

STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 1 March 2021

GIVING

“The most satisfying thing in life is to have been able to give a large part of oneself to others.”
(Pierre Teilhard De Chardin – Jesuit Priest, Philosopher)

Important Dates

Forward Notice

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

Covid Testing of Students

You will recently have had communication from the College asking you to consent for your child to be tested for Covid on return to the College from 8 March 2021. It is really important for us to test as many students as we possibly can to protect students and staff by identifying people who may be asymptomatic and therefore not aware that they can infect others around them. In order to help you make a decision about consenting more information about the process is provided below.

The Government guidance is that students should be tested 3 times at the College, with each test taking place within 3-5 days of the previous test. Once these three tests have been completed the students will then be issued with kits that they can use to test at home.

On their first day back, students who are being tested have to have a negative result before they start face-to-face teaching. Therefore, all students whose parents have given their consent will be asked to go to the Sports Hall on arrival. The times and dates for all students was sent out in a letter on 23 February 2021.

The students will be in their year group bubbles and in order to minimise further contact before testing they will be asked to wait in small groups for their test. These groups will go through to the separate testing area, which has been set up in the gym.

Whilst waiting for their test all students will be talked through the process of how to use the swab when taking the test as they will be expected to do this themselves. Each group of students will go through to the testing area in turn and students will go individually into a separate booth, which is shielded, so that the students have privacy whilst using the swab. The booths are cleaned between each student.

The swab is then given to a tester, who uses the rest of the kit provided to obtain a result. Students are asked to go back to the Sports Hall to wait for the results before going to class. Results are ready within 20-30 minutes of the test being taken. Positive results will be communicated to parents and you will be asked to collect your child from College and follow the correct isolation guidance.

If your child is negative then they will attend class as normal. If for any reason the swab has not been used correctly this will show as an inconclusive result and your child will be asked to retake the test. The College has already been testing those students who have been attending College as keyworker or vulnerable students and all students who have taken the test so far have been successful in using the swabs correctly with the guidance given.

After the initial test the subsequent tests will involve the students being asked to go to the test centre in small groups from their lessons as at this point they have been in contact with their fellow students for several days anyway.

The schedule for tests is as follows:

Year Group	First Test	Second Test	Third Test
Yr 7 & 11	Monday 8 March	Thursday 11 March	Monday 15 March
Yr 8 & 10	Tuesday ^h March	Friday 12 March	Tuesday 16 March
Yr 9	Wednesday 10 March	Monday 15 March	Thursday 18 March

If you have not already done so, you can give consent for your child to be tested by sending an email to consent@stjosephscollege.net by Thursday 4 March 2021 and include your child's name and tutor group in the message.

Notices for All Students

Preparation for the return to school

The government has finally made its announcement: we start to come back to school next week! Your parents and carers will have received a letter from Mr Giles that gives you details about this.

Some of you will come into school next week and begin by having a Covid test. So that you are entertained during the short wait that you will have, we would like you to bring in a book to read. This is actually a really good way to start your day!

Next week, you will have your briefing on a Monday and your briefing for the following week on the Wednesday. This is so you can get early notice of all the information you will need for your return to school. We want everything to go as smoothly as possible for you, so please make sure that you read all student briefings next week.

Student Leaders Meeting

All Student Leaders will meet on Teams on **Tuesday, 2 March at 3.00 p.m.** Please could you let Mr Matyla know if you cannot attend this meeting.

