



Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 18 September 2020

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

After two weeks back at school, we are all now getting used to the new rhythm of our school day including following all our control processes. This week we have discussed our **tightening up together** approach as we look to minimise the impact on any closure to any groups. Please be mindful of any plans for half term and the potential impact on attendance/unauthorised absence due to quarantine requirements. We need all students in school each day. Thank you for your support.

Tightening up together

- **Hands** - washing and hand sanitising our hands more often - there are multiple hand sanitising stations in each block, hand sanitisers in each classroom and new stations on entry to the school are being installed for staff and students.
- **Face** - the incorrect wearing and safe hygienic keeping of face coverings is a concern. We have reshared this video with students this week - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk - and tried to help them understand the importance of wearing a face covering safely at all times
 - **Changes - from Monday**
 - all students travelling on coaches will be required to place their facemask in a resealable bag once they step off the coach;
 - On entry into the school all students will be required to sanitise their hands;
 - Any student wishing to wear a face covering who travelled by bus, must use a new face covering once in school.
- **Space** - we are asking staff and students to give each other space throughout the day, including at the start and end of the day to protect our bubble structure.

North Somerset have yesterday launched a campaign to encourage all of us to be responsible in our communities outside school to help keep us all safe.

Reminders from last week which are still all relevant:

- In accordance with Gov.UK [Safeworking in education, childcare and children's social care](#) and our risk assessment, we ask all families to observe the following: **to minimise contact with individuals who are unwell, if you are showing symptoms of coronavirus or have someone in your household who is, you should not be in a childcare setting, school or college. You should be at home, in line with the [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)**

- **Face coverings are a legal requirement when travelling on public transport for students in Year 7 and above. Students must wear face coverings on the buses as per our risk assessment and the legal requirement. No face covering will result in no travelling on the bus unless you have discussed this with school in advance due to the exceptions listed on gov.uk.** Should you need support in obtaining a face covering, please contact us immediately.
- To help us manage the collection at the end of the day, please arrive at or after the departure time where possible to ease the congestion. We appreciate families with multiple siblings will overlap. **Students must exit the site promptly and not gather at the top of school.**
- To help us manage the entrance to school in the morning and protect our bubble structure, **please do not drop your child/ren off until 8.40am.**

A reminder of some important points to share with our community.

- (1) Should we have a positive case at St Katherine's School during the school term, we will be following advice from Public Health England, as per government guidance and our risk assessment. We will write to parents/carers immediately as part of this process.
- (2) Our year group bubble structure will help us reduce any impact on the school community. Our buses form a further bubble structure and in the event of a positive case, this will be included as part of our process.
- (3) We have 'interaction tracing' in place through Classcharts and through our allocated seating on buses (which has now settled down).
- (4) We have daily routines and control processes in place within our community and cleaning both during and at the start and end of each day to keep St Katherine's a COVID 19 safe environment. However, we recognise all schools are vulnerable and we all remain vigilant.

Road safety - cycling to school

It is great to see an increased number of students choosing to walk/cycle/scooter to and from school. However, we are deeply concerned at the lack of road safety awareness along with the absence of cycling helmets. We will be contacting families to discuss our expectations on anyone cycling to and from school.

There are a number of surveys we would welcome your response to this week. Please take a moment to complete them.

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](#).

Kind regards

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	wyldl@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

