

STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 8 February 2021

HEALING

“O Lord my God, I called to you for help and you healed me.” (Psalm 30:2)

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

Hot off the press: look out for your e-mail postman (aka parents and carers)!

Following on from your teachers discussing how well you have been working by attending Teams lessons, completing your work consistently to a very high standard, **and** doing this during Lockdown v3, an astonishing 638 letters have been sent to your parents and carers congratulating all those students who were rated “green” by all their teachers. This is an extraordinary achievement! We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments. Read those letters again and bask in the glory!

On a connected note, we know that everyone is working under challenging conditions. Lockdown is not easy, but we are proud of the resilience and drive that you have all shown at this time. We want to recognise this. Next week, we are asking your teachers not to set you any further assignments to complete **outside** of lesson time. We are also not going to set you any work over half term. You have worked hard and we want you to enjoy your half term break. We know that you will still work hard during the school day, but we would like you to take the time to **try to do something different** during your week off. Rest and have some fun! Thank you for making this a very rewarding term.

How to stay motivated during lockdown

First of all, we would like to thank those students who have completed the student questionnaire sent out by Mr Stoten. He has been reading your responses with great interest. One of the things he found is that some of you are finding it hard to stay motivated whilst working at home. Something you could do to help is look at this article: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvyhpg8>. It is full of ideas for strategies to help you feel more enthusiastic about life at the moment. Give it a try!

Online Reading

For those that are on the hunt for something new to read, the link below will open Oak Academy's author of the week, where you can read Sally Gardner's *Mr Tiger, Betsy and the Blue Moon* or listen to the audiobook. There are also links to the previous authors of

the week, Jacqueline Wilson and Nizrana Farook, where you can watch interviews and find activity sheets. Don't forget to watch out for the next author of the week!

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

Exercise Books

Some of you have contacted us to ask that we send out exercise books when you run out of pages. We try to do this as quickly as we can, but there are natural gaps between the request and when we can fulfil it. During this time, please use Class Notebook on Teams to record any work from your lessons. Your teachers will have shown you how to access this and we agree that this is the best place for you to keep work for the moment. Ask your teacher to show you where it is if you are not sure, or look at previous student briefings for guidance on where to find it.

Free Webinars from GCSEPod – revised links

In last week's briefing, we sent a message from GCSEPod with some links to free webinars. GCSEPod has discovered that one of the links for the webinars was broken.

Please see the revised links below:

Student Webinar: Stress to Success - GCSEPod – Tuesday 23 February, 6.00pm to 7.00pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D7YDLM5EQ--jRCN0J6K47w

Student Webinar: Student Event - GCSEPod – Wednesday 3 March, 5.00pm to 6.00pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tbTvNA0PS1a0FvKCTtYvPg

The webinars are in high demand and do remember places are limited, so don't wait to take up this great opportunity!

Notices for All Parents

Helping your child to cope with lockdown

First of all, we would like to thank all those parents and carers who have responded to our parent and carers questionnaire. We are processing what you have told us and are actively looking for ways to address some of your comments. One of the concerns raised was how we can all help our children deal with the current lockdown, as it is something that they are finding a challenge. Please look at this article at:

<https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/morearticles/quaranteened-helping-teenagers-cope-with-lockdown> . It is a place to start looking for advice and one that we have found helpful.

If your child has an appointment whilst working at home

Please could you call us if your child has an appointment during the school day and cannot attend lessons. We have to follow the same procedures as we would if your child was coming into school, as this is a safeguarding matter. We thank you for your help with this.

Chaplaincy news

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

Collective Worship

Clifton Schools and Colleges Prayer Link – w/c 8 February 2021

We are now in the third week of our Collective Worship. This week, please could we join together in prayer for all the students, staff and families of:

- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bristol
- St Nicholas of Tolentine Catholic Primary School, Bristol
- St Brendan's Catholic Sixth Form College

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

The Prayer Box Project continues

The prayer box project is now underway at our College. The prayer ministry team at Holy Rood is meeting every fortnight to pray for the students and staff at St. Joseph's. Please continue to drop prayers and special intentions anonymously in the prayer box.

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 and we will discreetly send your requests to a member of Holy Rood prayer ministry team.

God bless, Mrs K Fraser and Mrs F Payne.

Pastoral Notices

KOOTH Survey for Young People

KOOTH want to hear from you about how you like to participate in events, what platforms you like, and what is important to you when thinking about mental health services. You can find the survey on <https://kooth.typeform.com/to/Tfbacu00> . You may even win a prize!

Children's Mental Health Week

A video has been produced that gives you the Five Steps to Wellbeing (MAGIC). Watch it at your leisure by clicking [here](#).

