

# STUDENT BRIEFING

## Week commencing 11 May 2020

### REFLECTION

*“As water reflects face back to face, so one human heart reflects another.”*  
(Proverbs 27:19)

### Important Dates

#### 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.

### Personal Protective Equipment

We have created a fundraising page to pay for the PPE that Design and Technology are making. This is a College initiative to try to do our best for the key workers in the NHS. The link to the fundraising page is below.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/ppe-equipment-for-nhs>

### Support for people who have suffered loss

During lockdown, Wiltshire Treehouse is still able to offer bereavement support to children and young people across Swindon and Wiltshire. Please see the leaflet attached to this briefing.

### GCSEPOD

There are some interesting links to webinars for parents/carers who are interested in knowing how GCSEPod works and how to support your child across Year 7-11 in using this excellent learning platform.

Webinar list:

Parent webinar - Introduction to GCSEPod

May 13th 17:00:00

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_UlwWCH1NR6mA-pv\\_HyZgSq](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UlwWCH1NR6mA-pv_HyZgSq)

May 15th 12:30:00

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_D8c9SAfqQHyW2hBHxpMV0A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D8c9SAfqQHyW2hBHxpMV0A)

## Year 10 Fantastic Futures

A reminder to those students who are part of this programme. Look at your e-mails so you can participate in the activities that are being offered especially to you. You should also receive a weekly newsletter with lots of information that will be most useful to you. If you have not received your e-mail, please contact Mrs Sanders, who will try to ensure you receive everything you need.

## Careers Notices

1. Careers in construction and property – Some of you have already considered pursuing careers in this area. Go to the Careers section on Moodle for links to information about this: Moodle – Student Resources - Careers – Career Resources – Topic 10 (scroll down to the bottom of the page). Click on the link for information. If you complete any of the worksheets, keep them and show to your form tutors when you return to school.
2. Notices from New College:
  - a. **Virtual Open Evening , Thursday 21 May 2020, from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. –** New College is running two virtual open events during the remainder of this academic year. These will contain video content on courses and aspects of student life, FAQ and a live chat facility. Year 11s can register to attend the event now at [www.newcollege.ac.uk](http://www.newcollege.ac.uk) .
  - b. **Launch of “Kick Start to College” programme** – This is a dedicated website containing preparation materials for when you become students on ‘A’ Level/Level 3 courses, as well as GCSEs and Level 2 vocational courses. This is open to all applicants for this year and any year 11 students. You can access this at [www.newcollege.ac.uk](http://www.newcollege.ac.uk) . New College will continue to add to these activities.
  - c. **Replacement for June enrolment activities** – New College have cancelled the two Welcome Days scheduled for the end of June. The College will contact year 11 applicants in June to confirm their intentions and course choices. If you need further careers information and guidance, they will also give this to you.

## Year 11 students

1. Plymouth University is running a series of video talks about going to university, deciding what career you wish to pursue and what it is like to be a student. This will be incredibly useful for anyone thinking of going to university, even if you are unsure that this is something you want to do. Use the time that you have now to do some investigation. You can register for these talks on the university’s Outreach page: <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/study/outreach> . You may also wish to check out the outreach pages at other universities to see what they say. Enjoy yourselves!
2. Leavers’ hoodies are available to order from ‘Leavers Hoodies.com’ at the following link: <https://www.leavershoodies.com/shop/stjosephscatholiccollege-2020>. The online shop will close on Monday, 1 June 2020. Once the hoodies are produced, they will be delivered to home addresses.

**The next briefing will be Friday, 15 May 2020.**

## Life in Lockdown

Explore this quotation from *Forrest Gump*: “Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get.”



Your parents will know this quotation, even if you don't. Ask them about it. And, bear with me as I work through this simile with you.

Like you, I am at home during lockdown. I have never been a person for staying at home and enjoying gentle activities such as sewing, arts, crafts, or even writing for pleasure. Everyone tells me that I should make room for these experiences and I think it has been well documented in my assemblies that Mr Rutter has attempted for many years to encourage me to do Art (it is not one of my talents and I am afraid of looking stupid when I do it). Recently, I was gently assisted in this by 7S, who persuaded me to participate in their lino-cutting lesson. They were kind and inspired me to take a risk and try new things. They showed me how to be safe when doing artwork. I enjoyed myself. Now, **that** was a revelation!

So, now that we are in our seventh week of lockdown, I've started to realise that there are things I quite like doing (I can't bring myself to say “enjoy” just yet) that I thought would be impossible. I don't go shopping, but I like unpacking the bags when they are brought home. That could be because I am excited if I see any of the Three Cs: chocolate, crisps or cake. Like a comet, they are rare sightings at my house. I remember fondly the days when one of our students, as part of Young Enterprise, used to make the most divine brownies to sell at parents' evenings. I wish she was still with us. She has gone on to be very successful in her 'A' levels. I miss her and her little chocolatey squares of happiness.

You are now wondering: what has all this got to do with boxes of chocolates, other than brownies being made of chocolate? I suppose it is that lockdown is like a box of chocolates. Chocolates have lots of different centres; some of them you like (praline centres), others you hate (anything with coconut). To be honest, there are no metaphorical coconut chocolates in lockdown. However, I have discovered something that I have forgotten I enjoyed: writing for pleasure, writing to you. Writing is a praline pleasure. Without lockdown, I would not have realised this.

What we would prefer to hear about is what **you** have enjoyed doing in the past seven weeks.

I would like to finish with a photograph from Georgia Wright, who baked these cookies as part of her French work (I have been told that they are wonderful). Congratulations on this achievement. All your teachers are so impressed with this.

Thank you to Georgia Wright (Year 9) for sending in a picture of her wonderful biscuits.

Mrs Sanders



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