

STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 13 September 2021

Week B

EDUCATION

“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.” PROVERBS 9:9

Important Dates

16 September 2021	-	College Uniform check follow up
17 September 2021	-	Year 7 and 9 photos in the Gym
21 September 2021	-	Peace One Day - https://peaceoneday.org/Main/
22 September 2021	-	Year 8 mass Year 11 Curriculum Evening
23 September 2021	-	Post-16 Options Evening, 5.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.
24 September 2021	-	Teacher Training Day
30 September 2021	-	Activity Day 1

Notices for All Students

Year 7 Students - Week beginning 13 September

All year 7 students will be sitting baseline assessments in both English and Mathematics during this week. These will be held in normal English and Mathematics lessons and the class teacher will inform the students when they are taking place.

These are being held due to the cancellation of SATs exams last year. The purpose of these assessments is to inform teachers of area of strengths and possible areas of weakness in the class. They will also help to inform us when we stream the groups in late October/early November.

Year 11 Students – Careers Interviews

Individual careers interviews with Nik Dean, our careers adviser from Adviza, will begin this week, with the first interviews taking place on Wednesday, 15 September 2021. These interviews will take place every week and you will be notified of your appointment via email through your Grofar account. It is essential that you attend your interview to get the individual advice you will need to help you plan for next year. If you cannot attend for any reason, please let us know so that we can assign your appointment to another student. Thank you!

School Photographs – Friday, 17 September 2021

All year 7 and 9 students will be having their photographs taken. You must wear your full school uniform for this occasion. You will be taken by your class teacher at your class's scheduled time and the photograph will be taken. **Any students in years 8, 10 and 11 who have not had a photograph taken in previous years will also be called to have their photograph taken.**

PE Enrichment Clubs

The following clubs will run from Tuesday, 14 September 2021, 3.15 – 4.15 p.m. They are open to anyone in the relevant year groups; just bring your PE kit to the changing rooms after school. The clubs will change each term to reflect the Swindon Schools' sports calendar.

Tuesday	-	All years boys rugby and year 7 and 8 girls dodgeball
Wednesday	-	All years girls netball and year 7 and 8 boys dodgeball
Thursday	-	Year 9/10/11 dodgeball

Thanks, PE Department.

Library Opening Hours

From Monday, 13 September 2021 the Library will be open from 8.00 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. with the exception of Thursday, 16 September and Monday, 20 – Wednesday, 29 September. There are also some days when there are lessons on during lunch time; on these days the Library will be closed during the relevant lunch period. Opening times will be on the door soon.

We would also like to remind you that you are expected to treat the Library space as you would any classroom area. This means rubbish should go in the bin and furniture should be left neat and tidy when you leave. There are cubby holes in the corner against the green wall. Please can you leave your bags in the cubby holes while you are using the Library space.

IT queries

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 email address we have on our School Base records.
2. **What happens if I am having IT issues?** Please contact our IT team using the email studentit@stjosephscollege.net

Notices for All Parents/Carers

Forward Notice: Year Group Curriculum Evenings

This year, we have introduced a new event to our calendar: a year group curriculum evening, where there is a short presentation about what you and your child can expect as part of the educational experience for that year and you get the chance to meet with your child's academic head of year and members of the Senior Leadership Team. This will include details about the programmes of study they will follow, enrichment opportunities on offer and to answer any questions you may have. These take place at:

- 22 September 2021 - Year 11 Curriculum Evening, 4.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
- 27 September 2021 - Year 7 Curriculum Evening, 4.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
- 28 September 2021 - Year 8 Curriculum Evening, 4.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
- 4 October 2021 - Year 9 Curriculum Evening, 4.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
- 5 October 2021 - Year 10 Curriculum Evening, 4.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there.

School Lockers

A reminder that there are still lockers available for students to use to store equipment and belongings that they need during the day, such as coats, PE kit and anything that is cumbersome to carry and is only needed for one lesson. As indicated in previous communication, a locker can be secured for a refundable deposit of £25. For more information, please contact njones@stjosephscollege.net .

Covid Testing

A big thank you to all of our students who have been involved in the Covid lateral flow testing at College last week and this week. There were a number of positive cases identified through the testing process which meant that we could ensure that these students were asked to confirm their test with a PCR test and then isolate at home rather than continue to circulate at College. However, this does highlight the need for students to still participate in the home testing in order to keep our community as safe as possible. All students who were tested in school received a pack of home test kits which will take them until the end of September, currently the date to which the Government has asked for the home testing to continue. If any other student wishes to pick up a home test kit, they can go to the pastoral office and pick up one. Any results need to be registered through www.testregister.co.uk in order for the College to get the results, they will also need to register the results with the NHS as normal.

School Photographs – Friday, 17 September 2021

As indicated in the Student section, all year 7 and 9 students will be having their photographs taken. Your children must wear full school uniform for their photographs. **Any students in years 8, 10 and 11 who have not had a photograph taken in previous years will also be called to have their photograph taken.**

Post-16 Options Evening for years 10 and 11

All parents and carers should have received a letter this week that invites you to accompany your child to this evening, which is held at St. Joseph's on **23 September 2021 from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.** If you have any questions about this event, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Sanders on ksanders@stjosephscollege.net.

Chaplaincy news

Prayer

Please find attached a prayer on the theme of: Education

Pastoral Notices

MUGA

The MUGA is used during social times for football and basketball only. Students who wish to talk with friends can do so in other social areas. Students are expected to be engaged responsibly and safely in these games and will be asked to leave the area if they are not behaving appropriately.

Careers Notes

Post-16 Options Evening for years 10 and 11

A reminder that this is taking place on **23 September 2021 from 5.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.** Year 11 have been told all about this event in tutorials and PSHE. Year 10s should have heard about this through a letter to parents and carers; you will hear more about it during this next week during tutor time at school. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Swansea University's NHS Careers Open Day

Swansea University invites students who are interested in their virtual open day to learn more about study options and career prospects in medicine and healthcare. This will take place on **Saturday, 25 September 2021**. From 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., they will have a live chat session where advisers are available to answer your questions. From 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., there is a careers talk about nursing, midwifery, medicine and paramedic science. From 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., there is a careers talk about physician associate studies. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in a career in the NHS at all kinds of levels. To register to attend, click [here](#).

For years 8 and 9: CyberFirst Girls Development Days in October half term

Inspired and led by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), which is a part of GCHQ, the CyberFirst Girls Development Day is an event that is designed to increase your understanding of the different specialisms in cyber security and equip girls with valuable and highly sought-after skills. On the day, you will be role playing as cyber security experts working for a fictitious app company. On the day, disaster will strike and there is a serious breach of the company network. You solve the problem! This is a superb opportunity for you to find out if you would enjoy this type of career. Click [here](#) to find out more and to reserve your place.

Apprenticeship Vacancies

Please see the attached spreadsheet for the apprenticeship vacancies that were released this week. Thank you to all those students who have been asking about how to apply for apprenticeships. We will have workshops that will help with this process later this term.

Young Professionals Business, Accounting and Finance Evening

This event will take place on **Tuesday, 14 September 2021 from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.** If you are interested in a career in this sector, you can find out information about work experience opportunities, apprenticeships and hear from some of the world's biggest companies: PwC, HSBC and St. James's Place. There are lots of mini-workshops and there will be a certificate of completion for you to claim at the end. To register for this event, click [here](#).

The next briefing will be Friday, 17 September 2021