

# STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 19 April 2021

## 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

2 – 16 April 2021	-	Easter holidays
24 – 25 April 2021	-	Year 10 - Bronze Duke of Edinburgh – qualifying expedition
23 – 25 April 2021	-	Year 11 Silver Duke of Edinburgh

#### Forward Notice

As we learn of further useful/important dates for you, we will put them here for you.

### Notices for All Students

#### Easter Newsletter 2021

Please use the following link to gain access to the St. Joseph’s Catholic College, Easter Newsletter: <https://bit.ly/3mf7oHt>

#### Student Covid testing

The College would like to thank all of its students who took part in the onsite Covid testing when the College reopened to all students on Monday, 8 March 2021. We tested 83% of our student population three times over a period of two weeks, over 3000 tests. The students can be proud of the way that they conducted themselves through what may have been quite a daunting process to some.

We were fortunate in only having one positive result throughout the testing process and the participation in the whole process helped the whole St Joseph’s community to feel safe whilst returning to school after lockdown.

All students were issued with home testing kits in the final week of the testing on site and are encouraged to continue with the regular testing at home, twice a week, including during the Easter break. The more students that take part in this home testing the safer it will be for all in the St Joseph’s community. Additional kits have been available for students to pick up on Wednesday, 31 March, and Thursday, 1 April. Please be aware that more kits can be collected after the Easter break.

Any results at home need to be reported to the College through [www.testregister.co.uk](http://www.testregister.co.uk) as well as directly to the NHS track and Trace website. Please see the attached instructions.

#### Ramadan 2021 12 April 2021 – ends the evening of 12 May 2021

The chapel cannot be used due to Covid restrictions, but students may use the bubble seating in the Main Hall if they are fasting and want somewhere quiet to sit.

### **Easter Competition from Wiltshire Treehouse**

Please see attached a copy of the 'Design a Worry Monster' Easter competition flier from Wiltshire Treehouse. Entries need to be emailed by 9 April 2021. Please discuss entering this competition with a parent/carer before taking part.

### **Years 7 - 9 - The Great Book Debate 2021**

Next term the Library will be running a Great Book Debate for years 7 – 9. Over the course of two months, participating students will have the chance to read the five books chosen for this year. Everyone taking part will receive a reading passport to record their progress and have the opportunity to win prizes along the way. At the end, everyone will vote on which book was the best! Year 7 and Year 9 will also have the opportunity to attend fortnightly book discussions. Please express your interest by emailing Miss Henry/Mrs Kennedy or by putting a note in the returns box. More details on the books and how it will work can be found on Moodle under Student Resources>ILC

### **Year 10 and Year 11 – Duke of Edinburgh Expedition – Kit collection**

The following kit will be issued for your expedition after Easter. This is to give you a realistic experience of an expedition under normal circumstances.

- Rucksack
- Rucksack liner
- Sleeping bag
- Roll mat
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers

If you have your own waterproof trousers and jacket, please bring them in on that day, so we can check they are appropriate for your expedition. Letters have gone home with details and requirement of the expedition, so please make sure you read this carefully. In addition to this, check your emails regularly for any updates.

You will be collecting kit on the following days:

- **YEAR 10 - Wednesday 21 April 2021 at 3.00pm.** Please go to G01, G02 and G03. You will be finished at the earliest 3.45pm.
- **YEAR 11 - Friday 23 April 2021** during your camp craft activity after school.

### **PE notices for after Easter**

#### **Year 7 after-college sports (Starting on Tuesday, 20 April, 2:50pm meet outside the MUGA)**

An opportunity to come and play sport after school for fitness, fun and a mental wellbeing boost. We will offer a range of activities, based on the weather (!) and numbers attending. If you wish to take part in this you will need to wear your correct St. Joseph's PE kit on a Tuesday. We will record who is doing this for our registers. The session will finish at 4.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### **Year 11 after-college sports (Starting on Thursday, 22 April, 3:30pm meet outside the MUGA)**

We would like to offer students the opportunity to play sport after college on a Thursday, offering a range of activities based on the weather (!) and numbers attending. This will be a great opportunity to supplement the physical activity you are already doing and take time to participate in an activity away from potential stresses of your academic work. If you wish to take part in this you will need to wear your correct St. Joseph's PE kit on a Thursday. We will record who is doing this for our registers.

