

# Spring Half Term News

## Update



Dear All

I am sure that you are all more relieved than ever to get to half term this year. The pressures on parents and children have been immense but I am delighted to say that our students, in the vast majority of cases, have risen to the challenge of online, remote learning. I am sure that this form of learning will continue to be part of our future learning experiences even when life becomes more normal, and I think it will become increasingly important that we begin to think how families will fund the appropriate technology to support this at home. The resilience and self-motivation skills that we have had to learn over the last few months will stand us in good stead for future challenges.

Over this coming half term week – I hope that our students will be able to get away from their screens, even though there are limitations on what we all can do. For those in year 11 and 13 we are still awaiting further information on what you will need to do in order to gain your qualifications this year. So please keep working hard, engaging in all your online lessons, as the work you produce now is likely to be crucial in counting towards your final grade. Keep revising what you have studied over the duration of your courses as we do expect there to be some form of written assessments in the summer term.

One development that we have had in place this half term has been the increased communications from our 'engagement team'. I hope that you have found this useful and helped to sort out any problems you may have been facing. I am very pleased to see that nearly 70% of parents/carers have now downloaded the MyEd app which we are using to send weekly engagement reports home to help you support your child in areas they are not fully engaged and to encourage/praise them for all their hard work and resilience through this new way of learning. If you are not already using the app please download using the following links: [MyEd for android](#) [MyEd for IOS](#) (From Easter, you will need to use this app to receive all your child's school reports).

Staying healthy is so important in these lockdown days and I would like to say a huge thank you to one member of our parent community who donated a sum of money to purchase prizes for our Every KM Counts initiative being run by the PE Department. If your son or daughter has not yet joined in, please try to get them involved and join in with them! Getting into a routine in these times is important

for all of us. Try to use the routine planner later in the newsletter to ensure your son/daughter is making the most of every day.

Thank you to all the parents who have sent such supportive emails through to the College over the last few weeks. I hope that we will begin to start seeing students return in March. However, I think it will be a long time before we can truly say that things are back to normal but face-to-face education is a most precious thing and something that should be highly valued. I hope one thing we have all learnt during this lockdown is to not take what we have for granted and to make the most of chances education gives to enhance our lives and futures.

Once again, I am so proud of our students. The work continues to be of the very highest standard and none of this would be possible without the endless patience, energy and support of all our parents and carers.

I wish all our families a safe, healthy and enjoyable half-term break.

Mr Garrido

Headmaster

### Key Dates to remember:

- Tuesday March 16th: Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening (timings TBC)
- Thursday March 11th: Release of Year 9 Options' Evening Information video (timings TBC)
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April: Year 7 Parents' Evening- 4.30pm- 7.00pm
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May: Year 8 Parents' Evening- 4.30pm-7.00pm

### ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO

DATE?



To advise us of any changes to you or your child's contact details, please let us know:

Years 7-13 [admin@sjc.ac](mailto:admin@sjc.ac)

## House Point Update

Students continue to collect house points through rewards and participation.

Here are the standings thus far:

**1st Grange**

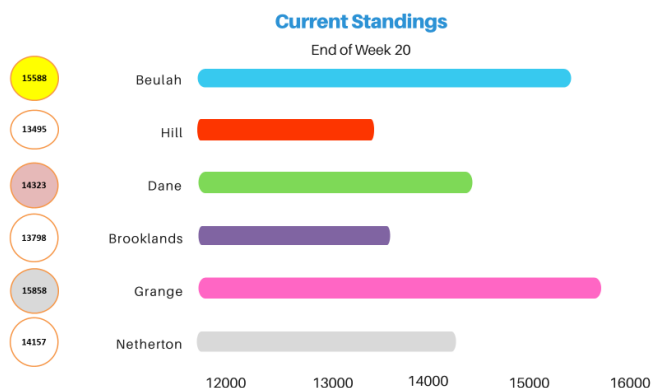
**2nd Beulah**

**3rd Dane**

4th Netherton

5th Brooklands

6th Hill



## In-school Provision

Whilst the school has been closed to the majority of our community, a group of 30 – 35 students have been regularly attending school and working in 'bubbles'. They have been completing their school work on SMHW and TEAMS, but they have also had the opportunity to take part in dog walking to get some fresh air and enjoy a break from the screen!



Below are a few comments from students about the provision too:

*"I can do my classwork and I get help from teachers. When I was at home, I didn't know how to submit my work online. Now I do."* Adam Yr8

*"It's fun to come here (LSU) I get to finish my classwork and I get to spend time with my friends."* Jason Yr8

## Chaplaincy News

We have all made sacrifices during this time. I do not think that it is unreasonable to say that we all know someone in our families who has become sick and/or passed away from COVID-19. You are in our prayers.

