

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 30 September 2022

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.

MESSAGES		
School	All years	A big thank you to all students that took part in the Open Evening last night, you did the school proud.
School	All years	0830-1000 14th October - Coffee with the Headteacher, please email a school@skdrive.org if you'd like to come along.
Mrs Crocker	Year 7	Meet the Tutor Evening Wednesday 5 October 4pm - 7pm. Parents and carers of Year 7 students will have received a letter today detailing how to book appointments.
School	All years	Pill Food Bank Donation Point We are very grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the Pill Food Bank who have donated generously to the school's hardship fund. In order to support their important work we are becoming a donation point for food donations. This will be in our main reception and students and their families are encouraged to donate food items if they can. The list of the items that they need can be seen here 📧 Foodbankdonationlistsept22 . Students will take responsibility for taking items to the Food Bank on a regular basis. Thank you for your support.
School	Sustainable Uniform Shop	Do you have any unwanted items of uniform or PE kit at home that your child has grown out of or no longer needs? If so, please consider donating these to our sustainable uniform shop. Items in good condition can be taken to our main reception where they will be reused. Clothing waste is an important environmental issue and is also a way that we can support families facing hardship. Thank you for your support.
Facilities Team	Whole School	Thank you to all parents for cooperating and engaging with our arrangements for buses and collecting students from school. As a reminder, please may we ask that parents do not park in the disability bays unless in receipt of a 'Blue Badge'. Further to this, please may we be mindful of the 5mph speed limit and the impact to the environment and student health while leaving engines running while stationary. Please let us know your feedback on the current arrangements.
Ms Wyld and Ms Wild	Years 7, 8 and 9	As part of our whole school focus on reading, we would like to remind parents and carers that all students are expected to read for at least twenty minutes every day at home. There is widespread academic research to prove that reading is the single most effective skill that students can develop to help them achieve success across the curriculum. At St Katherine's we believe in the power of reading and we are committed to enthusing all of our learners and helping them to become lifelong readers.

