

# STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 9 November 2020

## RESPECT

*“Continue to love one another like brothers and sisters, and remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it”  
(Hebrews 13:1-2)*

### Important Dates

#### Forward Notice

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

### Notices for All Students

#### Masks, standing up, sitting down

First of all, we would like to thank you all for following the government’s advice about wearing masks and when we wear them around the College. We would like to remind you of the following:

- Masks must be worn inside when standing up and moving around the College, even when you are in a classroom. When you are sat down, you can take off your mask.
- Masks can be taken off if you go outside at lunch.

#### Eating at break and lunch

Before half term, we put a notice in this briefing about eating at breaks and lunch. We would like to remind you that you only eat when sitting down at the canteen tables inside. You do not eat when walking around and no food or drink is to be taken outside. This rule is for your own health and safety at this time and we thank you for helping us with this.

#### Seating plans in classrooms

All students are reminded that they do not move from their set seating plans in their classrooms. This, again, is for your health and safety. It is important that we know who you sit next to and when you sit next to them. Please do not move next to another person at any point. This is so that we can identify anyone who may have been exposed to Covid infection if the occasion arises. Students who do not follow this health and safety measure will be sanctioned.

#### Going home after school

Now that we have returned to a state of lockdown, students are expected to go straight home as soon as school finishes. There is an expectation nationally that we all follow the rules of the lockdown and do not socialise beyond our home bubbles after school. Please remember that this means you do not gather in parks and other open spaces.

#### Lessons if self-isolating

Some of you are having to learn at home at the moment due to having to self-isolate. As your parents and carers know (we sent a letter to them some weeks ago), you still have to complete your work at this time. There is also an expectation that you will attend your lessons virtually through Microsoft Teams at the time when it is scheduled on your

timetable. Your parents and carers will have worked with you to be able to access Teams through your Office 365 account. When your teachers e-mail you with work, they will also give instructions about how to access the lesson through Teams.

### **IT access**

If you have any problems when trying to access your College account from home, please get your parents and carers to e-mail our IT team on [studentit@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:studentit@stjosephscollege.net). In this way, the team can help you to resolve your problem and get on with your work and your school day.

### **Lost Property at Student Reception**

We have a lot of student property, lanyards, lunch cards, planners, house keys and other bits and pieces. If you have purchased or lost any of these items please come and pick them up from Student Reception.

### **Swindon Youth Festival of Literature 2020**

This week is the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature, where successful authors share their love of reading and creativity with students. Normally we would have the authors come and speak to Years 7-9 in person, but obviously we can't do that – so we have done our best to adapt to make things virtual. We are having three events altogether. If you have any feedback afterwards, please let us know! The events are as follows:

#### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November: Ash Dickenson**

Ash Dickenson is a well-known poet who always speaks to our year sevens, combining readings of his own poems with a few writing challenges for the audience – and that part hasn't changed! All of Year Seven will be viewing his video performance during a lesson.

#### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November: Sally Gardner**

Sally Gardner is the famous author who would have been performing at the Wyvern this year. Fortunately, twenty Year Nine students will be able to enjoy her performance after lunch.

#### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November: Dave Cousins**

Dave Cousins will be performing to Year Seven before lunch and Year Eight in the after lunch. Those who have ordered books and signed bookplates will receive them today. The books he will talk about are Waiting For Gonzo and Fifteen Days Without a Head, but he has also written the Charlie Merrick's Misfits series.

### **Notice for Year 7**

#### **Year 7 Assembly**

There will be a 15 minute assembly for all Year 7 classes on Friday 13 November, during lesson 1.

To keep social distancing, the year group will be divided into three. Please see the rota for classes below.

