

## Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 25 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

Another successful week in school and thank you to everyone for their support and cooperation. We continue to do all we can to keep the school as safe and clean as possible and students are now very familiar with the routines and the term has felt like it is settling into a new rhythm this week. Students now understand and are used to our control measures and follow them well with the odd reminder!

Students are taking good ownership of their books and remembering them well on the whole. We encourage all parents/carers to take a look at the work completed for the week and ask your son/daughter to talk you through what they have done each week. This will help us all as we try and encourage each student to take responsibility for their books, learning and homework as we do our best to fill any gaps in important knowledge and skills.

I repeat some of the messages from last week below with changes highlighted in yellow. I recognise these messages are repetitive but the importance of us all remaining vigilant is vital to keep our full school functioning.

#### 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](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 arriving at school wearing a face mask will be required to place their facemask in a resealable bag at the front of school.** All students wishing to wear a face covering, must use a new face covering once in school.
    - **All students are to sanitise their hands on arrival at the front of school**
    - All students travelling on coaches will be required to place their facemask in a resealable bag once they step off the coach;
    - **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 childrens' 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.

#### [See the latest communication received this week from Public Health England](#)

We have raised the issue of testing with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The advice we have been given is for parents to keep trying the portal, as additional slots are uploaded throughout the day. From onset of symptoms, the individual has 5 days to get tested, but it is crucial to maintain self-isolation until the test result is known. **The National Test and Trace have also asked us to support them in giving a clear message to schools and families that, unless someone has symptoms of COVID, they should not seek a test i.e. if you have been a close contact with someone who has confirmed Covid infection you need to self-isolate for 14 days and not get a test unless you develop symptoms.**

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	<a href="mailto:crockerk@skdrive.org">crockerk@skdrive.org</a>
Courses, assignments or resources		Subject Teachers
Access to online library resources	Ms Wyld	<a href="mailto:wyldl@skdrive.org">wyldl@skdrive.org</a>
Technology related	Mr A Francis-Black	<a href="mailto:francisblacka@skdrive.org">francisblacka@skdrive.org</a>
SEND	Mrs F Slater	<a href="mailto:slaterf@skdrive.org">slaterf@skdrive.org</a>
Curriculum	Miss K Richards	<a href="mailto:richardsk@skdrive.org">richardsk@skdrive.org</a>
Learning@Home resources	Miss K Richards	<a href="mailto:richardsk@skdrive.org">richardsk@skdrive.org</a>
Personal well being		Tutor or Head of House
General queries		<a href="mailto:school@skdrive.org">school@skdrive.org</a>
Free School Meals		<a href="mailto:kilgallond@skdrive.org">kilgallond@skdrive.org</a>

## MESSAGES

School	All years	<p>At St Katherine's we are committed to treating everybody with respect and courtesy at all times. We ask visitors onto the school site to respond showing polite, respectful behaviour to one another and when in contact with our staff and students.</p> <p>A reminder to all parents/carers collecting at the end of the school day to remain in your car and away from the front of school. On site visits can be made by appointment by calling the school.</p> <p>Thank you for your support.</p>
Mr Harding Chair of Governors	All years	<p><b>PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY</b></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</p>

		<p>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> <p>Parent 2:  <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 <a href="#">letter</a> and <a href="#">fact sheet</a> gives further details.</p>
School	All years	<p><b>Parent Association Meeting -Thursday 8 October 18:30-19:30</b>            Open to all parents and carers where we discuss parent/carer topics. Previous meeting agenda and notes are on our <a href="#">website</a>. This will be a virtual event and details of how to join will be forwarded with the Agenda next week.</p>
Mr Francis Black	All years	<p><b>Headphones</b> - When students use our IT facilities in class they will often be required to use a pair of headphones. We do have stocks of headphones that we can loan but these then require cleaning between each user and the process of distributing, collecting and cleaning them can slow down learning. It would therefore be helpful if all students could have a pair of headphones with them each day in anticipation of IT use.</p>
Mr Francis Black	All years	<p><b>Remote IT Support</b> - With the possibility of further need for Learning@Home it is essential that all students have reliable and fast access to their school work on whatever platform you are using at home. To assist in setting this up I will be offering sessions via Zoom next week where I will run through the basics of how to install and login to the Chrome web browser with a school account. To access these sessions just click on the link below for the time that best suits you.  <a href="#">Monday 28th September 7 pm to 8pm</a>  <a href="#">Wednesday 30th September 7 pm to 8 pm</a>  <a href="#">Thursday 1st October 7 pm to 8 pm</a>            One of the sessions will be recorded and shared in next week's newsletter.</p>
Mr Francis Black	All years	<p><b>Chromebook Loans</b> - Over the lockdown period we loaned out over 100 Chromebooks to support students with their Learning@Home. These devices are</p>



