

## STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 22 February 2021

### LENT

*"He became poor for your sake, so that you should become rich through his poverty."  
(Corinthians 8:9)*

#### Important Dates

**15 to 19 February 2021 - February 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

##### **Centre for Advanced Training – Swindon Street Dance Programme Open Day 2021**

Mrs Cooke has been notified of an opportunity for any dancers out there to participate in the Swindon Street Dance Programme. They are looking for new talented performers aged 11 – 17. No previous experience is necessary, just the passion to perform, commitment and potential to explore a career in dance. You can find out more about this on Sunday, 14 February 2021 from 10.00 – 1.00 p.m. This is delivered via Zoom. Talk to your parents and carers first about this. If they are happy for you to attend, you can register your interest and secure your place on the open day at [www.swindondance.org.uk/how-to-apply-cat/](http://www.swindondance.org.uk/how-to-apply-cat/). Please, please, please do discuss this with the adults in your life first!

##### **Free February Arts Fest – for young people, by young people**

The Young Arts Leaders have announced a brand-new digital arts festival for February half term. They have organised a series of free events from Monday 15 to Friday 19 February 2021. You can choose from a range of arts and crafts workshops including collage, filmmaking (oh, yes!), creative writing, drama (another "oh, yes!"), photography and rap. There will be a British Sign Language storytelling workshop and postal arts activity packs are available for those unable to join online. This is a fabulous idea and we encourage you to look at the attached flyer and see if there is anything you would like to join. And remember: **it is free!!**

##### **Creative Writing Competitions**

##### **Connecting Stories for Years 7-9**

This month an event called Connecting Stories has launched a creative writing competition in Swindon for 7 – 14 year olds (Years 7-9). The theme is everyday heroes. Using Swindon as the setting, write about local people that inspire or help you. This could be a neighbour or a family member, a celebrity or a key worker – or you could even invent

a hero! You can write in any format you like – a story or a poem, perhaps a news article or diary entry. Be creative! You can include illustrations if you would like. Your piece should be no longer than 500 words.

The closing date for submissions is **Friday, 12 March 2021**.

All entries will have the chance to be published as part of an anthology and to be displayed at a local exhibition. As part of submission, you must have a parent or guardian grant permission for your work to be published and/or displayed.

Follow this link for more details on the rules: [Connecting Stories Swindon Creative Writing Competition | National Literacy Trust](#)

Please use this link to submit your competition entry: [Connecting Stories Creative Writing Competition | National Literacy Trust](#)

### **Kids of 2020 Letter Writing Project**

The National Literacy Trust, Usborne Books and The Postal Museum bring you an interesting letter-writing competition! 2020 has been a very significant year and you were a part of it. You are invited to write a letter to a child in 2030 telling them what life was like for you last year. Then either email your finished letter to [publicity@usborne.co.uk](mailto:publicity@usborne.co.uk) or post it to

Kids of 2020, Publicity Department, Usborne Books, 83-85 Saffron Hill, London, EC1N 8RT

Your letter might get chosen to be part of an exhibition by The Postal Museum! The deadline for entries is **2 April 2021**. Under-thirteens need parental permission to enter.

If you would like more information or a letter template and ideas to help you, follow this link: [https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/kids-of-2020-letter-writing-project/?mc\\_cid=46363615d3&mc\\_eid=937560b71e](https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/kids-of-2020-letter-writing-project/?mc_cid=46363615d3&mc_eid=937560b71e)

### **Last year's Read For Good (Readathon) update**

Well done to everyone who participated in the Read For Good (Readathon) last year! We have raised at least £358 for charity, thank you very much for your efforts. Please keep reading for pleasure. We hope to participate in this event again as soon as we can.

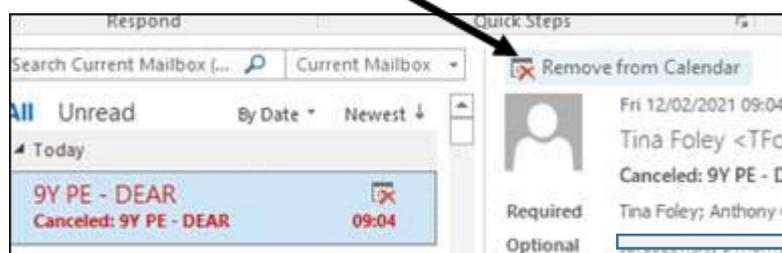
Thank you to all who encouraged and sponsored this activity. Mrs Fraser.