Many of us were unable to see our loved ones over Christmas and throughout this half term, whether they live in the UK or abroad. I know of family holidays being cancelled at the last minute. We know that our young people are missing aspects of their social life, including playing football, cricket and basketball together. We cannot worship as we want too and perhaps, some of us have even gained a bit of weight! However, there is a light ahead. I hope that things will begin to become more normal as more and more of our population take up the vaccine in order to protect themselves and each other for this deadly virus which has changed how we live for over a year.

Despite the challenges our students have had to endure, we have seen so many examples of our Five Respects being lived out during this period.

Our Founder, St. John Baptist De La Salle said: "God [is] carrying us when the road is rough" and indeed God is carrying us all at this challenging time. Despite the restrictions that we all are under, so many of our students have shown some incredible strength and bravery. They have shown the virtues of: patience, resilience, faith, courage, compassion, hope, duty and love. Through their challenges, they have been an example for many of us.

*By Mr Arthur*

## Remote Learning Parent Survey feedback

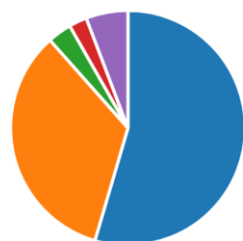
Thank you to all the parents in Years 7 to 10 who completed the Parent Survey on Remote Learning earlier this half term. We received very supportive feedback and comments and are very grateful for all the kind words and appreciations.

The feedback was really helpful to us in terms of identifying our strengths and making changes to improve the remote learning experience of your children as they continue their remote learning journey.

Below is a summary of the findings.

- 70% felt their child received the right amount of work
- 80% felt the level of work set for their child was about right
- The average rating for the quality of work set was 4/5

When asked what we could do to improve our provision parents responded as below:



Deliver some lessons as live lessons: 55%

Deliver all lessons as live lessons: 34%

Set less work: 3%

Set more work: 2%

Other: 6%

\*Other: Set less homework, better distinction between homework and classwork, one to one with teachers and use less platforms.

As a result of the feedback we have been able to make immediate changes. These changes include:

- An increase in our online provision of live lessons on Microsoft Teams.
  - Years 10 to 13 have 100% of their timetable delivered via live lessons
  - Years 7 to 9 have approximately 60% of their timetable delivered via live lessons. The remaining 40% is delivered through the setting of Independent Remote Learning Tasks.

- We have adopted a generic description for lessons on Satchel One (Show My Homework) to help parents and students distinguish between Live Lessons, Independent Remote Learning Tasks and Homework.

According to some parents, this is what we are doing well:

*"The school is brilliantly managing the online learning as well as providing services onsite for those who need it."*

*"Teachers issue quick responses to the comments made on the work that has been submitted."*

*"Providing work for each lesson to ensure my child is learning the material for the level he is at."*

*"Overall, the school has done very well to keep my child busy with his academics rather than him being idle. Thanks well done!"*

*"The school has done well ensuring the children have the right amount of work each week"*

*"Ensuring the children have adequate work and resources. Engaging with children through available media."*

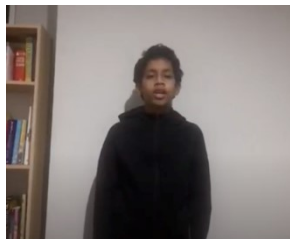
*"Daily live registration and tutor time is great!"*

## LOCKDOWN LEAGUE TIER 1

Mr Rimmer and the House Team have created a Lockdown League Quest to motivate students to take time away from their screens and to get creative in a range of challenges. Hopefully you've started the challenges already but if not, everybody is off timetable this Friday – so get involved! All the instructions are in SMHW/TEAMS – just upload a photo of yourself completing the challenges. If you need any help, contact your form tutor or your head of house.

### Public Speaking By Mr Farrah

The annual public speaking competition went ahead this half-term, with competitors submitting their video entries online. It was brilliant to see so many students take the time to put together their speeches and reflect on the theme of making the world a better place. We had many messages about looking after each other, and show more compassion to our friends, families, and community. The winner of the competition who received most votes was Eesa in Y7 congratulations to him!



### Every KM Counts! By Mr Atkins

The boys in the school have been very busy staying active this term, during their LIVE workout PE lessons, and also our Every KM Counts' competition that we are running. At the time of going to press, the leaders for each year group are as follows: Year 7 Sofyan El Hadri, Year 8 Mohammad Bin Aslam, Year 9 Lamek Beniam, Year 10 Mubariz Naseem, and a very special shout out to Olumide Daniel in Year 11, who has completed a whopping 93km in walks and runs so far this term - great effort! Keep up the good work boys!



