



29th January 2021
lrr/jcl/stjccovid/29012021

Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19

Another busy week has passed and one that has been littered with speculation and announcement with regard to having schools open once again. The Prime Minister has given an indication that we will be able to consider the re-opening of schools from 8th March. Whilst this proposal is dependent on so many factors, it does provide us with the hope we need to help get us through the current situation and arrangements. Of course, we will be in touch as soon as we have a firmer plan but in the meantime, we will remain committed to supporting you and your children as best we can through the online learning and pastoral communication. We have been told that schools will close to all students through the half term break and we are pleased that we will be able to provide free school meals to all students that are eligible through that time.

Thank you to everyone who attended the remote Year 10 Parents and Carer evening this week. Before the end of this term we will also have had the Year 12 and 11 Parents and Carer evening and the Year 9 options event. We want to be able to fulfil as much of the school calendar as possible during the lockdown and your support and attendance at these events is greatly appreciated. The team behind the Moving on Fair on Wednesday also did an excellent job in providing helpful advice and guidance to a wide variety of our student body.

Update on the sports building project development

By the start of next week you will be directed to the required increasing capacity consultation that we need to complete in order to satisfy the regulatory framework around the building of the new Sports Hall. I hope you will find this consultation clear and that you will be able to lend your support to it. This will be running alongside the planning application which is currently under consideration.

National Day of Unplugging March 5th, 2021

This is based on the Jewish Day of rest and was founded in 2003. It is a 24-hour period to unplug and to not use technology, electronics or social media. In America it is celebrated on the first Friday in March, which would be 5th March 2021. We thought we would use this day to raise awareness as there has been so much emphasis on the use of technology recently with remote learning. Teachers will set work for their timetabled classes as normal, but the tasks will be designed for minimal use of technology. This is a good time for us to turn off the screens where possible, as we know the expectation for so many students and teaching staff has been to be screen facing for large parts of the day.

Schools, businesses and people all over the world participate and we wanted to do the same. Not only will this help reduce our energy demand and carbon emissions it is also about wellbeing; having an opportunity to reflect and connect with ourselves.

We will also be using the day to interview and give guidance for students in Year 9 and Year 11 as they make important decisions about their next steps. All students in Year 9 will have an options interview and students in Year 11 will either have their sixth form interview or discussion with their tutor about their plans after St Johns. Tutors from other year groups will use the opportunity to check in with families about how online learning is going. More information about this will follow after half term.

Challenge yourself to not text or email for 24 hours on **5th March!**



Notification of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases

Despite the lock down, it still remains vital you let the school know through the COVID-19 email - covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk if you have any pandemic related concerns we need to be aware of. This is particularly important if you need to take a test or have a positive case. We also continue to keep up to date our dedicated area on the school website which can be found at: <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/latest-covid-19-information/>.

Communication between home and school remains as important as ever, and I do hope that both you and your children will feel able to contact us at anytime if you need to.

With kind regards



Mr I Tucker
Principal

