

Tuesday 5 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carer,

### **National Lockdown**

Further to the announcement from the Prime Minister yesterday evening, I hope the following information will help clarify some immediate questions you may have.

### **School closures**

As we currently understand following guidance from the Department for Education, schools are expected to be closed until the beginning of Term 4. We will keep you updated as the national picture changes.

### **Vocational exams this week and next week**

Students studying business in Year 11 or Year 13, health and social care in Year 12 or Year 13 or media in Year 13 will sit their scheduled exams later this week and next week. Further information will be communicated to you confirming specific arrangements. Students are encouraged to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of their exam time to allow for a smooth start. A reminder all students should continue to follow our COVID guidelines - hands, face, space - at all times. We are waiting for confirmation of any asymptomatic testing which may be required before the sitting of the exams.

### **Year 11 mock exams**

We are currently reviewing our arrangements for the Year 11 mock exams and will write to you to confirm what arrangements we will be putting in place.

### **Year 11 and Year 13 summer exams**

Our hearts go out to you and your child/children affected by the announcement that the summer exams will not go ahead as planned. We must be cautious and await full confirmation following the consultation which will now take place between the Department for Education and Ofqual, the exams regulator. There is a real likelihood that the awarding of the summer grades will contain an element of external assessment and therefore our advice to your child/children in the meantime, is to continue to work hard, engaging in all their lessons each day and completing all their work to the very best of their ability, seeking support from their teachers where needed. This will help prepare your child/children for any exam like assessment during the spring or summer term. As soon we have confirmation, we will of course communicate this to all families immediately.

### **Keeping in touch**

We will be calling home to speak with your child/children every fortnight to ensure they are safe and well and making good progress with Learning@Home. We will be refreshing our St Katherine's Student Online Community website and using this as a platform to keep our community together, sharing useful and important wellbeing resources along with celebrating student work and achievements. Please encourage your child/children to use it.

<https://sites.google.com/skdrive.org/st-kaths-school-community/home?authuser=0>

Please see the table at the bottom of this letter should you need to contact us before we call.

## Buses

We are working with our bus companies to ensure all routes are covered for students who need access i.e. those sitting public exams and/or those entitled to attend our KEY WORKER SCHOOL.

## Learning@Home

All students should be engaging with Learning@Home. This replicates a school day as close as possible providing structure and challenge to their learning which must continue. We appreciate the wider challenges around home schooling and we very much hope our model supports your child/children along with your wider household. Please see the Learning@Home [guide](#) for further information. Should you have any concerns or problems accessing Learning@Home, please contact us immediately. There may be occasions where a teacher is unable to deliver 'live' where they have their own childcare needs that cannot be met by key worker provision or other arrangements. Where this is the case, your child may be invited to join the lesson of another class with the same content or work will be posted on their google classroom.

## Collecting resources

If your child/children require resources from school, they may contact their teacher to confirm the resources and these can be collected from school reception. If your child/children require anything from their locker, they should contact school reception prior to visiting school.

## Asymptomatic testing

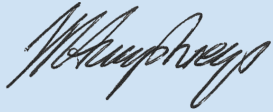
We are continuing with our preparations regarding testing as per the guidance and this will involve staff and students who are onsite during the national lockdown period. We are working on the assumption this will resume for our whole community upon full opening as per the guidance from the Department for Education. If you have not already completed our form, **please complete the [RAPID TESTING FORM](#) for each child.**

Should you need to contact us, please do not hesitate to get in touch. This familiar table will help direct your query to the relevant team/member of staff.

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: <a href="#">Tell Someone Form</a>		

We recognise this is a deeply unsettling time for all concerned and we must all focus on the success of the vaccine. We all hope the acceleration of the vaccination programme will help shine a bright light on 2021 when we can all return to a more normal way of life.

Stay safe, Stay strong

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Humphreys".

Justin Humphreys  
**Headteacher**