

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 2 October 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

As we complete the first five weeks there has been much to celebrate as we have returned to school. Thank you to everyone for all you are doing to keep us all safe as a community - it is the actions of each and everyone of us that will enable us to stay open for all students for as long as possible. We continue to 'Tighten Up Together' as students and staff now settle into the new rhythm of the school day.

We continue to review all our protocols and are currently reviewing our PE arrangements with a view to returning to changing rooms in a carefully managed process before the end of Term 1. Further details to follow. We still do not have any visitors to the school and thank you for booking appointments and for observing our protocols should you have to visit.

Students are reading more than ever at St Katherine's and our daily start to the day is calm and quiet with all students enjoying quality reading time. Ms Wyld, our librarian is working hard with our tutor teams to ensure each student has a book to enjoy reading. Please discuss your child's reading with them and continue to encourage them to read each day. We know reading before bedtime is a great routine to establish and a calm way to prepare for great sleep in preparation for the next day.

A great article in [The Guardian this week highlighting the impact and change, Paul Stephenson](#) created in our society. Over fifty years later after the Race Relations Act was introduced following Paul Stephenson's trial, we will be highlighting and discussing this with students next week as we begin our celebrations of Black History month with a series of events.

A reminder from last week - 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. [New NHS Hands Face Spade video](#).

- **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 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.

Self isolation guidance

If you have been asked by Public Health England to self-isolate, we need to remind you that this is a legal requirement. The reason you or your children are being asked to self isolate is because we want to stop the spread of the virus. There are significant penalties for people who do not adhere to the self-isolation guideline. Self-isolation means that the person concerned cannot leave their home or garden. A self-isolating person can travel in the household car as long as they do not leave the car or come into contact with anyone from another household. They cannot visit other households or, for children, accompany parents to the shops.

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.

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	crockerk@skdrive.org
Courses, assignments or resources		Subject Teachers
Access to online library resources	Ms Wyld	wylidl@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		
Mr Harding Chair of Governors	All years	<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. 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>
School	All years	<p>Parent Association Meeting -Thursday 8 October 18:30-19:30</p> <p>Open to all parents and carers where we discuss parent/carer topics. Previous meeting agenda and notes are on our website. This will be a virtual event - please see link to join the Zoom meeting.</p>
Mr Francis Black	All years	<p>How to set up Chrome for Learning@Home - By setting up and logging into the Google Chrome web browser, students can effectively link their learning at school with the work they do at home. For a quick guide to the process please watch this short video.</p>
Mr Francis Black	All years	<p>Chromebook Loans - Over the lockdown period we loaned out over 100 Chromebooks to support students with their Learning@Home. These devices are 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.</p>
Mr Geraint Davies, Head of Sixth Form	Years 12 & 13	<p>Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our virtual Parents and Carers' Information evening earlier this week. For those of you who were unable to attend, please find a recording of the session at this link. If any questions arise, feel free to contact me at daviesg2@skdrive.org.</p>
Careers Hub	Years 10-13	<p>Please find attached the St Katherine's careers bulletin. This is a monthly newsletter that will provide students and parents/carers with information about careers, apprenticeships, university news, events, open days and opportunities relevant to the St Katherines community. Careers Bulletin Oct 2020</p>
Miss Richards	Years 7-11	<p>It has been great speaking to students in the last couple of weeks about the work that they are proud of. We are really impressed by the care that students are taking with their books and the independent work that they are completing in them at home. Please ask your child to talk you through their books and what learning they are proud of and why.</p>



Mrs Ivey	Years 7-11	The science faculty has set up google classrooms for every class and for every year group. Please check that your child has joined their science classroom and their year group science classroom. Year 10 and 11 will have separate classrooms for biology, chemistry and physics. The codes for each classroom can be found on Classcharts.
Maths Team	Years 7 & 8	Year 7 and 8 are taking part in “Battle of the Bands” which is a competition between tutor groups on Times Table Rockstars. The competition restarts every week (Y7 - Monday, Y8 - Wednesday). Please ask your child how many points they have contributed towards their tutor group total and how they are getting on with their weekly practise. Direct any problems with access to your child's maths teacher or brittonr@skdrive.org .

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

Year 11

Important information for Year 11

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

Thursday, 8 October
Thursday, 22 October

18:30-19:30 Parent/Carer Association Meeting (Virtual)
16:00-19:00 Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)

ST KATHERINE'S SCHOOL

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