



Sixth Form Briefing w/c 30th March

Dear all,

We hope your first week at home has gone OK and you are managing to keep busy. We have had a busy week learning to get to grips with TEAMS and online learning. We have also really enjoyed seeing some of the work you have been doing at home and hearing about other ways you are keeping busy. Remember you can also follow what we are getting up to on our Twitter feed @Stjohns6thform.

This week we would like to encourage you to take a look at some of the future learn courses. There are 12 courses specifically designed for those of you hoping to go to university but many other free courses available with some excellent universities. Search here <https://www.futurelearn.com/>

For our EPQ students in Y12 we have recommended *Developing your research project* <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/research-project> from the University of Southampton in addition to using the Project Q website. <https://my.projectq.co/>

Study tip of the week:

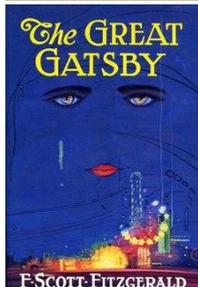


Keep to a routine – get up at a regular time, include exercise and contact with others through social media. Use TEAMS to keep in touch with your teachers and even, for some subjects, take part in an online lesson!

Fancy stretching yourself?

www.massolit.io Massolit is offering free access until April 31st and has lectures on English, History, Psychology, Philosophy, Classics and Government and Politics. When you go to the website log in for the free trial with: Email / Username: jcs009@jconlineresources.org and Password: JCSFoundation You can find out more about MASSOLIT here - <https://jconlineresources.org/resources/massolit/> These lectures would be perfect for students intending to study these subjects at university as well as Y12 students taking the subjects now.

Book of the week:



F.S. Fitzgerald – *The Great Gatsby*. Mrs Haig is particularly inspired to read this after looking at the beautiful illustrations one student has made for the book for her EPQ.

More reading:

Audible by Amazon are providing free access to audiobooks and stories for children and students of all ages whilst schools remain closed. All audiobooks are free to stream on your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet at <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Explore the collection, select a title and start listening!

Missing going out to the theatre?

The National Theatre is going to stream a free play every Thursday evening. The first one is on 2nd April at 7pm. “One man, Two Guvnors” is by Richard Bean and stars James Corden. Find out more on the Time Out site: <https://www.timeout.com/london/news/the-national-theatre-is-going-to-stream-a-free-play-every-thursday-night-032620>

Competition time:



Alex Horne, the Taskmaster’s assistant, is making self-isolating and social distancing slightly more bearable with **#HomeTasking**. Look on <https://www.youtube.com/taskmaster> to join in at home!

Cambridge Essay competition:

Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge has these fantastic opportunities for Year 12 students to write an essay and win £100 prize.

The essay and design prizes are:

[The Keith Maddocks Prize in Engineering & Design](#)

[The Cottrell Essay Prize for Medicine and Veterinary Medicine](#)

[Lucy Cavendish Essay Prize in contemporary issues 2020](#)

The deadline for submissions is midnight on 30th April.

Preparing an entry for one of these competitions is a **valuable experience for academically motivated students**, allowing them to get to grips with University-style questions and is a **great example of academic exploration for an application to Higher Education** and a **good educational way for students who are now at home to explore their subject of interest** beyond the school curriculum.

Keeping fit and healthy



Exercise should now have a place in everyone's daily schedule, especially given the free time we may now have. This could actually be a great opportunity to kick start a fitness regime that you might have been struggling to get going due to other commitments. There are loads of great apps online to help you. This week why not check out couch to 5 k if you are going out to exercise once each day. Or try working out with Joe Wicks, The Body Coach, as he live streams a PE lesson every weekday at 9am

<https://www.thebodycoach.com/blog/pe-with-joe-1254.html>

Mental Health:

If you need to talk to someone about your mental health over the next few months please remember that school is still here to support you. You can email pastoral staff or your tutor or use the links found on St Johns website at

<https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/life-at-st-johns/mental-health/>

Also, the online counselling service for children and young people **Kooth**. **Link below.**

<https://www.kooth.com>

Puzzle of the week:

Question - Decision Making

Allan, Bob, Charles, David and Elvis and Frank play cards in three teams of two people.

