

## Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 4 December 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 Parent/Carer

Another great week at St Katherine's with students enjoying the fine weather and our new basketball hoops on our new bottom courts. We continue to grow our student voice under our slogan, 'You said, we did' and this is another great example. Students have supported the new structures and organisation of resources in classrooms this week which are providing an important foundation for effective learning in each classroom.

Details were shared this week on next summer's exams to ensure fairness for all students. We will continue to help prepare students in Year 11 and Year 13 this year, providing useful opportunities for them to complete mock exams, replicating the experience students will have in the summer. Building on the 3 week delay to exams to free up extra teaching time announced in October, the new measures include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision
- exam aids, for example formula sheets, provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise
- additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation

Further details will be shared with schools in the New Year. Next week, we look forward to welcoming Year 10 back to school on Tuesday 8 December.

The virus is still very much with us and please continue to discuss the importance of the safety routines with your child/children so they fully understand their responsibility in keeping everyone as safe as possible. Should you have any concern about your child's symptoms or emerging symptoms, please do not send them to school and book a test.

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](#).

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

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:wylidl@skdrive.org">wylidl@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>
Reading logs	Immalee Wild	<a href="mailto:wildi@skdrive.org">wildi@skdrive.org</a>
Sixth Form	Geraint Davies	<a href="mailto:daviesg@skdrive.org">daviesg@skdrive.org</a>

Anonymous way to report a concern about a student: [Tell Someone Form](#)

## MESSAGES

Mrs Crocker	All years	<p>Mental Health and Wellbeing - a message for parents/carers from the mental health charity Young Minds:</p> <p>'This year has been extra stressful, especially if you are a parent. With so much uncertainty, it's entirely normal for your child to be finding things difficult, and for you to be unsure how best to look after their mental health and wellbeing, as well as your own. It's not easy, but you're doing the best you can and you deserve credit.</p> <p>But whatever you and your child are dealing with, you are not alone. Young Minds are here for you and we have lots of advice and practical tips that can really help. Use our new <a href="#">Supporting Parents Helpfinder</a> to find the support that is right for you and your child, whatever they've been going through during the pandemic.'</p> <p>In addition to the support that Young Minds signpost, you can contact your child's tutor, Head of House or me at school if you are worried about your child's mental health and wellbeing.</p>
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Mrs Crocker	All years	<p><b>Support and advice for parents whose children self harm:</b> Our school counsellor has created <a href="#">this guide</a> for parents/carers on supporting their child who is self-harming. It gives info, links to guides, videos and apps for parents/carers along with strategies for supporting children to find safer ways to manage their emotions.</p>
Miss Cave	All years	<p><b>Free school meals – are you eligible?</b></p> <p>We are asking families to check whether they are eligible for free school meals for this academic year.</p> <p>The Coronavirus Pandemic has left many families with different financial situations than before. The worry is that more children will be left facing hunger and malnutrition because parents and carers are struggling financially and are not aware of what they are eligible to claim.</p> <p>You do not need to make a separate claim for free school meals if you are already in receipt or have applied for Housing Benefit or help with your Council Tax.</p> <p>To see if you are entitled to Free School Meals you can apply <a href="#">here</a></p>
Miss Richards	All years	<p><b>Thank you for all of your support with our current Learning@Home programme.</b> We have received some brilliant feedback and are currently reviewing our plans to ensure that all students are able to effectively engage with the learning@home programme. Moving forward, where a year group is learning@home, provision will be made available on site for some students who are not required to self isolate as they have not been identified as close contacts. We will contact you individually if this is applicable for your child during a period of learning@home.</p>
Mrs Crocker	All years	<p><b>Foodbank Family Christmas Boxes</b></p> <p>Our community has been well supported by the local Foodbanks during the past year especially when many families found their circumstances change due to Covid 19.</p> <p>St Katherine's is supporting the Pill Foodbank this Christmas and each tutor group in the school is working together to wrap and fill a family treat box that will be distributed to families locally.</p> <p>Children are being asked to donate items to their tutor group's box if they are able to and should include festive food with long best before dates such as mince pies, sweets and chocolates, toiletries, games and anything else that families might enjoy together at Christmas. Please feel free to donate additional items if you are able. Your child can deliver these to the Student Support Office before Monday 14 December. We have been asked not to include any used items or anything fragile or sharp.</p>
Ms Jefferson	All years	<p><b>In the run up to Christmas, the EDi (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) Group wish to support local charity 'North Somerset Welcomes Refugees.'</b> Four 16-17 year old boys have recently arrived in the country and require clothing and basic supplies. They have no family so all support is welcome. More details will be shared once their social workers have communicated exactly what they need. Please contact me if you are interested in taking an active role in supporting us.</p>
Miss Gardiner	All years	<p>Hot off the press! <a href="#">Issue 3 of the Careers Bulletin</a>. This month there are some fantastic opportunities for students across all school years to get involved in.</p>

