

Life in Lockdown

The End?

Back on 24 April 2020, we published our first Life in Lockdown blog at St. Joseph's. This is not something that anyone would have anticipated doing when we started back at school last September. Every teacher and every student begins the year planning what they are going to achieve and how they will do it.



Nobody planned on everything stopping half-way through.

The first blog was produced for the first student briefing after Easter. Its message was to you, the students. It discussed how we were all having to do things differently and how this could be the best time to try out new ideas and have new, socially-distanced adventures.

Students of St. Joseph's: you did not disappoint!

There have been so many stand-out moments for us teachers – and all of them were created by you the students. You have no idea of the joy felt by Mr Matyla every time he received a student blog entry. We both agree that your writing is much better than anything we could write for this audience. People want to hear from you, not teachers! I would like to acknowledge the work of all our student bloggers since April. Also, some of you have had your work recognised as outstanding and this was published in the blog. We would love to see more of this.

Many of you were brave and did take the chance to do something that was different and possibly slightly uncomfortable. Some of you have entered and won national competitions (the BBC Young Reporter one being a great example), whilst others completed virtual work experience projects and have the national silver industrial cadet award. This is a first for St. Joseph's. Most pleasingly, we have had some superb academic work submitted. This has been rewarded with commendations and praise postcards.

We would also like to thank all those year 10 students who have been coming to school during this last term. It has been unusual. You have worked in bubbles. You have been unfailingly good humoured. We would also like to pay tribute to all those students who are children of key workers, who have attended school throughout lockdown. It has not been at all easy for you, but you have worked not only with humour, but with great resilience.

On Wednesday, we will break up for the Summer. Like the cats in the image above, you are no longer confined and can now run free – or at least a little bit further. Enjoy your Summer. Take the opportunity to do something different (the ideas in the Careers Notes above are at least a start) and come back in September ready to start again. We already have students who are planning their Student Leadership roles. We already have students who have said they would like to continue this blog. I hope that when we return we can rename it – no more Life in Lockdown.

So, until September, have a great Summer break. Rest, run free, relax. Come back refreshed and reinvigorated. We are waiting for you!

Mrs Sanders