

# STUDENT BRIEFING

## Week commencing 22 June 2020

### KINDNESS

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” (Doctor Martin Luther King)

### 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.

### Year 8 students language choice

We have emailed a letter to all year 8 students and their parents/carers 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<sup>rd</sup> July. 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.

### Artwork during lockdown

Students have been working on some incredible pieces of artwork during lockdown. We have a digital Instagram gallery where you can check them out and show your appreciation with 'likes' if you so choose! Check it out:

[https://www.instagram.com/st\\_josephs\\_art\\_department/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/st_josephs_art_department/?hl=en)

### Music Courses this Summer

Swindon Music Co-Operative are offering the following courses during the Summer for a limited number of students across Swindon Schools. If you would like to apply or find out more about the course ask your parents to contact the Swindon Music Co-Operative. All contact details, price, etc. can be found on the poster. If you are interested, do not sign up for this without discussing with your parents and carers

### Student Leadership at St. Joseph's

This is the time of year when we start to prepare for September and all our activities next year, and our student leadership body is no exception to this. In the coming weeks, Mr Matyla will be asking for students who are interested in being part of leading the school's student body and having more influence over what happens in your school. This is an exciting opportunity for anyone and is open to anyone. You will hear more about this, so look out for details in future editions of the student briefing. In the meantime, if you have any questions about student leadership, please contact Mr Matyla on

[AMatyla@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:AMatyla@stjosephscollege.net) .

## Careers Notes

- 1. For Year 11** – Persimmons Builders have bricklayer apprenticeship opportunities for any candidate who is a school leaver or above. You must have achieved a minimum of GCSEs in Mathematics and English grade 3 or above to be accepted onto the programme. This is operated through Swindon College. If you are interested in this, complete one of Swindon College's online application forms to register your interest. This application form will then generate a college interview (via telephone), where you will also be given more information about the apprenticeship, along with hints and tips on how to approach securing the job. If you need any further help, please do contact Mrs Sanders on [ksanders@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:ksanders@stjosephscollege.net).
- 2. For all year groups** – Allied Health have created a web page that gives information about careers in health care. It is an interesting site, as they acknowledge that often people interested in careers associated with medicine think it is all about being doctors or about nursing. This gives you an insight to a whole range of careers, such as podiatry, radiography, speech and language therapy or music therapists. There are different sections for each year group, so do have a look to see what is out there for you, even if you have not even thought of having a career in this area. You don't know if it is for you until you have a look. The link is: <https://iseethedifference.co.uk/join-us-for-our-free-webinar-series-careers-in-allied-health/>.
- 3. Study Boost from Loughborough University** – Study Boost is a free service that is aimed at helping those studying for GCSEs. Have a look at this site. It says that if you have a question about some of the more challenging topics you are working on, you can ask question and their study mentors will give you answers. All you have to do is fill in an online form and the mentors will record a presentation detailing how to solve a similar problem, not the one you have been given for work. The main subjects they deal with are Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, English Language and English Literature. They also have a selection of presentations for further subject advice and guidance, which will be of interest to you. You can find this on: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/school-college-liaison/study-boost/>.
- 4. Loughborough University's Inspiring Minds Online Programme** – This is a range of events or programmes that aims to help people your age find out what it is like to study at university. To sign up for one of the topics below, you will have to submit the following personal information: name, date of birth, nationality, year group, school name, e-mail, subject area of interest, how you heard about Inspiring Minds Online (click on "other" and type that you heard through your school). Ask your parents before you give out your personal information, as you will be giving out their address.
  - [Inspiring Minds Online: Social Sciences](#) (17 - 21 June 2020) - A virtual taster event for Year 11 and post-16 students to learn more about the options at university.
  - [Inspiring Minds Online: Humanities](#) (17 - 21 June 2020) - A virtual taster event for Year 11 and post-16 students to learn more about the options at university.
  - [Inspiring Minds Online: STEM](#) (1 - 5 July 2020) - A virtual taster event for Year 11 and post-16 students to learn more about studying a STEM subject at university.
  - [Girls into STEM Online](#) (6 - 12 July 2020) - A chance for students in Year 9, 10 or 11 to explore exciting STEM courses, careers and get an insight into university life.
  - [HE at Home](#) - HE at Home is a programme of interactive activities delivered from the comfort of your own home. These sessions are designed to inspire and inform students about different subject areas available at Higher Education (HE) level
  - [Why It Matters?](#) - The Why It Matters resources are designed to help students to understand where studying different subjects (both post 16 and post 18) might lead.