		<p>Students have access to a wide range of books in our superb school library. We are aware that many students may benefit from accessing audio books, which can be done through the public library system for free.</p> <p>Therefore, this week all students are asked to join the public library for their homework. Students can join online for this superb, entirely free service which includes access to free audio books. Instructions have been provided, and can be accessed via our library links document.</p> <p>Please note: Students can access a wide range of material on the public library catalogue. Parents and guardians need to be aware of this, and are responsible for guiding their children to make choices that are appropriate.</p> <p>If you have any questions please contact wildi@skdrive.org or wylidl@skdrive.org</p>
Miss Cave	Whole School	<p>Free School Meals if you think you are entitled to claim a free school meal benefit because of your income or circumstances it's essential you apply. For each eligible child, the school receives funding for the next six years, even if their parents go back to full-time paid work. You can apply to North Somerset here. If you have any queries or would like the school to support you with your application please contact reception.</p>
Mrs Jenkins	Food and nutrition students	<p>The practicals for this week are:</p> <p>Monday 3rd October - 8r Swiss roll Monday 3rd October - 8l Swiss roll Tuesday 4th October - 7l Tomato ragu Wednesday 5th October - 10A Cottage pie part 1 Thursday 6th October - 10A Cottage pie part 2 Thursday 6th October - 7r Pizza toast Friday 7th October - 9l Jollof Rice</p> <p>Please ensure ingredients are weighed.</p>
Finance	All Years	<p>Lunch accounts</p> <p>Recently a number of lunch accounts have gone overdrawn. To avoid this, Parentpay allows you to set a reminder to top up when the balance falls below a certain amount.</p> <p>To set an alert go to 'Communication', 'Alert Settings', 'Balance Alerts'. Set a threshold amount (say £5) and tick the email box. You will then be emailed a low balance alert when your child's lunch account falls below £5.</p>
Mrs Crocker	All Years	<p>Advanced notice - Hello Yellow Monday 10 September 2022 on World Mental Health Day</p> <p>Staff and students will once again raise money for Young Minds by wearing something yellow and donating £1 if they are able. The theme for tutor time in w/b 10 October will be mental health and wellbeing to raise awareness of the importance of taking care of our own mental health. Please encourage your child to lend their support by adding something yellow to their school uniform such as a scarf, hair accessory etc. Please note that Monday 10 October is not a non-school uniform day and apart from the yellow item, normal uniform and PE kit should be worn.</p>
Performing Arts	All Years	<p>Grease rehearsals</p> <p>Week 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 3pm - 5pm <i>Whole cast</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 3pm - 5pm <i>Leads only</i> <p>Week 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 3pm - 5pm <i>Whole cast</i> Thursday 3pm - 5pm <i>Leads only</i> <p>Feel free to bring a water bottle and PE kit/trainers to dance in. Please ensure you are rehearsing the dance numbers and songs at home in your own time.</p>
Mrs Jenkins	GCSE Food preparation and nutrition students	<p>To support year 10 and 11 students working towards their GCSE Food preparation and nutrition exams, the faculty is offering you the chance to purchase the recommended revisions guides to help with studying at home. We are able to offer a bundle of workbooks, revision flash cards and revision guide all for £9.</p> <p>Payment can be made either through ParentPay, or by filling in the letter handed out in class. This must be completed by Friday 14th October. We will be unable to process any orders after this date.</p>
Ms Keir	Careers Bulletin	<p>Here is the weekly Careers Bulletin. Any questions please contact careersadvisor@skdrive.org.uk</p>
Mr Hodgson	Year 9 & 10 DofE	<p>On Wednesday 5 October at 1900 there will be an online meeting for Year 9's looking to start their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. More information on how to join the meeting can be found in this letter.</p> <p>On Tuesday 11 October at 1900 there will be an online meeting for Year 10's looking to start their Silver Award. More information on how to joining the meeting can be found in this letter.</p> <p>Both meetings will be recorded and posted on the DofE Classrooms if you are unable to attend the meetings.</p> <p>For more information or any questions, please email hodgson@skdrive.org</p>
Mr Hodgson	Morocco 2023	<p>There will be a meeting for those going to Morocco 2023 on Thursday 6th October in Lab 4.</p> <p>There will be several other meetings in the build up to the expedition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practical Skills Meeting - 6th October 3-4pm - Responsible Travel Meeting - 17th November 3-4pm - Training Weekend Prep - 9th February 3-4pm (combined with the Meet the Leader) - Meet the Leader - 9th February 6-7pm - Expedition Life - 23rd March 3-4pm - Final Meeting - 22 June 3-4pm.
Miss Adams	Trailblazers and trailblazers plus	<p>Trailblazers lessons have now either started or will be launching next week. Please check the timetables linked here for your child's lesson day and time. These timetables are also on the trailblazers google classroom and displayed in the music department. Brass lesson times will be added as soon as I have confirmation of times from the teacher. An insurance form will be coming home next week via email which we need returning to school in order for your child to take their instrument home.</p>
Miss Adams	Instrumental lessons	<p>Instrumental lesson timetables can be found here. These are also on the instrumental lessons google classroom and on display in the music department. Please ensure your child is aware of their lesson day and time. Apologies for the ongoing delay to singing lessons; the new teacher is</p>

		currently awaiting DBS clearance. I will update you once I have a confirmed start date.
Miss Adams	All years	<p>Music co-curricular groups are now up and running:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choir on a Monday in room 26 8.30am-9am ● Trailblazers orchestra on a Wednesday in room 26 8.30am-9am (to start after October half term) ● Orchestra on a Thursday in room 26 8.30am-9am <p>Choir are working towards a performance at the trust concert at Bristol Cathedral in March. Please encourage your child to come along and get involved.</p>

LETTERS - click [here](#) to see all letters

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

4 Oct	Open morning
5 Oct	Y7 Parent/Carer meet the tutor
6 Oct	Open morning
14 Oct	08:30-10:00 - Coffee with the Headteacher (note date change from 13)
21 Oct	End of Term 1