		now required in school so that each year group bubble can be provided with its own IT access. If you have a school Chromebook please ensure that it is returned to SSO as soon as possible. Once we have completed a full audit of devices and secured our in school provision we will once again contact families with limited IT access at home and discuss the best way for us to support.
Finance	All years	<p>Please ensure that your child’s lunch account remains in credit. Our canteen is run by an external company whose policy is not to allow a lend facility. To facilitate keeping an account in credit a Parentpay alert can be set up.</p> <p><b>Low Dinner Account Balance Alerts</b></p> <p>In order to set up alerts on your Parentpay account, select <b>Communication, Alert Setting</b>. This facility allows you to set a balance below which Parentpay will e-mail out a reminder to top up. Please be aware that e-mail reminders are free but text messages are charged at 6p per message. Alerts can also be set up for new payment items.</p>
Finance	School Bus Users	The Direct Debit payment for the school bus will be collected on Thursday 1 October.
Ms Wyld (LRC)	All years	<b>With the fantastic return of the St Katherine’s eplatform, students can now access a range of 1300 ebooks and almost 700 audio books at home.</b> There’s a great range of titles to choose from on the site, which you can access <a href="#">here</a> . This <a href="#">document</a> gives you a step-by-step guide to getting the most out of the platform, including how to adjust the screen display for a really comfortable read. Enjoy exploring!
Miss Adams	All years Music	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.
Mr Davies	Year 12 and 13	<b>Parent/Carer Information Evening Tuesday 29 September 18:00-19:00.</b> Please find the link to join the virtual event <a href="#">here</a> . I look forward to seeing you and answering any questions you may have.
Mrs Collins	Performing Arts Year 10 & 11	<p>Students will be able to purchase PA kit if they so wish from Parent Pay. Prices of t-shirts and hoodies will be available on this platform. There is an option to have names on the back but these must be approved by the PA faculty. The deadline for ordering will be the end of this term.</p> <p><b>Reminder of the uniform expectations for PA lessons -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Any branded St Katherine’s school PE or PA kit</b></li> <li>● <b>Plain, unbranded black joggers or gym style leggings. NOT cotton material ones for in the lesson.</b></li> <li>● <b>Lightweight trainer or dance shoe, NOT Nike air forces.</b></li> <li>● <b>Other items of school uniform over PE kit for comfort during the day i.e. school blazer, school jumpers, coats</b></li> </ul> <p>Students are <b>not permitted</b> to wear their own jumpers or hoodies. Thank you.</p>
Mr Francis Black	Years 8-11	<b>Parent/Carer Information Evening -</b> Last Monday we delivered our virtual information evening for parents/carers of students in years 8-11. If you were unable to join us for that session you can view the <a href="#">recorded version here</a> .



Miss Daniels	KS4 Maths	All <b>Year 9-11</b> students must bring their own scientific calculator to school for every maths and science lesson. If they do not own one then you can purchase one via Parentpay for £5.50. It is an essential piece of equipment, required for them to pass their exams.
Miss Adams	KS3 Music	Please can all KS3 students ensure they have signed up to their google classroom for music this year. Check the codes below. Thank you Year 7 students - code g5bacs2 Year 8 students - code nzs4o5u Year 9 students - code wvhu3s2
Mrs Collins	KS3 drama	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
Ms Tallis	KS3 art	Sketchbooks are now available to purchase on ParentPay. All Year 7 students require one, cost £3; this will last them throughout KS3. All Year 8 students will need a new book, cost £2. Year 9 students will need a new book when their current one runs out, cost £2.
Mr Benchama	Year 7 French/ Spanish	Year 7 will study French in Term 1 and Spanish in Term 2. At the end of Term 2 students will be invited to choose either French or Spanish to study for the rest of Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9). We will endeavour to accommodate language choices as much as we can, though this will be dependent upon take up numbers for each of the languages. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

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

All years	Translation of guidance for parents/carers on returning to school
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**UPCOMING EVENTS - click [here](#) to see all upcoming events**

Monday, 28 September Tuesday, 29 September Friday, 2 October Thursday, 8 October	Year 7 Flu Immunisation Programme 18:00 - 19:00 Year 12-13 Parent/Carer Information Evening ( <a href="#">Virtual</a> ) INSET Day - <b>School Closed to students</b> 18:30-19:30 Parent/Carer Association Meeting (Virtual)
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**ST KATHERINE'S SCHOOL**

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