00pm. You or your child can log in here: https://summer20.imascientist.org.uk/</p>
Ms Jefferson and Ms Wild	All years	<p>Well done to all those students who submitted their Reading Challenge: Praise points have been awarded to students.</p> <p>A reminder that the most powerful thing students can do to safeguard their education is to read. If your child hasn't already, please support them to set themselves a reading challenge via their English Google classrooms. Click here for a video with info. We encourage students to take this as an opportunity to educate themselves about the Black Lives Matter movement.</p>
Mrs Collins	All years	<p>Erin Pearce an ex-student of St Katherine's is volunteering her musical theatre skills during lockdown. She is broadcasting live dance lessons via her professional performer instagram account; this week looking at tap.</p> <p>Please see information on google classrooms via drama for more details to get involved and active during lockdown.</p>
All students who have instrumental lessons or would like to start	All years	<p>We are currently taking bookings for instrumental lessons for September 2020. At this stage it looks likely that these will be online lessons. Further details about this can be found here. Online lessons provide a really good way for your son/daughter to maintain learning their instrument in these strange times.</p> <p>Payments are now open on parentpay and need to be made by 3 July please. I appreciate this is a difficult time and you may well have questions about the lessons so please feel free to email me on; adamsa@skdrive.org</p>
Mr Colebourne	Year 11	<p>Step into Sixth Form Day, our annual day to support students transitioning to sixth form, will be held online this year on Monday 22 June.</p> <p>For now, all you need to do is click the following link: https://sites.google.com/a/skdrive.org/stepintosixthform/home</p> <p>The information is all on the website - our videos and links will go live on Monday at 10am. I hope your son/daughter can join us for the live Q&A at 11am on Monday.</p>
Mrs Maringo	Year 11	<p>Next week marks the final week for our Year 11 students. In normal circumstances, they would have had their last GCSE exam, followed by a final assembly and prom celebration. Although we are not able to celebrate the end of the academic year with our wonderful students at the moment, we will be sharing the final assembly on the school websites on Friday 26 June. Please encourage your child to watch it as they will hear messages from all tutors and Heads of House.</p> <p>Should you have questions about the Year book and hoodie, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Andrews (Head of Yousafzai) who is leading on this.</p> <p>Stay safe, stay well. Mrs Maringo</p>



Mrs Collins	10T1	Please ask your child to make themselves a copy of the timetable posted in our tutor classroom and share it with myself and Mrs Price. They need to fill in their own timetable with their subjects to support with their learning@home. This needs to be completed by Monday 22 June. Thank you
Mrs Collins	Year 10 BTEC PA	Coursework is due Friday 19 June as per class charts and google classroom. Please can all students share their work with me by 5:00 pm. Thank you
Ms Jefferson, Ms Ivey and Ms Daniels	Year 10	Reminder: If you haven't already, please read the attached document for tips on how to support your child with home learning across the core curriculum.
English Faculty	Year 9	A reminder that the GCSE English courses have started for Year 9 students. To ensure your child keeps up to date, please make sure they are completing the weekly assignments. Let us know by email (jeffersonj@skdrive.org , wildi@skdrive.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

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

No letters this week	
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