

Life in Lockdown

Blog Post 1 – 27th April 2020

Lockdown. Now, there's a word I had hoped would never be used in connection with me and those I know. It has all sorts of connotations: restriction of actions and movement, connected with emergencies in other countries, emergencies elsewhere...

But, no! This is us. This is now. Before we last saw one another on 20 March, we were all a little anxious about what this time of isolation would bring for us individually, as families, as groups of friends, as the community of St. Joseph's. Five weeks in, we now know.

At St. Joseph's, we have settled into a routine: teachers set work, students complete work, students send work to teachers, teachers reward students. Simple, isn't it? Not really. A lot of hard work has gone into trying to make sure that everyone is able to access their work and that everyone is able to contact their teachers. We still have some work to do on ironing out any glitches and we rely on you to contact us if you have any problems.

So, we are all still working, but in a different venue. What else is different, then? Again, this is simple: a lack of face-to-face contact with one another. When I have been in contact with your teachers, there is a common theme when we talk: we miss you. Honestly! There may be some debate as to whether you miss your teachers, but we do know that you miss meeting all your friends every day.

What can be done about it? I have noticed during this time that I am being forced to do some things differently – and that may be no bad thing. I have started to realise that lockdown is giving me opportunities to do different things and find out different activities I can do. I've found an online Pilates class that is streamed from the Lake District (free!) that I have watched and listened to, even if I haven't actually done the exercises yet. For me, just watching is doing something different!

Which all brings me to what we want from you. St. Joseph's is a community and a community shares its experiences. This Life in Lockdown blog needs to be filled with your experiences. What have you done differently? What do you think is worth telling us about?

One of the different things I have always wanted for St. Joseph's is a community blog. Something that reflects who we are and what makes us that very special group of people. Mr Matyla is going to ask the student leaders to take the lead with their contributions initially, but this is open to all.

If you wish to contribute, send your entries to Mr Matyla on AMatyla@stjosephscollege.net. We are looking forward to reading about all that you are doing.

For all you, whether you are budding writers (journalists, authors, bloggers), or people who just have something to say, this is your time. This is your chance to be published. This is your opportunity to do things differently. This is our time to record Life in Lockdown and find that different way to be together.