### Free School Meals

With the effects of Covid-19 contributing to too many jobs being lost, we encourage any parents who meet the criteria for free school meals to apply. Information on how to apply through your local council are explained below.

#### **Important Information:**

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals. Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in on 31 March 2022.

#### **How to apply:**

If you believe that you meet the criteria for free school meals for your child, please use the form below to apply through Croydon Council first. If successful, the council will send a letter of confirmation to you, as well as confirm your eligibility with the school.

<https://bit.ly/3jFTVHl>

If you are unsure whether you are eligible, please contact Ms Abraham for the checking form.

[mabraham@sjc.ac](mailto:mabraham@sjc.ac)



### Careers Update

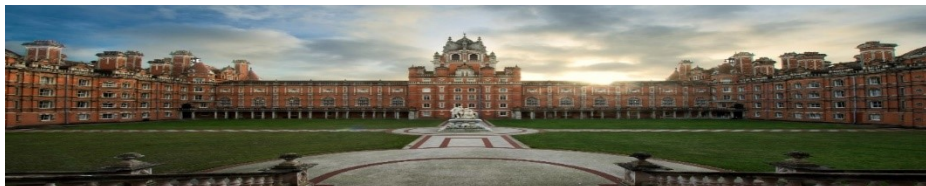
Congratulations to Martin, Pius, Stephan and Chloe who successfully completed virtual work experience with Prestolite Electrical Engineering. Also Shout out to Umayna who worked with Proseed Property Investors, and made such a great impression she was awarded student of the week and offered a work placement in the summer.

We hope the students going to HMRC and Investment 2020 over half term have a great experience too and are very grateful for the creative way our industry partners have responded to the current lockdown, yet are still willing to support our students.

Look out for opportunities from Sopra Steria in Computer Science and Deloitte with Business and Finance next term.

Years 9 -11 were part of online virtual talks from Arcadis Engineering and Imperial Cancer Research about career possibilities in the future.

If you love science and Royal Holloway University gave us an exciting insight into student life in the future. They enjoyed working with you, well done boys!



If you require more information about Careers advice then please contact s  
Cashmore on [rcashmore@sjc.ac](mailto:rcashmore@sjc.ac)

### Weekly Remote Engagement Reports – Years 7-11

In difficult times for all of us, we are very pleased with amount of students that are engaging well with their remote learning. Feedback from our reports shows that over 80% of KS 3 students are regularly accessing their work and lessons and at KS4 this is over 85%.

Just a reminder that the weekly Remote Engagement Report is being sent home on a Monday afternoon. These reports have been designed to help monitor how well students are engaging with online learning.

In order to access you son's weekly reports you will need the My Ed app for your mobile device, please use the links below to download it. All reports are sent home using this app.

MyEd on Apple store: <https://www.myedschoolapp.com/get/?a=1>

MyEd on Google Play store: <https://www.myedschoolapp.com/get/?b=1>

### Loan of Laptops

Following the Government's announcement of laptops for schools, we have received numerous requests for assistance with equipment to access home learning. We have loaned over 190 laptops and routers to students and have a waiting list of another 40 requests.

We have applied to the Government for more devices as we currently do not have any laptops available to loan out, we are waiting for their response to our requests. We are doing our best to help those who are struggling with hardware problems.














A reminder that the devices provided are a loan to students and parents are responsible for their safekeeping. Once students return to College all devices will need to be returned.

We are doing the very best we can to support your requests, please continue to contact [covid@sjc.ac](mailto:covid@sjc.ac) if you need assistance.

# Daily Routine Check List



Consistent routines are important for learning and wellbeing in school and our routines at home have changed significantly. Routines support learning behaviours as our students adapt to new ways of working at home. Talk to your parents/carers about your daily routines. Work with them to help you focus on the points below. They want you to be successful and happy, as do your teachers at school.

		MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
	I woke up at a good time and got dressed before school started.					
	I did some exercise and got some fresh air.					
	I had regular meals and drank water.					
	I limited my phone eg WhatsApp/Instagram during the school day.					
	I attended ALL my live lessons today and uploaded my work if required.					
	I completed all my Satchel One Independent lessons (Y7-9).					
	I talked to my family about my day and how I am feeling. I asked them about their day.					
	I helped with a household job and talked to my family while I did it.					
	I contacted my friends.					
	I spent some time on my hobby/things I enjoy.					
	My parent/carer told me what I did well.					
	My goal.					
	My goal.					