

STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 25 January 2021

TRUST

“The Lord says: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” (Luke 11:9)

Important Dates

28 January 2021 - Cafod National Assembly (please see further details below)

3 February 2021 - Year 9 Vaccinations (please see further details below)

Forward Notice

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

Notices for All Students

Important: Student questionnaire for students in all year groups

We want to know how you are getting on whilst you are working from home. To help us with this, we would like you to click on this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DfKT-C5EoUORpFZwDqBp3SIpNg6INHJNuXaQyyISBI5URFFLQkNDUkpRM1hMRUpJWlgzVTk2S0xONC4u>

This will take you straight to a Microsoft Forms page, where there is a simple questionnaire for you to complete. It is important that you do this if you want to help us find ways to make home learning better for you. Thank you very much for all your help with this.

Online Reading & Library Services

For anyone that does not have any books at home or perhaps just fancies a read, please see the following link which will take you to a free online book. Every week the featured author changes and a new book is available to read. This week it is Jacqueline Wilson!

<https://library.thenational.academy/>

Also, Park Library is currently open for Click, Call and Collect services (though on reduced hours and with the usual Covid-19 safety rules). This may be useful for anyone who lives locally and wishes to borrow books. If you are already a member you can call the library to make a request. More information on this can be found at

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20026/libraries/1132/covid-19_-_reopening_our_libraries/2

Alternatively you can order your books online here <https://swindon.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/LOGINB?RDT=/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/PGM/WPAC/REQUEST?FNAME=RQINFO>. You can also sign up at this link if you are not a member.

Are you showing leadership skills?

Even though you are at home doing your learning, you are still Leaders! We are hearing great stories about what you are up to and many of you don't realise that you are showing yourselves to be excellent leaders.

Are you helping or supporting other students? Are you helping our Staff? Are you managing your time? Are you leading or contributing to discussions online?

All of these are Leadership Skills that we want to help you identify, practice and celebrate!

Don't forget that your **Student Leadership Passport** (pages 8 and 9 in your planner) still has challenges for you to fill out. So let your Tutor know what you're doing as a Student Leader so that we can celebrate your success and don't forget that we have a Student Leadership Group in College so if you have ideas then please get in touch with Mr Matyla.

Year 9 students

We have recently emailed you a link so you can register your child for the Meningitis, Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio vaccinations. Please complete this registration by Sunday 31 January 2021 and Virgin Care will contact you with an appointment time.

The vaccinations are taking place at the College on Wednesday 3 February 2021. If you have any queries about these vaccinations, please call Virgin Care on 0300 247 0082.

Year 11 Core Intervention (English, Maths & Science)

These sessions will begin again this week and students involved will have received an email from Miss Curran (English), Mrs Copestake (Maths) or Mrs Wilson (Science) with details about the sessions. These will be run through Teams and you receive an invite in the same way as for your other lessons.

We look forward to working with you again and if you have any questions then please contact the member of staff delivering your session.

Notices for All Parents

Important: Questionnaire for parents of students in all year groups

We have asked your children to complete a questionnaire that tells us about their experiences of working from home during this lockdown. We would very much appreciate it if you could give your views about your child's experience of working from home. By giving us this information, we hope that it will make your child's experience of learning at home much better and, as a result, **your** experience of your child working at home even better. We thank you very much for your help with this. You can access the questionnaire by clicking on this link to take you to Microsoft Forms:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DfKT-C5EoUORpFZwDqBp3W05SQ7-AV1Bmjg_PMzDN8tUNU5UU1NHOFMyTUFOQjhONDQ0WEpH5SkxUMS4u

BBC News: Mobile networks to make Oak lessons site data-free

Mobile networks including; O2, Three, Vodafone, EE, BT, Virgin, Sky and Plusnet are said to be making the online education resource Oak National Academy free to access until schools reopen. Please find more details in the link below.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-55719428>

Free access to books online

Children across the country will be able to access books online for free during school closures, thanks to Oak National Academy's new virtual library. The link and author of the week have been highlighted to students in the student notices section above.

The link is: <https://library.thenational.academy/>

Notice from IT Department

Some of the points below are in response to the common questions we have received from you.

1. **What happens if I have forgotten my log in details to Moodle or e-mail?** A parent or carer will need to email a request for this to our IT team at studentit@stjosephscollege.net To meet safeguarding requirements, parents/careers need to send this request on the e-mail address we have on our School Base records.
2. **What happens if I am having IT issues?** Please contact our IT team using the e-mail studentit@stjosephscollege.net
3. **What do I do if I am having difficulty accessing Microsoft Teams?** Make sure that you have logged in to Office365. If you still have difficulties, please contact our IT team using the e-mail studentit@stjosephscollege.net

Chaplaincy news

National Assembly and Resources for Lockdown from Cafod

Students are asked to join the Cafod National Assembly on Thursday, 28 of January 2021.

