



20 April 2020  
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## ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19

Dear Parents and Carers

Once again, I hope that you are all well. Despite it being the traditional Easter holiday, I wanted to write to you with a brief update from St John's. We remain open during the Easter break, with the exception of Good Friday and Easter Monday, for our vulnerable students and those of the key workers that wish to use us.

Responses to the recent parent questionnaire were all very welcome and they have helped inform us of some of the issues that you are all facing regarding remote learning. We received just under 500 responses and they were very supportive of what we are providing with some helpful suggestions as to what we can do to improve. As a result, you will start to see more of the following from the start of Term 5:

- If your child is in Key Stage 3, look out next week for a new timetable that you can use if you wish to freshen up their approach to learning. It will help balance the load more effectively and if they follow it, they will see that it is co-ordinated with new work set by each faculty. Hopefully this will make things more manageable and reduce the sense of 'overload' that some students are feeling. This is being set up and co-ordinated by Mrs Spokes.
- More staff will be using Microsoft TEAMS and PowerPoint recordings as ways of delivering content to students and assessing their learning. Whilst we are not insisting on staff using these approaches, many are developing and sharing resources using these platforms. Students will always need to use SMHW as their way of accessing whatever is being set and it is there that they will find out which platform is being used. We will also be sending out a 'How to...?' guide on using TEAMS and there will be a video link placed on the school website which students and staff can refer to. All this will be ready for the start of Term 5.

We will send out further questionnaires as time passes to capture what we are doing which is effective and what needs to be improved.

### Summer Exams

I know that I have underlined that Year 11 and 13 remain very much in our thoughts, especially as the GCSE and A level focus has been removed. We have received the guidance from Ofqual in relation to the awarding of grades and Mr Rogan, Mrs Haig-Williams and Heads of Faculties are all working towards the required timelines. We will continue to be in touch as often as we can to reassure and outline the plans for these students. If your son or daughter is intending to take up a place in the Sixth Form from September, please look out for the preparation work which will be ready from April 20<sup>th</sup>. They can focus their attention towards preparing for their intended courses.

The exams set for Year 10 and 12 will continue as planned too.

As always, please do continue to stay in touch wherever necessary and inform us if anything changes or you feel we should be aware of anything. Many of you are using the [covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk) and we endeavour as always to get back to you quickly with a response. Another great place to stay up to date is on the dedicated area on the school website which can be found here: <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/latest-covid-19-information/>.

With every good wish.

**Ian Tucker**  
Principal

