

STUDENT BRIEFING

Week commencing 20 July 2020

THANKSGIVING

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the clouds. ([Psalm 57.9-10](#))

Important Dates

This Week

- 20 July 2020** - See the note below about Year 10 in-school sessions
- 21 July 2020** - See the note below about Year 10 in-school sessions
- 22 July 2020** - See the note below about Year 10 in-school sessions

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.

Year 10 in-school sessions from Monday 20 July 2020 to Wednesday 23 July 2020

Parents and carers of year 10 students should have received a letter from Mr Giles about the revised times for attendance for the three days next week (if you did not know about this, ask your parents and carers for the details). So all students have the chance to come into school, we are offering a 2 hour session to each tutor group as shown in the table below:

Date	Time	Tutor Groups
Monday 20 July 2020	9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.	10A and 10B
Monday 20 July 2020	1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	10C and 10D
Tuesday 21 July 2020	9.00 p.m. – 11.00 a.m.	10E and 10F
Tuesday 21 July 2020	1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	10G and 10H
Wednesday 23 July 2020	9.00 a.m. – 11.00 p.m.	10I and 10J

As you have done for the past few weeks, you come to school in the normal way and follow the same guidelines for hygiene and social distancing. We look forward to seeing you again for these final three days.

Careers Notes

1. **Message for year 11 students** – The Careers and Enterprise Company, in partnership with Learn Live, has produced a resource to help you prepare for results day. On Monday 3 August 2020, they will launch an event called My Choices (see the PowerPoint attachment). There will be a series of video seminars. Have a look and see if this can offer anything for you.
2. **Another message for year 11 students** – Young Enterprise is going to hold a Life After Results Day event online. This is worth having a look at and booking yourself in for in preparation for Friday 21 August 2020. You can find out more by clicking [here](#).

3. **A third message for year 11 students** – Cirencester College have asked me to remind you that you can still get help on guidance on their website by looking at the Our Choices videos. There is also the possibility of sample lessons in some subjects. Particular favourites are Sports, Digital Media and Animal Care. Also, don't forget to complete your Summer work on their Applicant Portal.
4. **A message for year 11 students who have applied to Swindon College** – There is a Summer Competition, which we urge you all to enter. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. There are prizes, the main one being a laptop. Click [here](#) to find out more. Please, please enter.
5. **A message for year 11 students interested in studying medicine** – UCL (University College London) continues with its medical lecture series and invites you to attend a lecture with Professor David Lomas: 'Treatment for COVID-19 . . . getting out of the pandemic' on 24 July 2020 at 11.15 a.m. This would be excellent for anyone with an interest in medicine and would make an excellent addition to your CV. To book onto this, copy this link into your browser: bit.ly/uclevent24july
6. **Message from Mrs Cooke for anyone interested in creative industries** – The Royal Holloway University London is holding an online webinar called 'Diversity in Creative Industries' on Wednesday 22 July 2020 from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. There will be a round table of short five minute presentations from the panellists, followed by a question and answer session. After this, there will be "breakout" session for you to discuss your ideas. A particular focus will be on Black Lives Matter, but rest assured that other types of diversity will be explored. Click [here](#) to find out more and decide if this is something you want to attend. This will also take you to a page where you can find out more about what it would be like to be a student at Royal Holloway. A lot of our former students have attended this university and have really enjoyed and benefitted from their time there. It is also one of the most beautiful university campuses that I have ever seen. Take a look!
7. **Words for Work Virtual Internship Programme** – This is a truly exciting opportunity for anyone aged 15 – 19. That will be most of you in year 10 and everyone in year 11. This is where you will get a chance to take part in a virtual internship programme with one of the following: Lancôme, Great Portland Estates and PwC. In this, you will:
 - a. Complete a large scale creative project
 - b. Take part in employability training
 - c. Benefit from one-to-one mentoring
 - d. Attend master classes led by industry leading experts
 - e. Receive your own laptop.

The year 10 students who took part in the Scape Group project back in June had a very similar experience and it ranked up there as one of the best work experiences I have ever seen. I urge you to find out more about this by clicking [here](#). This will be fantastic for your CVs. Entries close on 20 July 2020.

Please look on the next page for a blog entry.

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