ASSEMBLY: 10am on THURSDAY 28 JANUARY



- Visit cafod.org.uk/schoolstogether to find the link
- The assembly will "live stream" on the CAFOD YouTube channel: youtube.com/CAFODtv
- Please note the change of date. There will no longer be an online assembly in February. We hope to have the next one in March.

Virtual Mass

You can watch Mass live from the Cathedral at 9.30am every day via the live-stream. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel is live-streamed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

[Welcome to Clifton Cathedral | Roman Catholic Diocese of Clifton](#)

Collective Worship – Clifton schools and College’s Prayer Link- week of the 25 January 2021

In this uncertain time prayer is more important than ever and it is important that we pray for all members of our Catholic community. The RE lead advisor for our Diocese Louise White has prepared a prayer rota for all schools and colleges where we pray for 3 schools weekly. This week could we join together in prayer for all the students, staff and families of

Christ the King Primary School Bristol
Pius x Primary School Bristol
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School Bristol

Please see the attached PowerPoint for this week’s prayer.
From the Chaplaincy team

The Prayer Box Project

Dear students, staff, parents and carers,

From Monday the 25 January 2021 we look forward to launching POP, the prayer box project at our College. Holy Rood have a prayer ministry team who will meet every fortnight to pray for the students and staff at St. Joseph’s. Deana and Bill Hunt have kindly donated a beautiful prayer box so that you can drop prayers and special intentions anonymously in the prayer box. The prayer box will be opened every two weeks and the prayers will be given to the prayer ministry team at Holy Rood. They will join together and pray for our needs.

The prayer box can be found in the chapel where students attending college can write on the prayer cards and drop them in the box.

For all students working remotely, you can send your prayer requests to prayer@stjosephscollege.net by email and we will discreetly send your requests to a member of Holy Rood prayer ministry team. Please see attachment (POP) for further details.

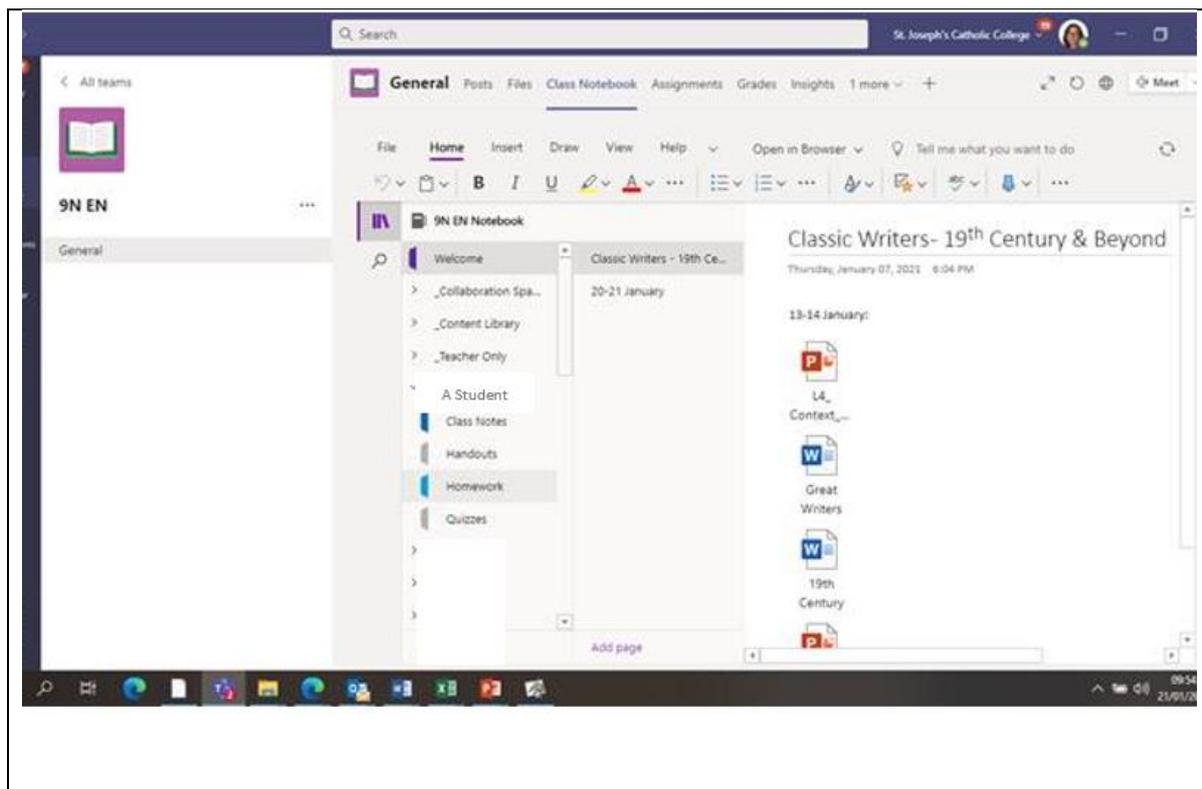
God bless,

Mrs K Fraser and Mrs F Payne.

