

STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 22 March 2021

RECONCILIATION

“Reconciliation requires changes of heart and spirit, as well as social and economic change. It requires symbolic as well as political action.” (Malcolm Fraser, Australian Liberal Party Politician)

Important Dates

31 March 2021	-	Year 9 HPV Vaccination
2 – 16 April 2021	-	Easter holiday
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

GCSEPod - Parents and Students

Benefit from the overwhelmingly positive response to parent and student webinars, to support student wellbeing and motivation to learn, by registering for the GCSEPod free webinars <https://www.gcsepod.com/podup-presents-webinars/> These include Cameron Parker, a renowned motivational speaker for schools and colleges and offer inspiring, high-energy webinars focus on motivation and practical tips, encouraging students to take ownership of their learning, build confidence and manage anxiety. Students can remain anonymous, and parents can watch with them as Cameron makes goal-setting, study strategies and catch-up seem easily attainable. Free parent webinars have already helped to empower thousands of parents to confidently support their child's learning through GCSEPod.

“My son was slightly reluctant to spend his evening doing this, but he was hooked and recognised a lot of his behaviour and vocalised his stresses well. We are now following Cam on social media and have booked the next session!” Parent

“The webinar was very informative and understandable. Since I attended, I've showed my son just how powerful a tool GCSEPod is and he's going full speed now. The section on how to study is brilliant and has really motivated him to have a routine and set goals. Great job.” Parent

Registration is required for webinars and dates can be accessed via <https://www.gcsepod.com/podup-presents-webinars/>

Library Services

Some of you may already know, or have noticed, that the Library is moving upstairs. Unfortunately, this means that we will not be able to lend any books until after the Easter

break at the earliest, so if you have a library book that you are using as your reading book, please feel free to hold onto it for a bit longer. For those of you who have library books that you are not using, please return them in the drop-off box outside the library as soon as possible. You may not remember having a book, but it is worth checking at home because it has been almost a year since most of you last borrowed anything! Please contact Miss Henry or Mrs Kennedy if you would like to check if you have loans.

Years 7 to 9 - Student Leadership

Student Leadership meetings will take place during lunchtime week beginning Monday, 22 March 2021 at the following times:

Year 7: Monday 22 Lunchtime, Conference Room (meet at Student Reception)

Year 8: Wednesday 24 Lunchtime, Conference Room (meet at Student Reception)

Year 9: Monday 22 Lunchtime, Conference Room at 1200-1230 (meet at Student Reception). This may run into your lesson after lunch.

Year 9 - HPV vaccination

Year 9 boys and girls HPV vaccination will be taking place in school **Tuesday 31, March 2021**. Consent forms were sent out last year. Unfortunately, the clinic was unable to go ahead due to the pandemic, so it is being held on 31 March 2021. The Clinic is run by VirginCare any queries or information on whether you previously gave consent should be directed to them on 0300 247 0082. Please wear a T-shirt or vest top underneath your shirt and bring a water bottle with you. Further details of times will be sent to your tutors next week. Thank you, Miss Mills Medical Officer.

Year 9 - Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

You have now received your enrolment forms to begin your award programme. Please make sure you return your forms to Mrs Adams in reception by **Friday, 26 March 2021**. Further information about commencing your award will be sent once the enrolment forms have been received, but in the meantime, you need to decide what activity you will be completing for each section and start it. If you have any questions please contact Mrs DeAraujo or Miss McKenna.

Year 10 - Bronze Duke of Edinburgh – qualifying expedition

Your qualifying expedition will be taking place on **Saturday, 24 and Sunday, 25 April 2021**. It will be similar to the practice expedition you took part in during October, but you will have equipment issued to you from the school. One day walking and one day camp craft. Please make sure you have acceptable walking boots with you during this expedition and start thinking about the appropriate clothing you will need. Further details will be emailed home soon. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs DeAraujo or Miss McKenna.