### **Sports extra-curricular for other year groups**

As you know we currently run a staggered end of the day. Due to this we are unable to offer extra-curricular sport to years 8, 9 or 10 as you finish much earlier than the PE staff and this means that there are other PE lessons going on at the same time. We will prioritise these year groups once Year 11 students have left the college.

### **Extra sports and well-being info hub**

If you wish to complete sports activities and/or well-being activities outside of school time, please follow the link below to our PE sports and well-being hub on Moodle. The page can be found at <https://moodle.stjosephscollege.net/course/index.php?categoryid=294>

## **Notices for All Parents**

### **Easter Competition from Wiltshire Treehouse**

Please see the Easter Competition notice in the student section above.

### **Notice of Road Closure**

Please see the attached information from mi-space, providing details of road works around Greenbridge Road and Marlowe Avenue between April and November 2021. Mi-space says that road closures and diversions will be necessary at times, but these works have been carefully planned around school holidays. If you require any further details, please go to the news section at [www.oakfieldswindon.co.uk](http://www.oakfieldswindon.co.uk).

### **Careers Education – a request for parents and carers**

As part of our usual review of what we provide, we would be grateful if you could take the time to complete a short questionnaire, which you can access on this link:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DfKT-C5EoUORpFZwDqBp3W05SQ7-AV1Bmjg\\_PMzDN8tUN0wxTTIOUkpDSFhLUIVYQzBYOVI2Uk9YNy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DfKT-C5EoUORpFZwDqBp3W05SQ7-AV1Bmjg_PMzDN8tUN0wxTTIOUkpDSFhLUIVYQzBYOVI2Uk9YNy4u)

We promise that this really is a short questionnaire! We thank you for your help with this.

### **Parent Governors**

St. Joseph's is looking for parent governors. This is an important role developing the strategy for the College and supporting the leadership. We are particularly looking for people with finance, human resources, educational or religious education experience. If this is a voluntary role you are interested in please contact Michelle Ferris, clerk to the governing body in the first instance – [mferris@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:mferris@stjosephscollege.net) or 01793 714204.

## **Chaplaincy news**

### **Easter**

Please find attached an Easter Blessing. Wishing all our St Joseph's Family a very Happy, Blessed and Peaceful Easter, The Chaplaincy Team.

Please also read through the attached PowerPoint – created remotely by some members of the Student Chaplaincy Team. Thank you to those who contributed. Mrs Mobey.

### **Lent and Easter Reflection**

The reflection this week has been written by one of our talented students. It is a beautiful reflection of the hope and joy that this season brings. God bless you all this Easter and may the light of Christ shine upon you all.

### **AN EASTER POEM**

"Pancakes are shared out on this very day;  
Using up ingredients, following on traditions way.

Palms burnt and ashes shared  
Coming once to perpetuate.

From ashes we're born to new life,  
And to ashes do we cease, to end our strife.

Through time to reflect  
Day and night.

Forty days come back  
And testing thoughts arise.

The temptations of this earth  
Are far beyond us.

And when hope seems lost  
There is a light.

Through praises with palms  
And coming in on a donkey.

Then both body and blood are shared  
Through bread and wine.

One meal is given from the Humble Lamb  
Bringing out tears of sorrows and utmost betrayals.

The times drawing near  
And in the very garden of fear, lights do shine.

Bringing forth silent words of prayer;  
To qualms arisen.  
Noise is made and disciples wake;  
And the Son of Man is taken in.

Trialled and tested, hurt and mocked,  
But holding on for our sake is He.

Led up to Golgotha's hill,  
He is soon to join God again.

Stripped of his pride;  
And garments gambled over.  
Nailed to the cross,  
Surrounded by two.

Taken upon our sins,  
He draws his last breath.

Saturday follows by, and battered bruised body,  
Is placed and sealed in prophesied stone, cold tomb.

Sunday arrives,  
And rumbling shakes the ground.

The guards have left;  
And the women arrive.

A sight to behold, the tomb holding nothing  
But linen unravelled.

And tears of joy spring from eyes.  
Saying all unsaid words.

For Christ our Lord has finally risen from the dead.  
Joined by renewed lives."

