



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE



31st May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students in years 7 to 9,

Summer term 2020

I know that this period of lockdown has been a very difficult time for many of you. We have all had to navigate challenges that we never expected to have to deal with. There has obviously been much anxiety and fear across our community and sadly some of our communities have been impacted by the Corona Virus more than others.

The locking down process, once the direction from Government had been given was a fairly easy process. We knew that we had to “Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, and Save Lives”. As a school our staff rose to the occasion and quickly implemented an online programme for all our students. I’m please to say that the engagement in this online learning has been excellent and although there were some initial teething problems, these have generally been ironed out.

We are now beginning to enter a much more challenging phase. This new phase has implications for us all in terms of how we go about responding to the relaxation of the restrictions. Greater freedoms to move around, go shopping and even get your McDonalds at the drive through. Something that hundreds queue for near my house every day! This phase is more challenging because whatever we do, we are considering the risks to ourselves and our nearest and dearest in addition to our wider social responsibility. Schools have been given the direction to begin to open more widely from today, the 1st of June.

As from the 15th of June we will be offering some face to face teaching sessions for students in years 10 and 12. Students in these year groups have been identified as they are closest to taking formal external examinations this time next year.

Other students in year 7 to 9 will continue to have lesson content online. In some limited cases, where we know that students are struggling to access learning independently, or where we are worried about their well-being, we may determine that they are vulnerable to falling significantly behind and discuss with you trying to bring them safely into college for some supported time with access to teachers. Unfortunately, this is not something that we can offer to all students, but we continue to encourage you to speak to your son’s Head of Year if you are struggling with any aspect of the home learning.

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As the Government directive remains that UK schools should remain closed to those in years 7-9 except for students whose parents are key workers, we are looking to further improve the provision we offer in terms of remote learning.

From June 15th we will be introducing the delivery of live and/ or pre-recorded lessons at timetabled times for pupils in Year 7,8 and 9 to supplement their online learning.

Students will access these lessons on Microsoft Teams. Guidelines on how students use this online learning platform, along with a year group timetable for lessons will be sent out later this week.

It is important that both students and parents/ carers carefully read these guidelines. Online lessons will be 30-45 minutes and will provide students with further support and contact with a subject teacher. Live lessons will be recorded and transferred onto Teams where students will be able to get later access.

The completion of remote learning work will continue to be monitored by our Pastoral Team and we do hope this additional provision is helpful to your son.

A reminder that if your son is struggling to access Show My Homework he should contact Mrs O'Connor aoconnor@sjc.ac.

Life in school remains unnaturally quiet. Only some Key Worker students are on site every day at the moment. I hope that as time passes, we can start imagining a school where all our students are learning in school once again. Please keep well and don't hesitate to get in touch if you wish to discuss anything.

Finally, during this lockdown, staff have wanted to share their experiences with your children: https://www.stjosephscollege.org.uk/uploads/1/1/5/7/115725493/sjc_staff_in_lockdown.pdf

Yours faithfully



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