



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

A SCIENCE SPECIALIST COLLEGE

HEADTEACHER: MS MELISSA L ROBERTS, BA (HONS), MA, NPQH

MLR/hr/Lockdown
5th January 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Following the prime minister's announcement on Monday evening I wanted to contact all parents to reassure you that we are very well set up to support your children during this lockdown. In contrast to the school closures in March, we have invested in ICT hardware and software to support us with remote learning and undertaken staff training in the use of Microsoft Teams to streamline our provision.

Remote Teaching

Teachers are in school making sure that our remote teaching is well-sequenced and resourced. This week there are live lessons for all Y11 and Y13 students and lessons for Y7-10 and Y12 will be a mix of live teaching, some recorded content and some online consolidation work. From Monday 11th January remote teaching for all year groups will be live or recorded lessons.

From tomorrow, Wednesday 6th January all students will have a remote form period each day at 8:30am.

A register will be taken, messages will be given and any concerns or issues can be addressed.

Exams – Y11 and Y13

The prime minister announced that exams will not "take place as normal" but this does not mean that Y11 and Y13 students should worry. Their hard work will be recognised and there is time to make a fair and balanced system for awarding grades which will likely involve a combination of coursework, some exams, class assessments, mock grades, classwork and homework taken across the whole academic year. We just ask Y11 and Y13 to keep coming to all online lessons and keep working their hardest as every piece of work will be part of this bigger picture.

Test weeks – Y7 and Y8

We will hold these tests online. Students must not worry. Your children have worked wonderfully well in school and these tests are as much to tell us how to adapt our teaching as they are to assess students' progress. Please reassure them that we know that things have been difficult for children across the UK and that we are simply trying to assess where they are up to in order to support better them when they are back in school.

Home-School Communication

A message has been sent to all students today on Microsoft Teams with a link to an assembly. I have also put the link on the school website.

We will continue to send out emails to parents by parent mail.

Staff will continue to contact students via Teams and we will post messages to students there.

There is now an "SJC headteacher" Twitter account @HeadteacherSjc. I will try and post updates every

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few days during this lockdown to keep students and parent informed and flag up key messages. Someone will be here to answer and direct calls throughout lockdown.

Parents are always welcome to use sjcollege@stjosephsmail.com to contact school.

Individual staff will be on their email during their working day but please be aware that teachers will have full timetable commitments.

There will be daily contact between students and their form tutors and all their teachers.

The Rainbow Room

Our provision for looking after the children of keyworkers will run daily from 8:30am -2:15pm. There is no homework club. During lockdown, please book a place using via sjcollege@stjosephsmail.com

I know that this is a challenging time for parents and students alike but we are here for you. Your children's education is in safe hands, with staff who are passionate about doing our very best for our students and supporting them to flourish whether in school or at home. Our love and care for all of our students extends way beyond the school site and will be as strong as ever during this time.

Yours sincerely,



Ms M Roberts
Headteacher