Year 11 - Silver Duke of Edinburgh

Your qualifying expedition will be taking place on the afternoon of **Friday, 23 April** and all day on **Saturday, 24 and Sunday, 25 April**. This will alleviate the need to take a whole day off school on the Monday. You will be completing your camp craft on the Friday afternoon and you will have two days walking on Saturday and Sunday in the Gloucestershire area. Please make sure you have acceptable walking boots with you and start thinking about the appropriate clothing you will need. Further details will be emailed home soon. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs DeAraujo or Miss McKenna.

Notices for All Parents/Carers

GCSEPod - Parents and Students

Please see information about free webinars for students and parents from GCSEPod, in the student notices above.

Year 9 - HPV vaccination

Please find information about the year 9 HPV vaccination in the student notice above.

Amazing Apprenticeships

1. As part of their regular liaison with parents, Amazing Apprenticeships has published its latest parents and carers pack in its [March issue](#). This gives lots of information and advice on preparing for virtual recruitment, the new T levels, apprenticeships in the fashion industry and more. This has been designed to help you help your child. You can also access the packs from previous month, so that you are "in the know".
2. Parent Podcast is being launched this Summer to help parents and carers to with the challenges they may face in supporting their children with career guidance and advice. Click here to find out [more](#). This is always an anxious time, even for the most prepared young people, so take advantage of the help that is out there.

SPACE (Supporting Parents and Carers in Education) - Discover new ways to support your child through school and exams

SPACE is a free programme of virtual events to give parents and carers the tools they need to help their young people through secondary school. The programme will also explore higher education, further education and the opportunities available to young people. Young people are encouraged to attend with their parent/carer. There are currently 5 free virtual events available and each session will have an additional 30 minutes for a Q+A. Please find further details about the sessions and how to register on the flyer.

Chaplaincy news

Bible Hub and Lenten Challenge

Please access the following Readings and Reflections using the link below:

This month's Bible Hub is up: [Part 2 - Lent 2021](#)

Also, check out the [Lenten Challenge](#) - entries are still open!

Collective Worship

Clifton Schools and Colleges Prayer Link – w/c 22 March 2021

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

- St Gilda's Catholic Primary School, Yeovil
- Ss Joseph & Teresa Catholic Primary School, Wells
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bridgwater

Please see the attached PowerPoint for this week's prayer.

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, 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

Young Carers

Young Carers Action Day on 16 March 2021, was to raise awareness of young carers and the incredible contribution they make to their families and local communities. In the clip below members of the Young Carers Forum share their thoughts, including the positives of their experience as a young carer and how this has shaped them as a person. It gives an insight into what being a young carer means, a friend who may be a young carer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdtH4BInDbk>

If you are a young carer, Swindon Carers Centre can offer support. Visit www.swindoncarers.org.uk/young-carers-support-in-swindon/ or speak to your Student Manager. If you are not sure whether you are a young carer or not, but have some kind of a caring role, whether that is for a parent or sibling, please speak to your Student Manager to discuss.

Friday night football

Swindon Town Community Foundation are restarting their Friday night football sessions at Foundation Park today. Please use the link below if you are interested.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZ4oJPSjrGQV0ZCihKTZ24lezl6E7vBogXiBp7seVMGUgnQ/viewform>

Careers Notes

New College Messages

See the attached newsletter from New College. This gives information about:

1. 22 March 2021 – Meet the Curriculum: Sport
2. 23 March 2021 – Queens Drive Virtual Campus Tour at 6.00 p.m.
3. 24 March 2021 – Social Media Takeover: Performing Arts
4. 25 March 2021 – North Star Virtual Campus Tour at 6.00 p.m.
5. Apprenticeship Vacancies – click on the link on the attached newsletter.

EY Apprenticeships and your Wellbeing

A+E TV Doctor, Dr. Alex George, is working with Young Professionals to host a wellness evening on 29 March 2021 from 5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. He will be talking about the importance of looking after mental health. He will be supported by current apprentices, who will be talking about how they manage their wellbeing at work. This will be incredibly useful for year 11 students at this stage of their careers. You can apply to be part of this on: <https://www.research.net/r/DrAlex-29th-March> Let Mrs Sanders know if you decide to attend, so this can be noted on your record.

The next briefing will be Friday, 26 March 2021