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ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH - COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all safe and well. As we come to the end of another week of closure for the vast majority of our pupils, I am writing to you with the latest updates from St John's. Traditionally, this would have been the last day of Term 4 and we would all be saying farewell to the students as they leave to commence their Easter Holidays. It is very different this year and it feels increasingly strange being around a school which is not echoing with the usual noise and clatter of all our students. We only have a small number with us just now, the children of Key Workers and vulnerable students, but it is important to keep you all up to date and to stay in touch.

1. The Easter Break

St John's will remain open for the children of Key Workers and those who meet the categories outlined by the Government. We are aware of who those students are as they have already let us know. **We will, however, be completely closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.**

Students should all be working their way through all the work set by subject teachers currently, but we do want them to take a break over Easter if they can and they wish to. There will be plenty of work available, but teachers will be more relaxed with their expectations. More on 'learning from home' a little later in this update.

2. Thank you to Waitrose in Marlborough

I am so grateful to the team at Waitrose who picked up instantly that the school kitchens were being closed. Since that has happened, and at no cost, Waitrose have been providing food daily for all the students and staff that are in the Academy. This has been incredibly helpful and removed what would have been a significant problem for us. That gesture has been hugely appreciated.

3. Free School Meals

The Government Scheme to ensure all those who are entitled to Free School Meals receive vouchers has been actioned by us and these are all now on the way to pupils who are entitled to them. Do let us know if you have any issues accessing these and we will help straightaway.

4. Help in the Community

I am aware that many of you will be trying to find ways to help your community. Please do let us know if you have anything you would like to share, and we will tweet it for you. One thing that we are proud of is the way our 3D printers are being used to help make protective face gear for frontline workers at Royal United Bath Hospital. We don't have the ability to mass produce them, but we are doing what we can to try and help. It is great to share positive stories and I know there will be others out there.



5. Home Learning

We are aware that many students are trying to keep on top of the work being set by teachers during the Academy closure. We will be sending out a questionnaire soon which if you could complete, it would help us in knowing how we can improve. Next week, we hope to have developed further tools for staff to use to enable effective delivery of lesson content so please do look out for further information relating to that. We are aware too that IT can be limited for some, so please do let us know if you have any problems and we will see if we have a way to help. The key thing is that students do not become stressed about workload and that they let us know if they are worried in any way.

6. Summer Exams

Year 11 and 13 remain very much in our thoughts, especially as the GCSE and A level focus has been removed. We anticipate further information from Ofqual in relation to the awarding of results imminently and we will be in touch directly as soon as we have something new. Year 10 and 12 are aware that they have a mini-exam series to focus on in May.

7. Changes in circumstances

The last two weeks have changed things for many people. If there is anything that you feel we should be aware of in terms of your own circumstances, please do let us know. Use whichever form of communication suits you best and we will endeavor to get back to you – even if it is just a phone call to catch up. Using the covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk should ensure a swift response as it is checked regularly by a number of key staff.

Finally, I will remain in touch throughout the Easter break with at least this weekly bulletin. As I write, I am not expecting the Academy to re-open at the start of Term 5 and I have no steer from GOVUK regarding the likelihood of schools opening anytime soon. As soon as anything changes, I will be back in touch but in the meantime, please do stay safe and well and I hope that you manage to enjoy Easter in a somewhat different way.

With every good wish.



Ian Tucker
Principal