

Friday, 22 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Half-term Holiday

As we break for the May half-term holiday, I would like to take this opportunity to keep you updated with what is happening at St John Bosco College.

Our staff have been working hard throughout the half term to make sure that live lessons and learning activities have been made available to all our students online through Microsoft Teams. These are being provided for every timetabled lesson that students have. I am delighted that so many of our students are engaging with these lessons and not falling behind with their learning. That said I am also aware that a number of children do not have laptops or have to share computers with parents and siblings and we have been working with the local authority and local charities to ensure that none of our students are left behind. Please do get in touch with the school if your child cannot get online to do their work and we will try to find a solution (email schoolclosure@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk).

The government has published some useful advice on supporting your child with their education during the pandemic and this can be found [here](#).

As you will no doubt be aware we have had a small but growing number of students (those who have been identified as vulnerable, have EHCPs or are the children of key workers) coming into school each day for a structured programme of socially distanced learning, lunch and play and this will continue after the half-term break.

Unlike during the Easter holidays, we will not be open next week but we will run two drop-in sessions for any students or parents who are facing any difficulties and want to come in to school to speak to a senior member of staff for support. These will take place on Wednesday 27 May 2020 and Friday 29 May 2020 from 9.00-10.00am.

School reopening

At this stage it is still not confirmed when schools will be asked to reopen. There has been a lot of debate around this issue in the media. We will update parents as and when the situation is clarified but it is likely that only a limited number of children (year groups 10 and 12, along with more vulnerable and key workers' children) will be back in school before the summer break.

As a school we have been doing a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure that, when the time comes, children can attend safely, maintaining good hygiene and social distancing practices. We have undertaken a thorough risk assessment and will be adapting normal school routines to ensure that we minimise risks wherever possible. Staff will be happy to discuss these measures with concerned parents prior to their children's return to school.

Wider issues

As I mentioned in a previous letter, I am aware that many families are facing financial difficulties as a result of lay-offs and job losses. If you are in this situation then please do let us know so that we can see what practical support we might be able to provide. If you think that your son or daughter may now qualify for free school meals having not previously done so, please contact us at schoolclosure@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk . If you are in receipt of free school meals but are having difficulties with the Edenred voucher system that the local authority uses, please do also contact us so that we can raise your complaints with them.

E-Safety

As I have said before with increased internet and social media usage, it is important that parents and guardians keep an even closer eye on their children's activities online and ensure their safety. Please see our website for E-Safety advice for parents. Any laptop provided by the school is monitored by our Securus IT safety service.

Feast Day

Today we celebrated the Feast of Mary, Help of Christians in school. Mass was celebrated in the chapel this morning and if you missed the live broadcast you can still view it on our [YouTube channel](#). You can also find our Feast Day assembly [here](#), please do have a look. If you would like to share any prayer intentions, for example to pray for any family members who might be unwell or are struggling with anxiety, please contact our chaplain, Fr Saju at sjohn@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk .

Sharing good news

In difficult times like these it is good to focus on some of the positives to have come out of the crisis. I continue to be delighted by the commitment and efforts of my colleagues to go the extra mile to support our children. I am also so pleased and proud of the way in which our students have adapted to the new circumstances and are still producing great work. Please do have a look at some of their fantastic work in our latest virtual newsletter which is so full it had to be put in to two separate documents: [part one](#) and [part two](#)!

As ever I would like to conclude by assuring you of the prayers and best wishes of all the staff at the school in what has been a very challenging time for everyone and to thank you for your continued support and goodwill.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Dunne
Headteacher