

# STUDENT BRIEFING

## Week commencing 20 April 2020

### CELEBRATION/EASTER

*“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of the past. Behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? It is the start of a new year, a clean slate.” (Isaiah 43:18-19)*

### Important Dates

**20 April 2020** - Term 5 begins

#### 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.

### A “Virtual” Welcome Back!

We hope you all had the best Easter break that you possibly could. We “return” to school in a way that we never have before. Most of us may be working remotely from home, but it is still the beginning of a new term. We are going about our schoolwork differently: walking from one part of the house to the other to do our lessons, not wearing uniform (an advantage!) and accompanied in some cases by pets (a definite advantage!); but, we are all still part of St. Joseph’s, and everyone is still striving to be the best that they can be. We saw this in what you achieved before Easter.

We want to play our part in making sure that all you students are kept informed. We will continue to send out this briefing every Friday. It will not have all the details that it would do normally when you used to see it on Monday mornings, but we will continue to tell you those extra items of interest that you need to know. We usually send this briefing to your parents every week and we will continue to do this. Every week, ask your parents if they have received the latest briefing. Be informed. Be involved. Continue to be a part of the St. Joseph’s community.

### Remote Working Arrangements

Thank you to the students and parents who have given us feedback about the work you did before the Easter holiday! This was really useful, and we have changed some of the things we will now do in the next few weeks.

In particular, the two points that came up in all the feedback were that too much work is being set for the time available, and that there are too many emails to keep track of. We have let all teachers know both of these things, so you should now get a more suitable amount of work with clearer instructions, and you should also get a single email for each subject on Monday which tells you the work for the whole week. After that, you can communicate with your teachers by email to ask questions etc. but all the instructions you need should arrive each Monday. Please bear in mind that this might not happen in the first week back, but should be fully in place from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

A summary of your working week will be:

Monday – Receive emails from all your teachers so that you know what to do for each subject you take. Start work on the subjects that are on your timetable for that day.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – Work through the tasks set by your teachers, contacting them via the school email system if you need to ask for help.

Friday – Ensure that you finish as much of the work as you can, and check that (as far as possible) you have provided each of your teachers what they have asked for.

Please be aware that we really do understand that you are all in different circumstances, and that we all have worries and concerns about the situation we are in. As long as you do your best to work well in your own family circumstances then you are doing the right thing – if you cannot get the work done for any reason then please just let your teacher know.

Finally, if you have any more general feedback, please send it to [ksanders@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:ksanders@stjosephscollege.net) or [jgiles@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:jgiles@stjosephscollege.net)

### **Year 11 – Post-16 College Notices**

All the post-16 colleges and providers should have been in contact with you individually about arrangements for interviews and college places for September 2020. (Please see the attached notice from New College to see the type of arrangements that are being made.) Colleges have contacted St. Joseph's to say that anyone who has not had an interview yet will be contacted to arrange for one to be done remotely.

Before lockdown, your tutors were in the middle of asking you for your details of your college offers and entry requirements. We still have to "chase up" details for some you, so please do not be alarmed if we contact you. This is so we can make sure that everyone has their placements arranged for next year. If you have any concerns about next year, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Sanders on [ksanders@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:ksanders@stjosephscollege.net) in the first instance.

### **Wiltshire Police Cadets - for all students aged 13 – 16**

Wiltshire Police Cadets have sent through recruitment information for young people and their parents or carers (attached to this document). The application window is open from 13 April 2020 to 15 May 2020.

This is an excellent opportunity to gain skills that will be useful for post-GCSE courses and future employment/college applications, no matter what your future career intentions are. However, if you are interested in a future career with the police, this is worth investigating. Young people who have joined such schemes in the past have said that it is one of the best things they have done. Have a look and pay careful attention to the entry criteria. If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs Sanders on [ksanders@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:ksanders@stjosephscollege.net)

**The next briefing will be Friday, 24 April 2020.**