Anonymous – St. Joseph's Student  
God Bless you all this Easter

### **Collective Worship**

#### **Clifton Schools and Colleges Prayer Link – w/c 19 April 2021**

This week, please could we join together in prayer for all the students, staff and families of:

- All Hallows School, Somerset
- St Louis Catholic Primary School, Frome
- St Edmund's Primary, Calne
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Devizes

#### **The Prayer Box Project continues . . . .**

Please continue to drop prayers and special intentions anonymously in the prayer box.

The prayer box remains in the pastoral office, alternatively please send your intentions by email to [prayer@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:prayer@stjosephscollege.net), for us to discreetly send your requests to a member of Holy Rood prayer ministry team.

The prayer ministry team at Holy Rood meet to pray fortnightly for the students and staff at St. Joseph's and offer up all your prayers and intentions.

The Chaplaincy Team

### **Pastoral Notices**

#### **Peer on Peer Abuse**

At St. Joseph's Catholic College we have clear expectations that students and staff will respect each other and that all interactions will be polite and appropriate. As a community we should care for each other and treat our peers in the same way that we would like to be treated by those around us. The spectre of 'peer on peer abuse' has been greatly

discussed in the media during this week. Students who act inappropriately towards their peers and make others feel intimidated, unsafe or harassed are breaking the College's behaviour expectations. Inappropriate physical, verbal or cyber interactions will not be tolerated in College. Sexual harassment in any shape or form will be dealt with immediately.

It is vitally important that students who feel that they are being mistreated by anyone else in the College should tell an adult about their concerns as soon as possible. Any member of staff will listen to their worries and in all cases action will be taken to address that person's concerns. Parents who are worried about behaviour of other students towards their child should also contact the Pastoral Team immediately. We will ensure help and support is in place for those who are feeling targeted and sanctions are in place for the perpetrators of unacceptable behaviour.

The Safeguarding Team members in College are:

Mr Stoten – Designated Safeguarding Lead – [astoten@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:astoten@stjosephscollege.net)

Mrs Grace – Deputy Safeguarding Lead – [ngrace@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:ngrace@stjosephscollege.net)

Miss O'Connell – Deputy Safeguarding Lead – [coconnell@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:coconnell@stjosephscollege.net)

In addition, homophobic language is not acceptable, even in conversation. This causes offence and upset. Students making homophobic comments to another student will have a day in seclusion and the use of homophobic language in conversation will result in being sent to the withdrawal room. Homophobic language during social times will result in a C90 detention. We are an inclusive community and any actions causing upset to others will not be tolerated.

### **Uniform**

The end of the Easter Holidays will mark the start of the Summer Term and we would like all students to be back in full uniform on the 19 April 2021. As the gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions continues, the shops will be opening again and we hope that it will be possible for everyone to replace missing or small items of uniform, so we can start the term dressed appropriately and meeting the expectations of the College uniform policy. All students should have the branded tie and blazer, to be worn with white shirt, black trousers (not skin tight for girls) and black, leather school shoes. Additional layers that have been permitted during the winter months will no longer be allowed. Coats should not be worn inside the school building. Blazers should be worn at all times, unless a teacher gives the student permission to take it off. Coats must be the regulation dark colour, without logos. White and silver 'puffa-jackets' are not permitted. Hoodies should not be worn on the College site.

We will have a uniform check day, on Tuesday 20 April 2021, to identify any issues with uniform. It would be brilliant if any missing items of uniform could be replaced before this date, so our students can finish the academic year looking smart and ready to learn.

If there are any issues with getting replacement uniform items can parents/carers please put a note in the planner explaining what the issue is and when this will be resolved. Sanctions will be imposed if a student is not in the correct uniform without a note.

## **Careers Notes**

### **Skyborne Airline Academy Tour – opportunity for age 14+**

For anyone interested in a career as a pilot in the airline sector, please see the attached flyer for details about how to participate. On Wednesday 7 April 2021 (next week!), there is a virtual tour of the Skyborne Airline Academy, based at Gloucestershire Airport. Follow the instructions to register.

### **Speakers for Schools – more experience of work opportunities**

These opportunities are for either May half term (yes, they are taking bookings already!) or for after school hours. I have been delighted to be kept busy by e-mails from Speakers for Schools, asking for endorsements for St. Joseph's applicants to these types of opportunities. This is one of the good things to come out of the pandemic, as these virtual opportunities did not exist before. If you are interested, ask your parents so that they do not clash with any commitments you have as a family, and submit your applications. Participation in these opportunities will look great on your CVs. There are opportunities this week for years 10 and 11.