Year 11 Assessments

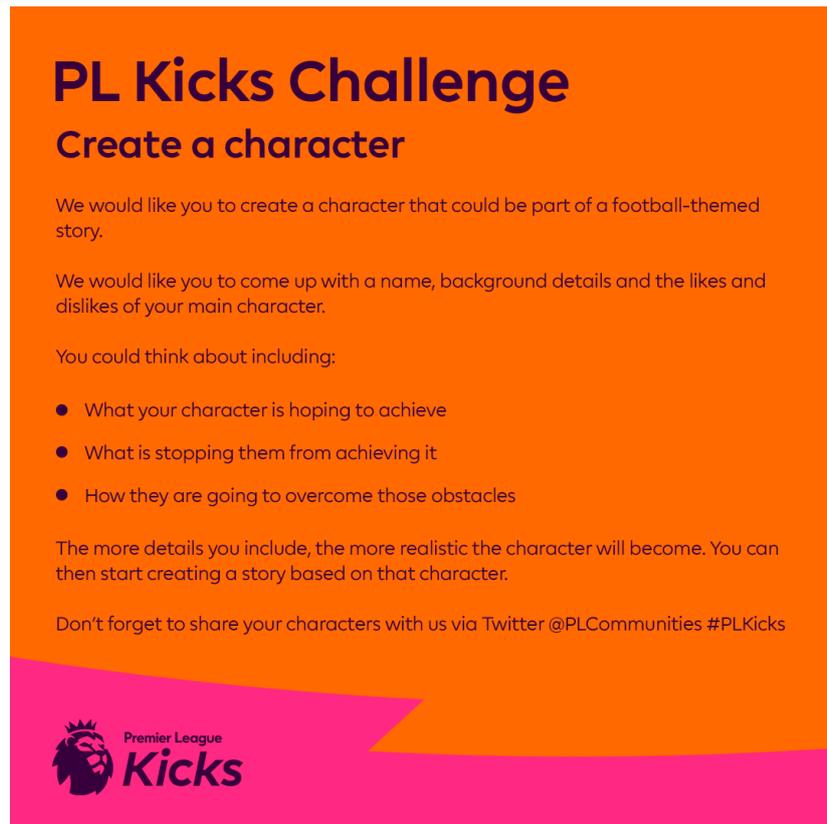
As you know, we had planned for you to do a series of assessments before February half term; however, this was before we had any third lockdown and before the government made any announcements about how your GCSEs would be assessed this year. We would like to give you early notice that you will have a series of assessments over a two

week period, starting w/c 15 March 2021. More details will be shared with you about this when you return to school. Until then, please do not worry. You have been working towards the assessments during this last lockdown and your teachers will revise the work with you when you return.

Competition for years 7 and 8

Premiere League Kicks is holding a competition called Create a Character. Please see more details in the poster below. This competition is for years 7 and 8 to participate in. Please send a photo of your entries to Mrs Fraser at kfraser@stjosephscollege.net

The deadline for entries is Friday, 4 March 2021.



PL Kicks Challenge
Create a character

We would like you to create a character that could be part of a football-themed story.

We would like you to come up with a name, background details and the likes and dislikes of your main character.

You could think about including:

- What your character is hoping to achieve
- What is stopping them from achieving it
- How they are going to overcome those obstacles

The more details you include, the more realistic the character will become. You can then start creating a story based on that character.

Don't forget to share your characters with us via Twitter @PLCommunities #PLKicks



Notices for All Parents

A message from Raspberry Pi

Inspire your teen to create with technology! The Raspberry Pi Foundation is hosting an exciting global technology showcase for young people, called Coolest Projects.

It's online, free to take part in, and open to young people up to 18 who like coding and making things with tech. Young people can take part with a Scratch project, a website, a game, an app, a robot or anything else. After they register their tech creation for Coolest Projects, it will be showcased in the Coolest Projects online gallery, for people all over the world to see. All ideas and experience levels are encouraged and celebrated!

Visit the [Coolest Projects website](#) right away.

Natwest Careers Conversations

The Natwest is offering parents and carers the opportunity to attend a webinar to find out how they can support their children with making decisions about their future careers. Covid-19 has changed the job market in many ways and it sometimes makes people feel as if they do not have enough information about school-leaver employment opportunities. The next webinar is on Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 4.00 p.m. If you wish to register, click on <https://bit.ly/2Laugd6>.

Chaplaincy News

Reflection on Lent

Please find attached a Reflection on Lent, written by Pope Francis.

Also, please follow the link for Missio's new Lent reflections:

<https://missio.org.uk/video-reflections/>

Collective Worship

Clifton Schools and Colleges Prayer Link – w/c 1 March 2021

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

- Downside School, Stratton-on-the-Fosse
- St Gregory's Catholic College, Bath
- Prior Park College, Bath

The Prayer Box Project continues

The prayer box project continues this term. Please continue to drop prayers and special intentions anonymously in the prayer box which is now located in the pastoral office or send your intentions by email to prayer@stjosephscollege.net and we will discreetly send your requests to a member of Holy Rood prayer ministry team.

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

The Chaplaincy Team

Careers Notes

Apprenticeship vacancies

1. We have been notified of two apprenticeship vacancies for the following positions:

- Apprentice electrical design engineer level 3
- Customer service practitioner level 2

Both vacancies are with IteI Electronics. Please contact Mrs Sanders on ksanders@stjosephscollege.net if you would like to apply and she will give you more details.

