

STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 19 October 2020

ALL SAINTS and ALL SOULS

"If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." (Romans 14:8) (All Souls)

Important Dates

22 to 30 October - **October half-term break**

Forward Notice

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

Notices for All Students

Well done!

On the behalf of the staff at St. Joseph's, we would like to thank you all for an excellent term's work and for the good-hearted way you have approached life in our College community since our return in September after lockdown. To put it simply: you came back and you just got on with what you had to do. There was no fuss and no complaint. You have accepted all the new social distancing measures and the "bubbles" and have been your best selves throughout. Thank you and we look forward to this attitude continuing next term.

PPE in College – Important Message

Due to the increase in Covid-19 cases in Swindon, we ask you to now wear masks in the College building. The first day that this is expected for all students is **2 November 2020**, when we return from the half term break. The protocol is:

- You can wear a mask on the way to school.
- When you arrive at school, you should take off your outdoor mask if wearing one and replace it with one to wear inside.
- You will wear this mask in the communal areas of the College: moving around the corridors and walking around inside your classroom.
- You can only take the mask off when you are seated: in class or when you are eating in the Canteen.

This is not a decision we take lightly. It is out of concern for your safety and wellbeing. In the same spirit, we also ask you to be mindful in the way you interact with one another. Remember: physical gestures where you touch another person, such as handshakes, should be avoided. Social distancing is needed for us all to keep us healthy.

What is Black History Month?

Black History Month is an annual celebration of Black people in history and it is celebrated across the USA, Canada, Ireland, the UK and the Netherlands.

Black History Month in the UK was first celebrated in October 1987, the initiative of Ghanaian analyst Akyaaba Addai-Sebo.

This month aims to celebrate the stories of prominent black people around the world, especially those who may not have been taught about in your history lessons. Miss Nimaga

Black History Month competition

I want you to use the resources below and look at the biographies of the Great Black Britons nominated on www.100greatblackbritons.com

You can choose one or several Great Black Britons and create a unique and innovative project to celebrate their work and legacy. This could be:

- For a presentation (examples could include a slide presentation, a short film, a speech, poetry)
- For a display

The winning projects will be the ones that are the most innovative and that clearly show why the chosen Great Black Britons were important.

Prizes and winners to be announced after half-term

All entries must be submitted by the **23rd October** to Miss Nimaga via Email and then dropped off in your own student manager area. Thank you

Student Leadership

Thank you for your enthusiasm and patience with Student Leadership this year. Now that we have all become used to the school systems, we can start to get Student Leadership organised for the year ahead. We are looking for representatives from all year groups to be part of our Student Voice. Being a Student Leader is an excellent way to develop your confidence and practise new skills and make a difference. Our year-group bubbles mean that we can't meet as a cross-year group but we can run Year Councils which will meet at lunchtimes. We are looking for motivated students to represent their Tutor Group and their Year Group, be an active part of our College and make their views heard. There are several ways you can take part:

1. Fill out the form using the link below
2. Wait until Term 2 and be elected as a Tutor representative
3. Email Mr Matyla at amatyla@stjosephscollege.net for further information

Student Leadership

I look forward to hearing from you! Mr Matyla

Lunch cards reminder

We have a number of students who are not bringing their lunch cards into College to use in the canteen. This is resulting in delays because the till operator has to manually search for the name. Please remind students to bring their cards into College each day.

Notices for Year 10 and 11 students

Year 10 and Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh Award

A big well done to all our Duke of Edinburgh students who completed both days of their practice expedition this weekend. They completed a walk in the countryside and learnt some valuable skills on Sunday at school by pitching tents, knowing how to pack them and lighting a stove correctly. Now, you should reflect on what went well and how you can improve your own individual skills and what your team can improve on ready for your qualifying expedition in April 2021.

Well done from all the Duke of Edinburgh Staff and helpers.

RE Notice - for the attention of Year 10 and 11 students

Just a reminder for all GCSE students that you have access to online Edexcel GCSE textbook through Kerboodle. The Institution code is bg3 with email address and password. In addition to this, all students have online access to Catholic Christianity revision guide for 30 days.