MESSAGES

<p>Mr Harding Chair of Governors</p>	<p>All years</p>	<p>PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY</p> <p>Following the resignation of one of our long serving parent governors, the local governing body (LGB) is seeking expressions of interest from the St Katherine's parent/carer community in taking on this vital role.</p> <p>Parent governors hold the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school. Through their children, they have a first-hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum, and how the school is perceived from the 'consumers' point of view. This enables parent governors to bring a different perspective to the strategic management of the school. This is reflected in the words of recent parent governors at St Katherine's:</p> <p>Parent 1: <i>"I had always tried to contribute something to the schools my children attended..... As a parent/carer, you bring a special insight to the role of governor (this) can inform the questions to ask and add clarity to the discussions at board meetings. I have enjoyed getting to know and understand the way the school operates and.... (have) made good use of experience and knowledge from my work. It is always good to get into school during the day to meet with the students (and) to hear their side of things and perception of the school"</i></p>
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		<p>Parent 2:</p> <p><i>".....being a governor provides the opportunity for personal development and to make a contribution to the current and future experience of students and staff As a parent governor I have a vested interest in all that we do as governors as I am able to consider how it might affect my children, their friends and peers. By being part of the LGB I can help ensure that all students at St Katherine's have access to the best school experience possible and are therefore able to leave compulsory education able to cope with all that life brings and to be able contribute to their communities."</i></p> <p>If you are interested in finding out more about the role and putting your name forward, my letter and fact sheet gives further details.</p>
Mr Maw	All years	We are very grateful for the support we have received from parents and carers in our drive to uphold standards of uniform. Our current focus is on school shoes and we have seen a significant improvement in this area. We are aware that the current climate has left many of us less financially secure than was previously the case; if you are unable to purchase the correct school shoes due to financial concerns please speak with your child's Head of House who will be able to offer support. We do expect that all pupils are in shoes that comply with our uniform policy - if you are unsure whether the shoes you intend to purchase are suitable, please contact your child's Head of House.
Mr Francis Black	All Years	Transport - We now have a growing waiting list for our bus services and I am working with Turner's to explore the option of additional capacity from the start of term 2. To add your details to the waiting list please click this link .
Mr Francis Black	All Years	Lockers - As indicated in last week's newsletter we are actively pursuing options to replace locker provision for year groups that can no longer have access inside their designated block. We have been in contact with a company that is used by several other local schools and provides outside lockers which could then be accessed by all. The company works directly with families and hires lockers at a cost of £45 per year. We would like to gauge interest in this service before proceeding and would therefore ask that families complete our online survey. Click here to complete the survey or call 01275 373737 and a member of the St Katherine's team will take you through the questions.
Mr Francis Black	All Years	Home IT Access - The last six months have shown us that when working from home, access to reliable IT is crucial. In order to safeguard the learning of all students we would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete a survey of your home IT access . This will enable us to plan for how we can best support students should it become necessary for some of them to once again work from home. If you cannot access the online form then please call 01275 373737 and a member of the St Katherine's team will go through the survey with you.
PE	All years	A reminder that students are able to wear PE kit to school on days where they have a PE lesson or club.

		<p>This permits them to wear:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any items of school branded PE kit ● Plain black joggers over PE kit for comfort during the day - not to be worn for PE lessons (students can only wear PE joggers for lessons) ● Other items of school uniform over PE kit for comfort during the day i.e. school blazer, school jumpers, coats <p>Students are not permitted to wear their own jumpers or hoodies.</p>
Music	All years	A reminder that students are encouraged to bring in their own headphones for all music lessons that are timetabled in Room 26. Adapters are available to use if required.
Year 11 Business	Year 11	Coursework catch up sessions will be running every Tuesday after school with Mr Bates in CR4. This is an opportunity for students to work on their coursework and gain additional support to achieve the best grades prior to submission at the end of Term 1.
Miss Richards	Year 11	We are awaiting confirmation of the 2021 GCSE exam dates. It is likely that exams will take place in June and July next year to ensure students are able to cover the curriculum. Please be aware of this when considering any summer holidays, Year 11 students will need to be present through June and July.
Miss Richards	Years 7-11	<p>Students are continuing to complete a series of assessments in class this term. These are designed to provide the school with useful diagnostic evidence of strengths and weaknesses that your child may have. Please reassure your child that these tests are specifically designed not to require any prior revision and we do not wish them to be unduly worried about the process. If they are feeling anxious, please ask them to discuss this with their tutor.</p> <p>Whilst headphones are available to borrow in school, students are encouraged to bring their own small, bud type headphones to school. Headphones will be used in the assessments this term but may also be used in some subjects.</p>
DofE	Year 10	There will be a meeting on Monday 21 September to discuss the plans for completion of the Bronze award. This will be in the lecture theatre at 12.55 (lunch time). Any questions please contact Mr Hodgson hodgsont@skdrive.org
MFL	Year 8	Parents/Carers were recently sent an online survey regarding their child's language option. Thank you if you have already completed this. If you haven't been able to yet, please complete the survey so the MFL department has an accurate picture of numbers for each option. Merci! Gracias!
Music	KS3	<p>Please can all KS3 students ensure they have signed up to their google classroom for music this year. Check the codes below. Thank you</p> <p>Year 7 students - code g5bacs2 Year 8 students - code nzs4o5u Year 9 students - code wvhu3s2</p>



Drama	KS3	Please can all KS3 students ensure they have signed up to their google classroom for drama this year. Check the codes below. Thank you Year 7 students - code 6w2f6hg Year 8 students - code 222ejr Year 9 students - code wei3l5p
Maths	Year 7	Please see the link for a copy of our termly newsletter for Year 7
Maths	Year 8	Please see the link for a copy of our termly newsletter for Year 8
Maths	Year 9	Please see the link for a copy of our termly newsletter for Year 9
Maths	Year 10	Please see the link for a copy of our termly newsletter for Year 10
Maths	Year 11	Please see the link for a copy of our termly newsletter for Year 11

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

All years

- Open Events 2020
- Notice of Election of Parent Governor

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

Monday, 21 September

Years 8-11 Parent/Carer Information Evening (Virtual)
[Meeting Link](#)

Thursday, 24 September

19:00-20:00 - Virtual Open Evening

Monday, 28 September

Year 7 Flu Immunisation Programme

ST KATHERINE'S SCHOOL

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Telephone: 01275 373737 Email: school@skdrive.org

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