Pastoral Notices

New exercise books and class notebook facility on Microsoft Teams

Students can either email their class teachers or Student Manager and we will ensure that a new exercise book will be posted home. Students can also use the Class Notebook facility on teams as shown in the image below for class work and homework. To find the class notebook on Teams, students should click Class Notebook, show navigation (this looks like image of books), click on their name (they will not see other students’ names, only their own), click on class notes or homework and use it like an exercise book.



Careers Notes

These messages are not just for year 11 students. All students can look at them from year 7 – 11. You may not be able to act on them this year, but you can look at the messages to help your own research into your future. Your parents and carers will most definitely be interested in talking to you about this!

Messages from New College (now includes Swindon College)

1. **Virtual Open Evening on 27 January 2021, 5.00 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – If you still would like to look around what the college has to offer (and this is the only way we can do that at the moment), please look at the information leaflet attached to this briefing. You are advised to pre-register if you wish to attend the virtual open evening. You can register by going to www.newcollege.co.uk and following the links. Experienced liaison tutors, who will be able to answer all your questions, guide the virtual tour. The tour includes classrooms, dance studios, the gym, the common areas and the science labs. They will also tell you about the taster courses that you can watch on YouTube.
2. **National Apprenticeship Week 2021 on 8 – 14 February 2021** – New College works in partnership with a number of employers to offer apprenticeship pathways to students after the age of 16. They are going to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week with a number of events. Go to www.newcollege.co.uk for more information. If you are applying for an apprenticeship this year, or if you are interested in one in the future, it may be a good idea to take advantage of anything New College can offer. You may meet (virtually) some valuable contacts. Piece of advice: networking and making contacts is vital in this life.

Wiltshire College – Virtual Open Days

Wiltshire College may be a place where you can find a course that you cannot find in Swindon, so it worth taking a look. They are running virtual open days on:

- Thursday, 28 January 2021 – 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon
- Tuesday, 2 February 2021 - 1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

- Thursday, 4 February 2021 – 5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

These virtual open days will allow you to sign up to a range of talks, have live Q+A sessions, speak to apprenticeship experts, talk to a careers adviser and talk to the admissions teams. Have a look and click [here](#) if you would like to sign up for one of these events.

University of Plymouth Outreach Programme

The University of Plymouth is going to run a series of live talks, via Zoom, about applying to university. Whilst no one at St. Joseph's will be applying for university this year, Plymouth have said that they would like to welcome any year 11s who are interested to these talks. If you are interested in going to university, I would recommend that you attend these talks; they are free! You have to register for these sessions. Do not forget to talk to your parents about this before you do. Please see the links below for the different talks and to register for them:

- To find out some general information about a range of Zoom meetings about going to university, click [here](#).
- To find out about the application process through UCAS, click [here](#).
- To find out more about student finance and budgeting (your parents and carers might want to look at this one), click [here](#).
- To find out about student life, click [here](#).

BBC – AI, augmented reality and immersive sound tech demos

The BBC is running a workshop on Zoom for anyone interested in the above sectors. This will take place on **Tuesday, 26 January 2021 at 5.00 p.m. to 5.45 p.m.** Talk to your parents before signing up for this. You can register for this by sending an e-mail to: youngreporter@bbc.co.uk with the following title in the subject bar: Digital Cities Virtual registration: Session 4, BBC Blue Room.

Barclays Apprentices – 25 January 2021 to 12 February 2021

Barclays, an international employer, has got a superb programme for recruiting apprentices, with a view to starting in July or September 2021. To find out more about this, click [here](#). You will have to navigate around the website here to find out information, but there are a number of workshops you can register to attend as part of their Discovery Diversity Programme. There is an interesting scenarios quiz that would be useful to complete if you are interested in an apprenticeship; it helps you to decide which apprenticeship would be a best fit for you. You can find this quiz by clicking [here](#). Barclays is an excellent company to work for, so at least explore this.

GetMyFirstJob – DHL Apprenticeships

GetMyFirstJob brings together a large number of employers who use them to help with the recruitment of apprentices. Their company of this week is DHL. They are having an Insight Event on **4 February 2021**, where you can find out more about apprenticeships with this company and how/when to apply. This event will introduce you to apprenticeships, give you an opportunity to hear from some of their current apprentices, then talk to you about the application process. This would be good event to attend just to find out about what is out there. Students in years 9 and 10 may be interested: ask your parents. You can find out more by clicking [here](#).

The next briefing will be Friday, 29 January 2021