		Any questions regarding careers please email Miss Gardiner: <a href="mailto:gardiners@skdrive.org">gardiners@skdrive.org</a>
Miss Richards	Year 11	You are likely to have heard the recent announcement regarding the summer exams. Whilst we await the full details, we know that there will be some changes. For example, students are expected to be provided with exam aids such as formula sheets and an overview of the examined topics in January. With this in mind, students will continue to sit their mock exams in January. We will endeavour to make suitable changes to these mock exams to reflect the expected summer changes. In some subjects, we will run further mocks in March. The timetable for January mock exams can be seen <a href="#">here</a> .
Ms Jefferson	Year 11 English	<b>Google classrooms contain a wealth of mock revision resources.</b> Please encourage your child to complete as much as possible and contact me if you need support.
Miss Adams	Year 11 GCSE Music	A reminder that the GCSE Music performance exam takes place on <b>Thursday 10 December</b> . This is worth 30% of their GCSE grade. The timetable for the day has been shared with students and is available to view on the Year 11 GCSE Music google classroom. Please support your child by asking them to perform their piece to you and also ensuring they are prepared for the day with their instrument and music/backing track.
Mr Francis Black	Year 10	<b>Progress Evening for Year 10 will take place on Thursday 10 December, 4 pm to 7 pm, and will be run as a virtual event.</b> Full details of how to book and attend your appointments are contained in the <a href="#">letter</a> that was issued via ParentPay.
Ms Jefferson	Year 10 English	<b>On return to school, students will be completing an essay about Mrs Birling.</b> Please encourage your child to look over their notes and ensure their plan is complete.
Miss Sutton	Year 10 Food Preparation & Nutrition	<b>Food Preparation and Nutrition Revision Guides</b> The guide is available to buy through ParentPay, we will use the guide in both Year 10 and Year 11.
Miss Pearce	Year 9 Science	<b>All Year 9 Science classes</b> All students have changed classes for 2 weeks only to have targeted revision for their upcoming test on 14 December. Students will return to their timetabled teacher for this test on the 14th to complete the test. All revision resources are on google classrooms.
Ms Jefferson	Years 7-9	<b>Reading Logs:</b> Thanks for your support with helping your child to read independently. Regular reading is the most powerful thing your child can do to ensure success in school and later life. Please contact me if you need support.
Mr Benchama	Year 7 French/ Spanish	A Reminder that at the end of Term 2 Year 7 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 and the performance of students in both languages. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

<p>Miss Sutton</p>	<p>Food technology classes</p>	<p><b>Miss Sutton's Food classes</b>  <b>The following practicals will be taking place next week:</b>  Monday 7th December - 8l Apple cake  Tuesday 8th December - 9r Cheesecake  Wednesday 9th December - 7l Croque Monsieur  Thursday 10th December - 11c Glamorgan sausages and chilli jam (extra)  After school - Brownies  Friday 11th December - 10c Swiss roll</p> <p>Ingredients have been posted on ClassChart. Aprons are compulsory for the lessons.</p>
<p>Mr Harding Chair of Governors</p>	<p>All years</p>	<p><b>REMINDER: Parent Governor Election</b></p> <p>You may recall that I recently invited nominations for a Parent Governor vacancy on the school governing body. This has resulted in three parents being put forward. As this is more than the number of current vacancies on our local governing board, an election will now be held within our parent community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Who may vote?</b> All parents of (or individuals who have parental responsibility or cares for) pupil(s) registered at school are entitled to vote.</li> <li>● <b>How many votes does each person have?</b> Each person may vote for one person only and can only submit one ballot paper regardless of the number of children they have attending school.</li> <li>● <b>How to vote</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Online:</b> If you follow this <a href="#">link</a> you will find brief statements written by each of the three candidates and a voting ballot paper. This ballot can only be used once; if there is another family member who is entitled to vote and has not received a ballot paper they should contact the Clerk to the Governors <a href="mailto:clerk@skdrive.org">clerk@skdrive.org</a> or telephone 01275 376852 who will be able to issue them a further ballot paper.</p> <p>Completed ballot papers should be returned electronically to school. All votes will be confidential.</p> <p><b>Paper ballot:</b> 'If you do not have access to a device with email or have difficulty using email, a postal ballot facility can be provided - please ring the Clerk to Governors (telephone: 01275 376852 during normal school hours) for a ballot paper and details of the candidates.</p> <p><b>Confidentiality:</b> All votes will be confidential. (Unfortunately, votes cannot be anonymous as we need to make sure that no-one votes more than once. The Clerk will be the only person to see the ballot and your online vote will not be connected to your identification.)</p> <p><b>The closing date for completed ballot papers is 4:00pm on Friday 11 December 2020</b></p> <p><i><b>Data Protection:</b> The personal information requested in this form is required to verify your status in respect of a registered student(s) at St Katherine's School. When handling this 'data' we are obliged to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).[see also Data Protection on school website].</i></p>



*Learning together, succeeding together, inspiring excellence*



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

No letters this week

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

Thursday, 10 December Friday, 18 December	16:00-19:00 Year 10 Progress Evening (Virtual) <b>END OF TERM 2 - Early Close 12.30pm finish</b>
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