Careers Notes

National Apprenticeships Week – 8 February 2021 – 12 February 2021

This is a national event. Whilst many year 11s will be interested in all the events on offer, we would like to invite students (and their parents and carers!) in other year groups to investigate the events taking place.

1. Young Professionals National Apprenticeship Week – This is open to students in **years 10 and 11**. There is a webinar on Monday, 8 February 2021 from 3.00 p.m. to

5.00 p.m. It is an opportunity to find out about other young people's career journeys. This is a free event and you can register here: <https://www.research.net/r/NAW2021> . See the attached posters for more details about the companies represented.

2. Year 11 students have already been invited to attend the National Apprenticeship events run by Swindon Borough Council this week. New College will have a presence there, as they run a lot of the courses for apprenticeships. Go online and look at what they provide.

Imperial College London – Year 11 Medical Summer School

This is for anyone who is considering a career in medicine and is a golden opportunity that you can put on your CVs and mention in any university applications. What is more, it is **free!** This is a residential Summer school (although do not be surprised if they have to move to remote delivery) that will take place between **10 and 13 August 2021**. To find out more, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkgMBqrRj1w&feature=youtu.be> . If you are still interested, contact Mrs Wilson or Mrs Sanders to discuss. If you have any interest in studying medicine, we urge you to try this.

Study Higher – Advice about going to university

A number of you in all year groups may be thinking about going to university in the future. Study Higher is a partnership of universities, further education colleges and others who are working together to provide high quality impartial advice and guidance about education opportunities for after you leave St. Joseph's. One of the latest features can be found at <https://www.theaccessplatform.com/studyhigher> , where their team of Higher Education Liaison Officers (HELO) are on hand to respond to students and your parents and carers about anything in connection with higher education. Go to this website, read the short biographies of the HELOs and ask any questions that you have. This is free!

The Festival of Tomorrow – aimed at everyone!

In partnership with UK Research and Innovation, STEAM is putting on a free interactive virtual festival to share the latest research and innovation that will shape our future. It covers a wide range of sectors such as medicine, climate science, creative industries, the future of food, space exploration. Talk to your parents about this, as this is aimed at families and young people. This takes place during half term on **18 – 20 February 2021**. You can find out more and book your place at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/festival-of-tomorrow-tickets-138432018895> . At least look at all the different sessions that will take place. There is something for everyone and will give you something to do when you cannot go out!

Messages from New College

1. New College are still running some virtual tours. These can be booked by visiting www.newcollege.ac.uk and registering for this online.
2. New College's next virtual open evening is going to be held on 31 March 2021. Again, you can book your place at this event by visiting www.newcollege.ac.uk .

Messages from Cirencester College

1. **Revised date for Open Day** – This had been rescheduled to Saturday, 24 April 2021. Following government advice, this date is going to be rescheduled again. If you have booked for this date, your place will be carried over. If anyone still wishes to apply, please go to https://www.cirencester.ac.uk/events_and_actions/events/ and click on the booking button. Each student can book up to four appointments and bring one adult. **Year 10 students may be interested in looking at this now!**
2. **Current applications** – Cirencester College is currently contacting all its applicants and conducting telephone information and guidance meetings. Students can do this alone or have a parent listen in. You will talk about your choices and your aspirations

for the future. If anyone is concerned about their application, please e-mail: student.journeyteam@cirencester.ac.uk .

3. **GCSE Results** – Offers are being made to students for September 2021 based on GCSE grades, despite not knowing what the government intends to do about awarding results for this year. Cirencester wants you to know that it is really important that you continue to work hard in your subjects and do the very best to achieve the results that you deserve. The knowledge you gain from your GCSE studies will form the basis of your work when you go to college; the work you do now will serve you well in what you do next year.
4. **“Flying Start”** – Over the Summer, Cirencester will ask you to complete some work, which will give you an insight into the type of work you will be doing once you start the college. In some cases, if a student misses a grade in a subject at GCSE, this “Flying Start” work will be used to assess their suitability for their college course.
5. **Apprenticeship courses** – If you enrolled for the Apprenticeship Open Evening on 2 March 2021, this has been cancelled. However, you will have an opportunity to access a Virtual Apprenticeship Event from **1 March to 5 March 2021**. Look on the website to book your place on this and have a chance to talk to a member of the apprenticeship team.
6. **T-Levels** – Cirencester is expanding its provision of T-Level courses to the Health and Science field and in the Digital field. Look on the website for more information.
7. **Cirencester Live!** – During half term week, Cirencester College will be live to answer any questions you have. If you would like to talk to a member of the team with any questions that you may have (and this includes parents and carers, too!), log on from Monday to Friday from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. by going onto: www.cirencester.ac.uk .

The next briefing will be Friday, 12 February 2021.