**Young Work Wiltshire Apprenticeship Vacancies** – If you are interested in apprenticeships, this page (link at the end of this) gives updated lists of vacancies. This is a good site, as it also gives advice about how to apply for and secure your apprenticeship. Go to: <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/young/earn/> . The latest link can also be found at: <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/20200611-Vacancy-Bulletin.pdf> .

**STEM Clubs Week 22 June 2020 – 26 June 2020** - This is for all students. This is a free online event is packed full of fun interactive challenges, career talks from STEM Ambassadors and webinars from STEM professionals. You can download the timetable by clicking on the link below. When you look at the timetable of events, you will see links for you to click on to register for different events. When you register, you will be asked to give some personal information. Do discuss with your parents before filling in the online form. You will be asked for: name, email address, age range, gender, location (England), and a series of multiple choice questions on your future plans. Find something fun to do this week: [https://www.stem.org.uk/sites/default/files/STEM%20Clubs%20Week%202020%20timetable%20v2.pdf?utm\\_source=Adestra&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=&utm\\_content=STEM%20Clubs%20Week%20timetable&utm\\_campaign=STEM%20Clubs%20takeover%2018%2F06](https://www.stem.org.uk/sites/default/files/STEM%20Clubs%20Week%202020%20timetable%20v2.pdf?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_term=&utm_content=STEM%20Clubs%20Week%20timetable&utm_campaign=STEM%20Clubs%20takeover%2018%2F06) .

**The next briefing will be Friday, 26 June 2020.**

**Please look on the next page for a blog entry from 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) .**

# Life in Lockdown

## The bubble emerges



For weeks we have been imprisoned at home. We have remained cocooned, secure in the knowledge that we are doing our bit for the health and safety of our families, our community, our country.

But now, the world is all about **bubbles**.

Now, there's a word I never thought I would use outside of discussion about a good quality, scented body cleanser presented in an attractive glass bottle that is an adornment to any bathroom, as well as being functional and well worth its vastly inflated cost.

Ladies and gentlemen, whilst our life has been all about lockdown in recent months, we are now moving into the age of the **bubble**. This concept is now of great importance in the community of St. Joseph's, as our year 10s started their return to school this week. I can only best describe the atmosphere as one of excited anticipation.

Year 10 are coming into school, one tutor group at a time, for stretches of two hours at a time. During the two hours each tutor group is in school, they have sessions in Religious Education, Mathematics, English and Science. It all begins by a social-distancing registration in the Main Hall. People wave and smile excitedly at one another across the room, chattering about their experiences at home, what working alone is like, and how strange it is to see people outside of the family home.

Then the **bubbles** come into operation. Students are split into bubbles, each one of which is allocated its own classroom that will be its home for the duration of this next phrase of lockdown. As you enter the **bubble**, which is beautifully cleansed prior to use, you gel-up your hands and walk to your own desk. You stay at that desk and in that **bubble** for your whole session. Teachers visit you and the time flies swiftly as your teachers go through the concepts you are learning in your subjects at the moment.

At the end of the two hours, you move within your **bubble** to the school exit and float away down the road. Following the research of James Bird at the Massachusetts Institute of Science and Technology, a bubble does not just burst. It actually divides into smaller bubbles on its edge that go their own way (for those who are interested, you can check out this research). That's you!

But, the bubbles tell the story of a host of individuals. First of all, there are your teachers. They are excited to be back at the front of the classroom (all socially distanced, of course), answering your questions face-to-face (as they have been doing via e-mail all this time), hearing about your experiences over the past few weeks. Working with you is the reason that they decided to enter profession in the first place! The students at the end of their sessions are all pleased that they've had time with their teachers and got answers to their questions. They are also very tired! You do work hard inside the **bubble**.

St. Joseph's has been well-practised in the art of the **bubble**, as we have worked hard with students whose parents are key workers during this time. Your health and safety is at the heart of everything we do in the first instance. However, we have been delighted to welcome more of you back.

This is the age of **bubble**. That is our life in lockdown.