### **Virtual Work Experience with the national tourism board – VisitBritain/VisitEngland**

- Date: 2 – 4 June 2021 (10am – 3pm).
- Eligibility: 16 – 19 year interested in learning what opportunities working in tourism could provide.
- Application Deadline: 2 May 2021

### **National Grid - Thinking about a career in energy ?**

- Dates: 27 - 29 April 2021 (4pm – 5pm)
- Eligibility: 16 – 19 year interested in employability opportunities at the National Grid.
- Application Deadline: 8 April 2021

### **WGSN: The world's #1 fashion trend forecaster**

- Date: 24 May 2021(4pm – 6pm).
- Eligibility: 16 – 19 year olds interested in helping brands to stay relevant and secure their place in the future.
- Application Deadline: 26 April 2021

### **Hive Projects: Introduction to the Built Environment**

- Date: 3 June 2021
- Eligibility: Year 10 and 11 students keen to learn about design and engineering.
- Application Deadline: 30 April 2021

### **Victrex – How Can Plastics Improve the Environment?**

- Dates: 2 June 2021
- Eligibility: 16 – 19 year olds interested in a career in information technology.
- Application Deadline: 30 April 2021

### **Careers in Construction - Dragados**

- Dates: 1 June 2021(10am -12pm)
- Eligibility: 15 – 19 year old interested in apprenticeships and careers in construction, transport and infrastructure.
- Application Deadline: 1 May 2021

### **Message from Wiltshire College – years 10 and 11**

Wiltshire College are running a series of virtual open events after the Easter holidays:

- Wednesday 21 April 2021, 5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 28 April 2021, 5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 5 May 2021, 5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

You can register for this at <https://www.wiltshire.ac.uk/events/virtual-open-events-4> . You will be able to sign up for a range of talks, a Q+A session with a course lecturer, speak to an apprenticeship expert and speak to a careers adviser. There are also 360° virtual tours, which you can access by <https://www.wiltshire.ac.uk/the-college/360-virtual-tours> .

### **Message from New College**

1. **Information and Guidance Sessions in the Easter holiday** – These are for year 11 students who need more guidance about courses to take in the future. These take place on 7 April 2021 at 2.00 p.m. or on 15 April 2021 at 11.00 a.m. You can ask questions about the application process, ask for advice on courses, or anything about college life. Register for this on <https://www.newcollege.ac.uk/> .
2. **T Levels at New College** – These are the new Technical Levels that you can take instead of A Levels. They are qualifications designed to develop skilled workers for sectors of the UK economy. New College will offer T Levels in Digital Production, Design and Development, Education and Childcare, Health and Science. **Students in all year groups should take a look at these to find out more about them.** You can find out more on <https://www.newcollege.ac.uk/16-18/t-levels> .

### **Robinson College Cambridge – opportunities for year 11 students**

Robinson College at Cambridge has been in touch, as they particularly want to work with students in Swindon. If you are thinking of going to university when you are 18, I would definitely recommend that you investigate this. This is a genuinely exciting opportunity. Please see their advertisements below:

#### **Women in Science Festival**

Deadline for applications: **Monday 12 April**

For **Year 11** students (girls only)

More information and sign-up form [here](#)

Robinson College's annual Women in Science Festival will take place online for the first time this year, open to both Year 11 and Year 12 female students. Various sessions will take place live afterschool or as pre-recorded releases each day, with content including subject taster lectures across various scientific fields, information on the application and admissions process to the University, and an opportunity to hear about student life as science student. There is also a chance for students to develop their science communication skills by taking part in our science poster competition.

#### **Robinson Access Programme (RAP)**

Deadline for applications: **Monday 12 April**

For **Year 11** students

More information and sign-up form [here](#)

The Robinson Access Programme is designed to encourage and support high-achieving students to apply to selective universities, though we welcome applications from any student interested in learning more about university. RAP is

a free online programme that consists of monthly sessions held over the rest of Year 11 and into Year 12 (or equivalent). Sessions will introduce students to what university is, how it works, and what it's like to be a student, alongside content designed to develop independent study skills. RAP is open to all students who either live in or attend a state school in the UK, though students from our link areas of Swindon, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and the London Borough of Wandsworth will be prioritised.

**The next briefing will be Friday, 23 April 2021**