

STUDENT BRIEFING

Week commencing 4 May 2020

OUR LADY AND FAMILY

"May the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, always smile on your spirit, obtaining for it, from her most Holy Son, every heavenly blessing." (Saint Padre Pio)

Important Dates

8 May 2020 - May Bank Holiday

Forward Notice

As we learn of further useful/important dates for you whilst we are not working in school, we will put them here for you.

Notice from IT Department

This notice appeared in last week's student briefing. We have put it here again for this week only, just in case you have an IT query.

Some of the points below are in response to the common questions we have received from you.

- 1. What happens if I have forgotten my log in details to Moodle or e-mail?** A parent or carer will need to email a request for this to our IT team at studentit@stjosephscollege.net To meet safeguarding requirements, parents/careers need to send this request on the email address we have on our School Base records.
- 2. What happens if I am having IT issues?** Please contact our IT team using the email studentit@stjosephscollege.net
- 3. How do I attach a photo from my phone or other device to my teacher as evidence of completed work?** This will depend on if you have just a phone or have access to a laptop/PC to load. Use the 'attach file' on the toolbar menu to locate your file. Click on the file and insert the images. You will then see your images attached to your email. There is lots of guidance online. If you are still having difficulties contact studentit@stjosephscollege.net
- 4. How do I attach a file, e.g. Word to an e-mail, as evidence of completed work?** Open your new message to email your teacher and use the paperclip icon called 'attach file' on the toolbar menu to locate your file. Click on the file and insert file. You will then see your file attached.
- 5. What do I do if I am having difficulties opening Word and PowerPoint documents?** You can access these using Microsoft Office 365. Contact our IT team at studentit@stjosephscollege.net

Accessing your documents through Foldr

Please find attached to this document a guide for students on how to access your documents and save them through Foldr. You will be able to upload documents for school onto this.

Year 9 Option Students

From next Monday 4 May, with the exception of Alternative Curriculum, students in Year 9 will not be expected to complete work for subjects they have **not** opted for at GCSE. Work will be set in the normal ways by your class teacher, including GCSE transition work, but if you have not opted for the subject at GCSE you should disregard the email as you are no longer expected to complete the work. This does not apply to Alternative Curriculum who will need the rest of the year to finish their ASDAN course. Therefore, students who do Alternative Curriculum should continue to complete the work set by your teacher.

Online resources for all students and all subjects

Please see links below offering free access to some excellent resources on remote learning on Kerboodle for both secondary and primary aged students:

- [Design & Technology Kerboodle](#)
- [English Kerboodle](#)
- [French Kerboodle](#)
- [Geography Kerboodle](#)
- [History Kerboodle](#)
- [Mathematics Kerboodle](#)
- [Physical Education Kerboodle](#)
- [Psychology Kerboodle](#)
- [Religious Education Kerboodle](#)
- [Science Kerboodle](#)

Performing Arts Notices – for all students

During this time there are lots of activities that you can take part in as a family or on your own. Below I have put together some of the things you can do.

1. BBC Young Composer: 30 Second Composition Challenge

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/TByVm765XjYpg6b8y5MCzM/bbc-young-composer-30-second-composition-challenge>

Go to the link and find out more!



This is a great opportunity to put your composition skills to good use! Have a go and let me know if you have entered. I would love to hear your entry!

2. Music for Thursdays Clap for the NHS and Key Workers

On Moodle - Music in every Year group, I have put a folder containing instrumental parts that you can play for the Thursday Clap for the NHS and Key Workers.

So many students across the country are taking part playing the songs on their instruments AND encouraging their families to pick up the instruments that they used to play!

If you do take part – let us know by adding it to the school blog. We would love to know!

Each week I will look to add more activities to the Student Briefing that you might like to try out.

Stay safe everyone and Keep Music Live during these times!

Mrs Cooke ☺

V.E. Day Friday 8 May 2020

Friday 8 May marks the 75th Anniversary of 'V.E. (Victory in Europe) Day'. In 1945 Germany surrendered to the Allies, meaning that the Second World War was at an end in Europe. Before the current pandemic there were lots of arrangements made to remember this historic day. Although the 'lockdown' has meant that there will be no 'street parties' and gatherings of people, there will be plenty of news and information about V.E. Day on television, radio and online. Please open the information resource in your History Remote Learning area on Moodle to find out more.

Sending work to your teachers, part 1 – A request from your teachers

Could all students please add their name and tutor group / teaching class at the end of every e-mail they send? It would also be helpful if students could name their attached file with their name and what the file is. This so we can identify your work properly and make sure that good work is kept and rewarded properly. We are giving out lots of commendations!

Sending work to your teachers, part 2

The following has been sent by Mrs Thornton, so that you can have some guidance on how to send work to your teachers on an iPhone.

1. Open notes
2. Open the camera function from notes
3. You will get an option to scan a document
4. Scan as many pages as you need to and then save
5. You can then e-mail this to your College e-mail account and from there to your teachers
6. PDF scans are not as big as photographs and can, therefore, be sent more easily.

Notices for Year 11

1. Look below in the Careers/PSHE Activities section for useful resources that will help you to plan for your futures.
2. Year 11 transition to year 12 – Please note that we have added a range of excellent GCSEPod subject information booklets onto Moodle 'Remote Learning', as well as the subject Moodle pages for year 11.

Year 10 Fantastic Futures

This is a message for all Fantastic Futures students who are currently in year 10. You should have received e-mails by now from Fantastic Futures. They have been sent to your school e-mail accounts. They give information about two projects that you can do at home, instead of the projects you would have been doing in College. If you have not received this e-mail, please contact Mrs Sanders immediately so she can arrange for the information to be sent to you.