Friday 13 November Lesson 1 9.00-10.00			
TG	Lesson	Teacher	Assembly - Hall
7K	EN G10	GWY	9:05-9:20
7L	LA G11	AMH	9:05-9:20
7M	GG G12	AYJ	9:05-9:20

7N	LA G13	SJE	9:25-9:40
7Q	GG G14	LNB	9:25-9:40
7R	MA G15	GCK	9:25-9:40
7S	MA G16	MTR	9:45-10:00
7T	CI R10	HDN	9:45-10:00
7U	EN R12	ACS	9:45-10:00
7Z	PAC R05	JTU	9:45-10.00

## Notices for All Parents

### Absence Protocols

Please find outlined below some of the protocols that should be followed for some situations that have occurred recently related to Covid.

1. If your child is having to self-isolate due to Covid, in the first instance telephone the Attendance Officer to notify her of the reason, just as you would for any other absence. She will notify your child's student manager. The student manager will notify subject teachers of the length of absence and instruct teachers to send homework. **There is no need for students to send requests to teachers**, as teachers have to wait for official notification from the pastoral team.
2. If you have an urgent message for or about your child, please can you telephone Reception on 01793 714200. Reception is always manned and there is always someone there who will deal with your urgent message. E-mailing a teacher means that your message will not be seen until much later in the day.

### Seneca Learning

Please see the attached letter on inviting parents to set up an account to support your child's use of Seneca Learning. A huge thank you to the 111 parents who have signed up to date, but obviously we'd like to extend this further. See the attached letter for further information. Seneca also have 30 minute parental webinars which are really popular so sign up as spaces are limited.

[Sign up for the webinar here](#)

## Pastoral Notices

### Contacting Students Managers

Students should not be seeing their student manager during lesson times. They can access their student manager at the following times:

- First thing in the morning before lessons
- Break time in the year group base
- Lunch time in the canteen
- At the end of the day in the detention room

Students can also email from home asking if they can have an appointment the next day and explaining what the reason is.

If there is an urgent issue that needs dealing with, they should speak to their teacher who will email the student manager. Student managers will not always be in the year base and if they are not there students need to return to their lesson and not wait. In the very rare

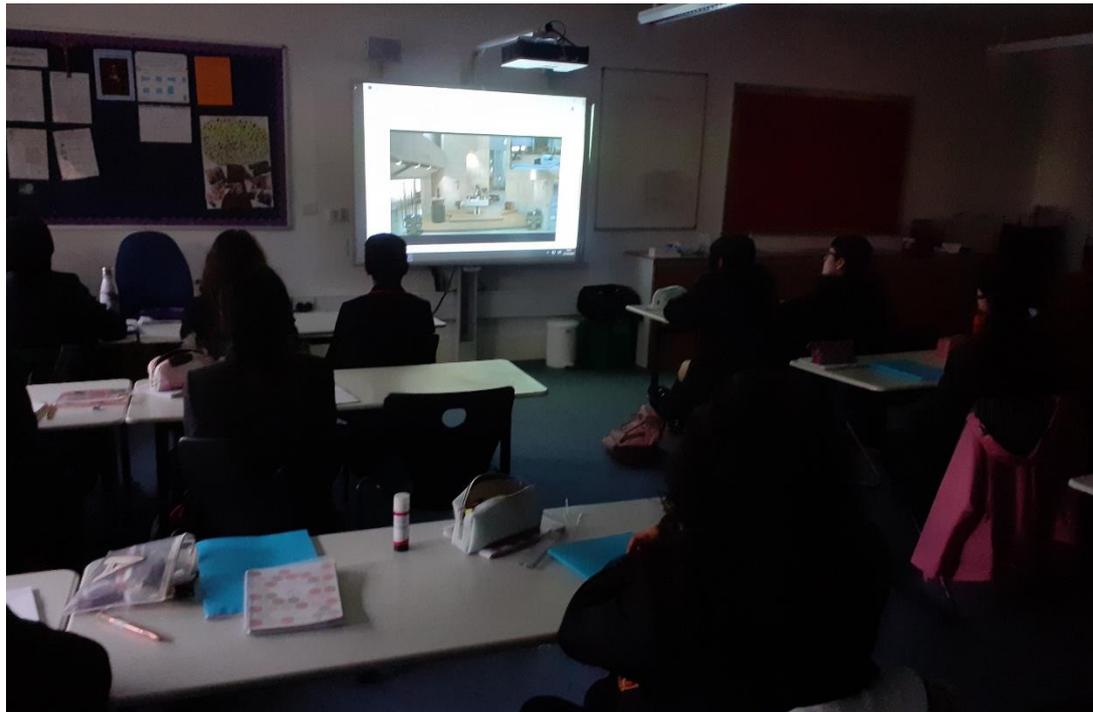
circumstance that the issue means they cannot go to the class, they should go to the Gym and speak to the student manager on duty. This should only be used in emergency situations.