2. SSE have just published their apprentice and trainee vacancies for the September 2021 intake. You can access these on:

- <http://www.ssejobs.co.uk/caw/en/job/525977?ApplicationSubSourceID=11481>
- <http://www.ssejobs.co.uk/caw/en/job/525976?ApplicationSubSourceID=11481>

You can also access an information page that includes videos by going to:

<https://www.sse.com/careers/early-careers/apprenticeships-and-trainees/>

3. The Swindon and Wiltshire Institute of Technology has a number of apprenticeship course vacancies. One of the level 3 courses would be of relevance to students doing their GCSEs this year. However, the attached flyer does give you an excellent idea of the apprenticeship opportunities available at levels 4, 5 and 6. This is truly worth having a read of if you are interested in STEM based apprenticeships in the future.

Year 11 applications for post-16 courses – September 2021

By now all year 11 students should have submitted your applications to colleges, sixth forms and training providers. You will have talked about this in your academic tutoring meetings this past month. When you return to school, be prepared to show your teacher proof of your interview date or offer made. If you cannot show this, it will be assumed that you have made any application at this stage.

For year 10 students – virtual work experience through Speakers for Schools

During year 10, it is expected that you participate in work experience. Because of the pandemic, this will be a virtual work experience. A number of opportunities are available during school holidays. It is always useful to do something that you can put on your CV in the future. Speakers for Schools has organised two types of virtual work experience for during the Easter holidays. If you are interested, you will have to register with Speakers for Schools when you click on the links below. Ask your parents and carers about this if you are interested and before you sign up. Let Mrs Sanders know if you decide to do one of these, so it can be put on your record:

- [Renewable Energy Industry Insights - with GENeco](#)
 - Dates: 7 - 8 April 2021 (10am – 4pm)
 - Eligibility: 14 – 19 year olds interested in the renewable energy industry.
 - Application Deadline: 31 March 2021

- [British Airways Virtual Insight Day - Sustainability Workshop](#)
 - Dates: 7 April 2021
 - Eligibility: 14 – 19 year olds keen to find out more about a career in the airline industry.
 - Application Deadline: 15 March 2021

- [STEM Challenge VWEX with Johnson Matthey](#)
 - Dates: 6 - 8 April 2021
 - Eligibility: 14 – 19 year olds keen to find out more about a career in sustainable technology.
 - Application Deadline: 12 March 2021

- [Insight Day for Careers in Music – British Army](#)
 - Dates: 14 April 2021(10am -12am)
 - Eligibility: 15 – 19 year olds interested in interested in a vocation with music performance at its heart.
 - Application Deadline: 14 March 2021

- [Spaceport Cornwall - Young Space Entrepreneurs VWEX](#)
 - Dates: 14 - 16 April 2021
 - Eligibility: 14 – 19 year olds interested in a career in space technology.
 - Application Deadline: 23 March 2021

STEM CAREERS FAIR 1 - 5 March 2021



ARE YOU CONSIDERING A CAREER IN STEM? (science, technology, engineering and maths)

Have a look at the poster below - there may be a pathway you hadn't considered! From 1 - 5 March 2021, as part of National Careers Week, the STEM Ambassador Programme is running an online virtual careers fair.

Twenty-five national employers will be showcasing careers in a variety of sectors from healthcare to engineering, and finance to research. STEM employers include: Public Health England, BBC, RAF, JustEat, IBM, Google, AECOM and more.

This is a fantastic chance for you to be inspired and meet STEM Ambassadors from a wide variety of STEM organisations, with an exciting opportunity to chat live and ask their questions to gain insight into careers in STEM industries. The live chat is available every day from 10.00 – 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 – 3.00 p.m.

The virtual environment will be split into five zones to help you find their way around and navigate their career choices:

- Building the Future
- Digital
- Energy and the Environment
- Lifestyle and Health
- Travel and Security

Watch videos, explore challenges and try out activities from a wide range of employers – this is a fantastic opportunity!

TO ACCESS THE CAREERS FAIR, PLEASE CLICK ON THIS LINK:

<https://stem.exhibition.app>

Live chat is available from 10.00 – 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 – 3.00 p.m. each day. Not all questions will be answered. Students are reminded to be polite if using the chat function and not to give out any personal details.



The next briefing will be Wednesday, 3 March 2021.