Careers/PSHE Activities

Below, you will see a number of activities you can complete at home in place of your Citizenship lesson slots.

1. Bitesize Passport Day: a free series of workshops for students in years 9 – 11. They have been created by Study Higher, an institution associated with Oxford Brookes University. We work with them a lot in offering experiences to our students. Go to Moodle – Student Resources – Careers – Career Resources – Topic 8 Bitesize Passport Day. When you get there, you can open a letter from Study Higher that gives details of the programme. This was intended for teachers, but if you read it you will understand what this is about. There is also a separate hyperlink for you to sign up. When you have completed your worksheet for each week, please keep it to show your form tutors when you return to school. You will need this work for next year.
2. SPACE: Supporting Parents and Carers in Education - this is one to tell your parents about. This is again from Study Higher and gives parents and carers a chance to sign up to receive an e-mail weekly for five weeks about how they can help you with your education and with making decisions about your futures. They will have to sign up to receive this by Sunday 3 May 2020. You can find the link to sign up and more details on Moodle – Student Resources – Careers – Career Resources – Topic 9 SPACE: Supporting Parents and Carers in Education. This really good information that will help the whole family.
3. STEM Careers activity for years 7 – 9 – On 7 May 2020, there is a day of live streamed activities organised by STEM Ambassadors Live. Each activity lasts for 30 minutes and is delivered by a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) professional, who will give you opportunities to find out about different subject and their careers. As yet, STEM Ambassadors has not given full details of what will happen on the day, but will publish this next week. Click on this link so you can find out more nearer the time:

<https://www.stem.org.uk/news-and-views/news/stem-ambassadors-live> . Before you use this website, do tell your parents and carers about what you are doing. **This is what you would have been doing in Citizenship this week, so keep a note of what you find out ready for when you return to school.**

School's Got Talent Competition.

Swindon Young Carers are looking for inspirational posters to support others during these challenging times. Please see attached poster for details.

The competition is open to all students in school lockdown. **(Not just young carers).**

The entries can be from individuals or groups but only **1 entry per individual or group.**

There are Voucher prizes to be won!

IMPORTANT: please ensure any photos, videos have media permission

And, finally . . .

Please watch the brief video below which reflects the thoughts and feelings from all your teachers and staff at St. Joseph's: <https://vimeo.com/412655924?ref=em-share>

We really do send our thoughts and best wishes to you all.

Go to the next page of this briefing to see a blog message from Mr Matyla.

The next briefing will be Thursday, 7 May 2020.

Life in Lockdown



I think that if someone had told me six months ago that we would be away from College for six weeks (and counting) I would have probably have reached for a straight jacket (ask your parents and carers!). The world, our country and our College are all now a very different place. We work differently, shop differently and even communicate differently because of these changes and change, for some, isn't always a good thing.

A lot of us dislike change; our routine is a security blanket and taking away that blanket can often cause uncertainty, unhappiness and stress. I have to admit, I hate change, any change, even the smallest of things not done the 'normal' way can leave me tutting, head shaking and muttering beneath my breath. Therefore, knowing I hate change has caused me to confront it head-on. I have had to develop, to embrace the change, enjoy the change in routine, find fulfilment in different ways. Is it working? In a word: No! However, like every challenge that life throws you, you have to find the positives. As the saying goes, 'If Life gives you Lemons, make Lemonade' or as Dolly Parton (ask your Parents and Carers) once said, 'You can't have a rainbow without the rain.'

With that in mind, like many, I have tried to meet the challenge. How? Well, there have been positives: I have met and helped new people through the GoodSamApp, I have gone back to running, I have tidied, organised and recycled, I have learned to appreciate the company of others. Another aspect has been to keep in touch with all the wonderful students at our College. It has been humbling to read your work, inspiring to talk to some of you, fulfilling to help others. And that's the thing isn't it? The really important thing in all of this: it's not about just coping and surviving, it's about growing and developing.

Our College is an incredible, vibrant, talented, multicultural community. We work hard, play hard, sing, dance, act, write, read, construct, experiment, debate, challenge, explain, analyse. Think about all the things that you are encouraged to do each week. Although our style of teaching and learning has changed, our College is still there whether we are at home or not and our College continues to develop. We all have a part to play. What's your part? That's not for me to say, but you DO have a part and more importantly, YOU get to choose it.

I came into teaching to help, support and educate young people and believe me, that has changed considerably in the 20 years I have been a teacher. Every day I try to play my part in a job I love. But the world is ever-changing. You're learning without a physical teacher in front of you for the first time...and you're coping! However, we all need to be a College community, we all need to support each other and each of us can help another. My sister sent me the poem below from one of her friends. As you read it, are you someone who would appreciate the support to keep going? Can you support someone else? Maybe in your household or your family? Maybe in one of your classes? Maybe your words can help our College? Take this opportunity to play YOUR part.

I offer you this poem as a show of support, for all of you reading this: students, parents, carers. You may hate change, you may be struggling, but know that as part of OUR Community we are all here to help you to Keep Going

"Keep going. Keep going. Keep going."

The world is so big,
and we're all so small.
Sometimes it feels like
we can't do anything at all.

But the world can be better
(in spite of its flaws).
The world can be better,
and you'll be the cause.
Even though the waves
are bigger than our boats...
the wind keeps us sailing;
its love gives us hope.
Some days it's dark,
but we'll keep on rowing,
because people like you whisper,
"Keep going, keep going, keep going"

Mr Matyla

Don't forget: you, too, can write for this blog. To do so, please contact Mr Matyla on:
AMatyla@stjosephscollege.net .