

# STUDENT BRIEFING

## Week commencing 15 June 2020

### RESPECT and SOLIDARITY

*“Continue to love one another like brothers and sisters, and remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:1-2)*

World Refugee Day 20th June 2020

### 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.

#### Message from Mr Hughes

Our world can seem very bleak at times with the ongoing concern of the pandemic and the acts of senseless racism and violence we see on our screens. As a community we can draw inspiration from the words of Pope Francis sent via twitter on the feast of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit: you are harmony; make us builders of unity. You always give yourself; grant us the courage to go out of ourselves, to love and help each other, in order to become one family. Amen. #Pentecost <https://twitter.com/Pontifex>

#### Year 8 students language choice

All Year 8 students will have received a letter home explaining their language choice for study in Year 9. Please can you complete and return the reply slip indicating your preference, by email, to Mrs Carbone before Friday 3 July 2020. If we have not received a response by this date, we will allocate you a language that we feel you are making most progress in.

#### Transition to GCSE

Year 9 Students – GCSE Pod offer an excellent playlist and activity booklet to support your preparation for GCSE as you move into Year 10 from September. Please click on the subject and click on ‘Getting Ready for KS4 (GCSE)’. You will then see an activity booklet with a series of support pods to help prepare you for Year 10. There are some example booklets attached for Maths and English.

#### Transition to A Level

Year 11 Students - GCSE Pod offer an excellent playlist and activity booklet to support students moving on to studying A levels in Year 12 from September. Please click on the subject and click on ‘Getting Ready for KS5 (A Level)’. You will then see an activity booklet with series of support pods to help prepare you for Year 12. See the examples attached.

#### Parent Webinar GCSEPod

<https://www.gcsepod.com/news-gcse-learning-revision/podup-presents-webinars/>

GCSE Pod is an online learning platform available to all students year 7 to year 11. They are continuing to offer webinars to parents and the next dates are:

- Monday 15 June – 12.00 noon
- Tuesday 23 June – 5.30 p.m.

The webinars are extremely popular and limited to 500 guests so please do sign up early to secure a place. If you are not free on those dates, there is a pre-recorded webinar below:

Sample webinar

[https://zoom.us/rec/play/7pQudryhqTg3H4LBtQSDC\\_d5W466f\\_s2yRI\\_KcOmUvkV3gFOwevZuRBNUQFj0I6mjk21xtbg\\_bWsA0?continueMode=true&xzm\\_rtaid=a-1Y8saJRpOXH7tQ-9x6zq.1591876571249.396a930f3b8967909d946c8f89972741&xzm\\_rhtaid=414](https://zoom.us/rec/play/7pQudryhqTg3H4LBtQSDC_d5W466f_s2yRI_KcOmUvkV3gFOwevZuRBNUQFj0I6mjk21xtbg_bWsA0?continueMode=true&xzm_rtaid=a-1Y8saJRpOXH7tQ-9x6zq.1591876571249.396a930f3b8967909d946c8f89972741&xzm_rhtaid=414)

Length – 1 hour (the last 20 minutes will be mainly answering questions so can be skipped).

In this webinar, they will look at how to support your child's learning using GCSEPod.

- How to access the Pods
- Pod books and how to quiz your child
- What to expect if your child is given homework on GCSEPod
- Check & Challenge and self-assessment
- Hints and tips on home learning

You will have a chance to ask questions during the webinar.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs Ash on [Tash@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:Tash@stjosephscollege.net)

### **Seven ways to help your home student to maintain a routine**

Please see the attached document giving some advice around home learning routines. Obviously, we appreciate that some students are using their phones to access home learning, but overall there are some useful tips and ideas.