Allan plays with Elvis or Frank.

If Allan is with Frank, then David is with Elvis.

If Bob is with Charles or David, then Allan is not with Elvis.

If David is with Charles, then Bob is not with Frank.

Which of the following must be true?

- A. Allan plays with Elvis
- B. Bob plays with Frank
- C. David plays with Elvis
- D. David plays with Charles

The answer will be on next week's bulletin but if you can't wait that long, then send you answer to Mr Harrison mharrison@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk and he will let you know if you are correct!

Ted Talks

Two great speakers Tim Urban and Laura Vanderkam, talking about managing time. Both entertaining and informative.

Tim Urban
Inside the Mind of a Procrastinator

https://www.ted.com/talks/tim_urban_inside_the_mind_of_a_master_procrastinator#t-595669

Laura Vanderkam
How to gain control of your free time
https://www.ted.com/talks/laura_vanderkam_how_to_gain_control_of_your_free_time

Careers Links from Mrs Havill

Barclays Life Skills – a good site to review your employability skills

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/educators/support/21st-century-skills/>
<https://barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-to-develop-my-skills-for-work/sixth-form/rate-and-improve-your-skills>

MOOCS

There are a number of online courses that could be of interest and would support future applications. <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/higher-education-at-18/free-online-courses-offered-by-unis-moocs>

UNIVERSITY

This is an ideal time to think about degree ideas if you are thinking about studying at university. A good place to start is the UCAS website using this link <https://wwwucas.com/explore/subjects?scheme=undergraduate>

Universities are encouraging year 12 students to check their websites and are providing virtual tours and support to help your research. For example University of South Wales is

offering a range of online support for you, your students and their parents/carers as an alternative to school and college visits. You can access these resources on our website at www.southwales.ac.uk/resources.

They've developed interactive video presentations with accompanying research-based activities on the following topics:

- Student Finance
- Managing stress and improving wellbeing
- How do I apply for university?
- Developing an effective Personal Statement.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Find out about higher and degree apprenticeships <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/> and <https://www.ucas.com/which-apprenticeships>

ARMY UPDATE

With all Army Career Offices closed until further notice there will still be a presence to answer phone enquiries and to pass on relevant information to the careers advisers working from home. This includes Army Briefs and Individual Candidate Discussion Interviews via SKYPE rather than face to face.

Questions and Answers about exams from Mr Rogan:

How will grades be awarded?

Teachers will predict the grade they think each student would have achieved if they sat the exams and completed all coursework.

This predicted grade will not necessarily be exactly the same as previous grades which we have given this year.

However, in most cases, we would expect our final predicted grades to be very similar to previous grades.

Teachers will be informed by all available assessment evidence including mocks.

We know our students and you can expect teachers to make fair and well informed professional judgements.

We await more guidance from the Exam Boards about the process of predicting grades.

In all cases, we will follow the required process.

The Exam Boards will combine teacher predicted grades with other information to calculate a final grade.

We expect the Boards will use GCSE results and the school's performance at A-level last year to check that at school level our predicted grades are appropriate.

When will grades be awarded?

We understand grades will be issued by the end of July.

We have the facility to email results to students and parents and we would expect to do so in July.

Students will be issued with exam certificates by December and these will look exactly the same as certificates issued in any other year.

What about the exams planned for early in the next academic year?

Ofqual have said that students who are unhappy with the grades they get in July will have the chance to sit exams early in the next academic year.

We have no detail at all about these exams, but we will update you when we have more information.

Is there any appeal against grades?

There will be a right of appeal if a student feels we have not followed the required process. Students and parents should not write to teachers with concerns about predicted grades

How can I keep up to date?

We will send out information to help make sense of further announcements as soon as we have it.

Stay safe! Best wishes form the Sixth Form team.