### Chaplaincy news

#### PowerPoint on Remembrance

Many thanks to Martyna Sikora (Year 9) for writing a beautiful PowerPoint on Remembrance.

#### Virtual Mass in RE lessons



### Careers Notes

1. **New College Virtual Open Event** – Following from all the details you were given last term, this will take place on Saturday, 7 November 2020 from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. You have to register to attend. Details have been published on previous student briefings. If you need any further information, Mrs Sanders has leaflets for you in S14.
2. **New College/Swindon College Merger** – We have been contacted and asked to forward this (directly quoted!) information to you:

“Our course offer for school leavers across both campuses is comprehensive and complimentary. Since the merger, we are able to offer improved access to an unrivalled range of courses, including GCSEs; A Levels; T-Levels; Technical, professional and vocational programmes; Apprenticeships and HE. This is an inclusive and flexible curriculum with progression pathways from Entry/Level 1 to Level 6 with multiple entry and exit points, catering for all interests and achievements.

“Students have access to a range of modern and specialist resources across both campuses. This includes additional opportunities beyond their academic offer to include enrichment, employability, sporting academies and volunteering.

“From September 2021, we launch new T levels in Digital, Education and Childcare and Health and Science, information on all courses can be found on our website or in our prospectus. We will also be opening the new Swindon and Wiltshire Institute of Technology in September 2021, giving opportunities for specialist Higher Education courses and Apprenticeships in STEM areas.

“Applications to study with us from September 2021 have opened and we are encouraging students to apply early to avoid disappointment. Students should use the online application form to apply for either campus via [www.newcollege.ac.uk](http://www.newcollege.ac.uk), once received we will contact the applicant in regards to an interview.”

Use the virtual open event on 7 November 2020 to help you with your choices.

3. **Year 11 Academic Tutoring Follow-up** – Most of you in year 11 will have had your academic tutoring interview this week. As a follow up, you should make sure that you have filled in your targets on the Microsoft Forms link you have been sent by your tutors. This has to be completed within 24 hours of your meeting. You will be sent a further form to complete about your progress with your college/ apprenticeship applications for next year. These applications should be completed before Christmas, as you have been told in PSHE lessons. Get this job done, so it does not play on your mind!
4. **The Ridgeway Sixth Form College** – Hot off the presses! We have just taken delivery of a small number of “prospectus folders” from The Ridgeway R6. These are quite glossy! It is a small folder with a range of leaflets and information about the courses offered and life in the Sixth Form. If you wish to have a copy, please come to S14 and ask Mrs Sanders to go into the “special supply”.
5. **St. James’s Place Virtual Work Experience** – Thank you to all those year 11 students who participated in the virtual work experience over half term. All credit to you for taking time in a holiday to discover new experiences and build your repertoire of skills. St. James’s place have been in contact with me. They would like you all to complete a survey. I believe a link has been sent to you. Secondly, they would like students to write “testimonials”, where you write briefly about your experience and what it did for you. If you could send your testimonials to Mrs Sanders (an e-mail will do), I will send it on to SJP. It was a great e-mail to receive and we are proud of you.

**The next briefing will be Friday, 13 November 2020**