### **Careers Notices**

1. A few weeks ago, we publicised **Explore**, a platform out of the University of Oxford that allows young people to explore and debate some of the great philosophical questions of our day. Explore has updated its site with new Big Questions. Take a tour of the newest Big Question at: [https://explore.org/question-detail/does\\_gender\\_matter](https://explore.org/question-detail/does_gender_matter).
2. A message for aspiring journalists and television presenters. The BBC wants to hear from you about Lockdown Life. They are looking for young people to share their stories about life in lockdown with a wider audience. If you have any aspirations for a careers in journalism, go to this BBC website link for more details: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/52134769>.
3. **Young Enterprise Young Money Challenge – Food Waste**  
Mr Mitchell has received some exceptional entries for this competition in the College from some of our Year 8 students. He will be contacting six lucky students shortly to talk to them about entering the national competition. Well done, Year 8!

**The next briefing will be Friday, 19 June 2020.**

**Please look on the next page for this week's blog entry.**

## **Life in Lockdown**

Since Life in Lockdown (the Blog!) began, you have had various people talk to you about how you can live life differently and productively at this time. We all talk about doing it. Some of us achieve it. Some of us imagine it. Many of us do very little more!



In an earlier blog, I talked about how I watched a Pilates class, but didn't actually do it. This week, however, I have done something different. Yes, I can't believe it

either. More importantly, those who know me definitely don't believe it. I promise you it is true!

Let me explain.

This week, our year 10 students have completed a "virtual" work experience. As your parents may recall, work experience was something that you did so you could understand what it is like to work for an employer, perhaps try out a future career, perhaps even find out what it is you don't want to do in the future! "Virtual" work experience is the only option we can offer during lockdown.

So, how do you "virtually" work. A number of national employers have offered online work experience. Learn Live offered the chance for students to watch videos and communicate with different employers through a Chat facility. Barclays Freeformers offered students the chance to be part of a digital technology company. There was the experience with the Brighton and Sussex Medical School, White and Case LLP (law) and Haliday Fraser Munro (architects).

Now, here's the bit where I've done something different. It has been my privilege this week to be part of the virtual work experience that has been groundbreaking for us at St. Joseph's. A few weeks ago, Alison Watson from Class of Your Own and the Scape Group contacted me to see if we would be interested in trying out a different type of work experience. The architecture, engineering and construction industries are very interested in trying to work with students differently. They were willing to put on a work experience full-week placement, where students were given a task of designing the Esteem Pavilion in Dubai. Just like you would on a normal placement, the students would be given daily access to professionals who could help them with their project.

This took a lot of effort to set up: Alison got together over 30 professionals from Turner and Townsend, Mace Group and Heriot-Watt University (Edinburgh); I had to get everyone ready for daily online meetings. I recruited six year 10 students – and on Monday, we set off!

There was a rigorous daily routine. We would begin with a 9.30 a.m. meeting where we would discuss the design brief and the tasks for the day. We would meet with the professionals at 12.30 p.m. for an hour, so we could discuss aspects of construction and design. We would then meet again at 4.00 p.m. to review the day's events. This replicated the rhythms of a working day in industry.

Oh, was it a challenge! As you all know from various assemblies I've given over the years, I am not a very practical person. Listening to our students talking intelligently about how to use space, how to ventilate the building, how to make it useful and sustainable for a multi-client base, I learned so much. For example, I didn't know that buildings these days are only expected to be used for around 30 years before being demolished. I was enlightened.

What impressed the St. Joseph's group most, though, was the time and effort all the professionals took with us. We will be forever indebted to all those who spent their

days sending us messages with ideas and resources outside of the meeting. All were outstanding.

I can't wait to see the 3-D models tomorrow!

So, it has been an unusual week for me. I've delved into areas that I knew nothing about. I genuinely feel as though I am enriched for knowing this information. For once in my life, I have done something different.

Most of all, though, I am so proud of all our Year 10 students this week. They have taken a risk and tried something different. I hope that they have all enjoyed the experience and have a more clear idea of what they want to do – or not to do! – in their futures. Thank you for all your hard work.

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) .**