### **DEAR in PE lessons – solutions to technical issues!**

Thank you to all of the students who have logged onto their DEAR lessons this week. Remember to continue to do this after half-term when we will begin to track attendance. So that your calendar in Teams is correct, you will need to complete the following steps:

1. Open your outlook email account and find the email that says that your DEAR lessons have been cancelled/deleted. Click on 'remove from calendar' at the stop of the email. This will take any 'old' meetings out of your schedule.
2. In your emails – find the email that is an invite to the new DEAR. Click on 'accept' at the top of the email. This will then update your Teams calendar.
3. Unless you follow this steps, you will not have the correct lessons in Teams and your DEAR will clash with other lessons.
4. Your calendar has not been updated if you have both X and Y DEAR in it! ALL DEAR lessons are in PE time, they should not be clashing with other subjects.

Removing from calendar:



### **Work for practical PE lessons after half-term**

We are slightly amending the work that we will be setting for PE, after half-term. From Monday, 22 February 2021 you will see that our remote learning page will be split into age groups.

Each section will have

1. 2 x 60 minute PE session for each week. The overview will be set out in the same way as currently. Please read the health & safety information carefully. Miss Foley will continue to 'unhide' these sessions on a Sunday evening ready for the week ahead.
2. An additional but optional wellbeing activity for each week
3. An additional but optional design/research challenge each fortnight

We hope that you enjoy the activities and fingers crossed that the weather will improve so we can go out for some fresh air!

Thank you, PE department

### **Notices for All Parents**

#### **Centre for Advanced Training – Swindon Street Dance Programme Open Day 2021**

You will see in the student notices above that there is an information session about the Swindon Street Dance Programme. As ever, there may be costs associated with this programme, so please do talk this through with your child if they are interested. We only notify you of this as we know so many of our children are performers.

#### **Free February Arts Fest – for young people, by young people**

Again, please look at the notice in the student section. This looks like a lovely set of events and some are relevant for younger members of the household. It may just help you out over half term. Have a go. You deserve it!

#### **Local children encouraged to challenge online safety – and enter competition**

PCSO Mandi Coles has sent us a message and flyer for children to participate in a competition associated with Safer Internet Day. The theme is 'An internet we trust', exploring reliability in the online world. We have been sent a flyer that gives you more details about this competition. This flyer is aimed at an adult audience, so we thought we would send it to you first, so you can talk to your children about it. This is an artwork competition and entries must be submitted by 12 noon on Monday, 15 March 2021. You can send the entries to [digital@wiltshire.ppn.police.uk](mailto:digital@wiltshire.ppn.police.uk). This could be an interesting project for your child during this half term holiday.

### **If there is a bereavement in your family . . .**

Please could you let us know. We recognise that we are all going through a difficult and challenging time at the moment. This could be compounded by family bereavements due to the pandemic or other reasons. We want to be able to help your children, and you, in the best way possible. If a bereavement occurs that you think will affect your child, please contact your child's student manager, so that we can work with you to find the best way forward for your child. Thank you.

## **Chaplaincy News**

The season of Lent begins on **Wednesday, 17 February 2021.**

Here are some resources to stay connected during lockdown:

- Two new Lent and Holy Week Posters - [godwhospeaks.uk/posters-for-schools](http://godwhospeaks.uk/posters-for-schools)
- **Missio -Staying Connected** which looks at the importance of regular communication during lockdown. <https://www.youtube.com/c/MissioUK/videos>
- Why not try the flippin, fantastic pancake challenge on Strove Tuesday from Missio: use the link above to find out more.
- <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/> - Walk for water fundraising challenge. Are you up for the challenge to fundraise for CAFOD? Please see information below.

### **Walk for Water**

**Are you ready to change your life and transform someone else's this Lent?**

[Sign up now](#)

Walk for Water is the only Lent challenge you need: 10,000 steps a day - done your way. Every day. For 40 days. Go the distance this Lent and help to end water poverty.

You don't have to get tied in a knot about how to do it: whether you hop it; skip it; slide it; run it; jump it; dance it; stamp it; stomp it. It doesn't matter how you do it, just as long as you put your heart and soul into it.

Sign up now, raise money and do something different to fight poverty.