<https://delta.hoddereducation.co.uk/EInspection/9781510404809/files/index.html?x=b7040162e1244ff3a66267fb830ac4ae>

Notices for All Parents/Carers

Notice about statutory lessons

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the academic year 2020/21, Relationships, Sex and Health Education will become statutory in all secondary schools in England. This new subject will build on the non-statutory lessons we have previously taught in the PSHE. We have been researching various programmes that are available and have decided to adopt **Life to the Full** by Ten Ten Resources. Ten Ten is an award-winning Catholic educational organisation that is well-respected and very experienced in this field of work. We would like to have your feedback on our approach. To this end, we have opened a consultation period until the 13th of November, during which we welcome your feedback. Please see letter attached to briefing to support the consultation process.

PPE in College – important message

Please could you read the message in the student section above. We are sure that you share our concerns about this and will join us in encouraging your child to bring a mask to wear inside the building. Thank you for your help with this.

Students without access to IT at home

We are in the process of reviewing and updating the availability of IT for students at home. In Year 8 to Year 11 we have checked the small group of students that did not have access to at least a phone and/or the internet access at home during school closure. Fortunately, we have been informed that these students do now have IT access. Although we do not have the capacity to issue any IT equipment, please can you advise us if your child does not have access to at least a phone and/or the internet at home. Please advise us by emailing rchivers@stjosephscollege.net

For Year 7 students, we will be writing to parents shortly to find out if your child does not have access to at least a phone and/or the internet at home.

Seneca Learning Parental Support - please register for a Seneca Parent account!

You may be aware that we're using Seneca Learning to support our students' digital learning.

Seneca offers high-quality free online learning courses for students to study from a computer, tablet or phone.

Seneca also provides free parent accounts. Their free parent accounts allow you to track your child's learning and help make conversations about school and learning easier.

Seneca's parent accounts also allow you to learn alongside your child if you wish to do so. This might be helpful in supporting you to work with your child on areas of their school work that you are less familiar with.

You can sign up for a free Seneca parent account here: app.senecalearning.com/parent. Alternatively, you can sign up by scanning the QR code in the attached document, named Seneca parent platform invite.

Seneca have made this handy [2-minute video](#) to help you get started.

If you have any questions about how Seneca works, you can get support from the Seneca team using the live chat on their website or you can email them at learnmore@seneca.io.

Chaplaincy news

Please read the PowerPoint of **thanks** prepared by Student Chaplains. They have expressed their thanks to all Staff and Teachers for this first term – a term like no other before!

Please also read the Food Bank PowerPoint created by Student Chaplaincy.

Careers Notes

1. **Year 11 students: Ridgeway R6 Virtual Open Evening 12 November 2020** – Please see the flyer attached to this briefing. This is your opportunity to find out more about what it would be like to go to the sixth form at Ridgeway. Make sure you register your interest. If you have any questions you would like to ask before this event, you are welcome to e-mail them on R6leaders@ridgewayschool.com. Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way.
2. **Year 11 students: Cirencester College prospectuses** – We have just *this minute* taken delivery of boxes of prospectuses from Cirencester College. If you would like one, please come to see Mrs Sanders in S14 and get one.

3. **Network Rail Insight Day on 29 October 2020** – This is for any student who may be interested in a career in engineering or in the rail industry. You will learn about diversity in the rail industry, the impact and legacy of BAME engineers, as well as hearing from current Network Rail team members about the importance of diversity and inclusion. You will also be set a rail engineering activity. The Insight Day involves a live workshop at 11:15, which can be completed on the spot, or watched on-demand at a time that fits your schedule. Click [here](#) to register your interest. This will be an excellent activity to include on your CVs.
4. **Years 9 and 10: Routes into STEM** – This is a course for students who are interested in finding out more about all the exciting routes into a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) career. To find out more, click [here](#) . Caution: there may be a cost for this course, but we thought we should let you know about it.
5. **Year 11 students: University STEM Summer School** – This programme will run in 2021. Full details have not been released yet, but you can register your interest (very different to committing to doing it) [here](#) . Obviously, we cannot predict if this is going to be a face-to-face event or not.
6. **Year 11 students: St. James's Place virtual work experience** – You were seen in PSHE this week about this opportunity and you should have received details in your school e-mail accounts. This could be useful for you to complete over half term.
7. **Learn Live Broadcast for Year 11 on 20 October 2020, 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.** – The Swindon Careers Hub is launching its Youth, Education, Employment and Training Hub (YEET) and this is an opportunity for students to ask questions directly of employers, colleges and other speakers. This is designed to help you with your future career choices. There will be more events in the future, but you can register for this one on <https://learnliveuk.com/partner/swindon-enterprise-partnership/> .

The next briefing will be Wednesday, 21 October 2020