[Sign up now](#)



### **Collective Worship**

#### **Clifton Schools and Colleges Prayer Link – w/c 22 February 2021**

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

- St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Downend
- St Mary's Primary School, Bath
- St Benedict's Primary School, Midsomer Norton
- St John's Primary School, Bath

### **The Prayer Box Project (POP) update**

All your prayers and intentions have been given to POP group at Holy Rood. They will join together in prayer on Thursday, 11 February 2021 and offer up all your prayers and intentions.

Please continue to send your intentions by email to [prayer@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:prayer@stjosephscollege.net) or drop them in the prayer box which is now located in the pastoral office.

From the Chaplaincy Team

### **Careers Notes**

#### **Year 11 – Apprenticeship Vacancies**

We have just received notification from Wessex Water of opportunities that have gone live this week (please see the attached flyer). At your age, you may be interested in the Technical Apprenticeships or the Kickstart Scheme. Have a look at the flyer and go to [www.wessexwater.co.uk/talentspipeline](http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/talentspipeline) for more details of the apprenticeships/training available and how to apply. Keep looking, as more vacancies will come available over the next few months.

#### **Learn Live – National Apprenticeship Week**

We told you last week that this week is National Apprenticeship Week and we hope that you have been able to follow our social media campaign. You can use the Learn Live site as another method of finding current vacancies. Visit: <https://jobsliveuk.com/apprentices-live/>.

#### **BMW Group Apprenticeship**

If you are interested in an apprenticeship as a toolmaker with BMW and can apply by 12 March 2021, please look at the attached leaflet. These vacancies are like gold dust, so please do not delay if you think this could be for you.

#### **New College Applications**

If you are in year 11 and have not made your application to New College, we have been asked by their Schools Liaison Officer if you could let Mrs Sanders know. Staff at the college are interviewing now and would like to be able to offer you a place if you plan on going there. To find out more about the application process, you could visit this site over half term: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKQH8bioDGQ>. If you need help with an application to New College, or to any other place, please let Mrs Sanders know on [ksanders@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:ksanders@stjosephscollege.net).

New College are also running the following events:

- 17 February 2021, 11.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon – Virtual Advice and Guidance
- 18 February 2021, 5.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. – Virtual Advice and Guidance
- 23 February 2021 – T Levels Social media Takeover and Information Event
- 25 February 2021 – High Flyers Social Media Takeover from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

To find out more, visit the [www.newcollege.ac.uk](http://www.newcollege.ac.uk)

#### **St. James Place (SJP) Virtual Work Experience, April 2021**

During October half term, a number of year 11s participated in a virtual work experience with SJP. All those who took part had a fantastic time. This is forward notice of another virtual work experience that will be run over the Easter holidays. There are two sessions:

8 and 9 April 2021, and 12 and 13 April 2021. This virtual work experience will be delivered via Zoom and registration will open at the beginning of March.

Prior to then, if you think you could be interested in this experience or you would like to find out more about SJP (they are highly regarded as an employer), the company has created some online resources for you to explore. **This is open to all students, but do mention it to your parents and carers if you want to look at them.** There are:

- Employee videos about their career journey and their current role at SJP.
- A questionnaire to discover if SJP is a business you would like to join.

Follow this link to find all these resources: <https://www.sjp.co.uk/careers/students-and-graduates> . This could be something you might enjoy doing during half term!

### **Calling all those considering a career in healthcare**

Great Western Hospital is offering a two week virtual work experience for students in years 10 and 11 for two weeks from 8 March 2021 to 19 March 2021. You do not need to be available full time during these two weeks, but must be able to complete 10 hours of work over the two weeks. This is a chance to get an overview of what a career in healthcare can offer and the focus is particularly on Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery, Clinical Psychology, Allied Health Professionals and non-clinical roles. If you are considering a career in these areas, this will be a brilliant way to see if this is what you want to do. To take part will also look fantastic on your CV. To take part, visit:

[https://www.springpod.co.uk/great-western-virtual-work-experience/?utm\\_source=campus&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=gwnhsprom\\_10\\_02\\_21](https://www.springpod.co.uk/great-western-virtual-work-experience/?utm_source=campus&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gwnhsprom_10_02_21)

### **#CodeLikeAGirl – A Vodafone initiative to attract females into STEM occupations**

Vodafone are offering a free four day workshop for girls aged 14+. You will be taught how to build your own website, using Html, CSS, GitHub and JQuery. If you are interested in this, you have until 28 February 2021 to apply. Go to <https://careers.vodafone.co.uk/work-experience> for more information.

**The next briefing will be Friday, 26 February 2021**