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Headteacher: Mr Paul Dunne MA

**“it is not enough for children to be loved,  
they must know that they are loved”**

**#Believe And Achieve**

Monday 18 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Now that we are a couple of weeks into the new term, I thought I would write to you to update you on the latest news from school.

### No news yet on the return to school

At the beginning of term, we were greeted with the news of the national lockdown and the closure of schools to all students except those identified as vulnerable and/or the children of parents classed as key workers. This situation remains in place and as yet we have not had any indications from the government when other children will be allowed to attend school again. Rest assured that once we know, we will let you know.

### GCSE and A Levels

As I am sure you will have heard by now the Government announced last week that the GCSE and A Level examinations will not go ahead in England this summer. The exact format of how children's grades will be awarded is yet to be fully confirmed but it is very likely to be a combination of teacher assessments with additional evidence. This means that it is more important than ever for students in Year 11 and the Sixth Form to keep up to date with their work and be well-prepared in all their courses.

### Changes to timings for children onsite

For those children who are currently attending I want to inform parents of a slight change to the timings of their school day. They will continue to arrive at 8.40 am but they will now be dismissed at 1.40 pm, at the end of period 6, not 1.20 pm as they had been doing for the first couple of weeks of term. This is the case Monday through Friday.

### Covid testing for staff and children onsite

We have now fully launched our Covid-19 testing provision for asymptomatic staff and students working onsite here at school. Staff and children (whose parents provide consent) without symptoms, are being tested weekly to provide a measure of reassurance to all. I am pleased to report that the number of positive cases amongst both groups has been low. Children with symptoms must remain at home to self-isolate as before.





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### Online learning

For the majority of children who are working from home they should be accessing the online curriculum and live teaching that is taking place for each timetabled lesson. Registers are being completed and reminders sent to those who are not in class. Please do help to support your child by encouraging them to log on promptly and to report any difficulties that they might encounter with accessing their schoolwork so that we can help them. Please contact [IT\\_Helpdesk@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:IT_Helpdesk@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk) with any technical enquiries or requests for devices/connectivity. Children are encouraged to contact their form tutor on Teams in the first instance if they are having any difficulties or indeed any worries about schoolwork or other issues.

The format for the live lessons is for staff to provide input online for the students for approximately 20 minutes and then children will work, ideally away from the screen for the remainder of the lesson. This also means that children have the flexibility to take comfort breaks or have a snack while they are doing their work.

### Live Assemblies

This week sees the launch of ‘live assemblies’ which children working from home should attend once a week at 1.20 pm. These started today and will run as follows:

Year 7 – Monday  
Year 8 – Tuesday  
Year 9 – Wednesday  
Year 10 – Thursday  
Year 11 - Friday

You are welcome to join your child at these if you are able to.

### Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)

The second series of PPE examinations for children in years 7-10 will take place, online, in the week beginning Monday 8 February. These will be hosted on Inspira, a web-based platform that students will be familiar with having sat some of their PPEs using this technology in November 2020. It is important that students are preparing for these exams in the normal way, making notes and keeping a revision schedule.





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### Parents' Evenings

We are continuing to hold our Parents' Evenings as planned this half-term and these will go ahead online using the School Cloud website. Despite some issues beyond our control last week with the Year 10 Parents' Evening we found that this worked really well with Years 11-13 Parents' Evenings before Christmas. You will be able to have a timed (5-minute) video call with each of your child's teachers online. A link for your year group will be sent approximately a week before the event.

The dates are as follows:

- Thursday 28 January 2021 – Year 9 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 4 February 2021 – Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 11 February 2021 – Year 10 Parents' Evening *(this is rescheduled from the event on 14 January which was postponed due to issues with the School Cloud website)*

### Year 9 Options

Can I remind parents of children in Year 9 that the deadline for options choices is Friday 29 January 2021. Information about the options process can be found in the Year 9 Teams pages.

### Our School Community

I hope that you and your families are coping despite the difficulties that everyone is facing at the moment. I am aware that a number of families have been having a particularly tough time recently for different reasons and would encourage those of you who are struggling to get in touch with us to see if there is any way in which we can support you.

We have a number of resources on our website to help you to support your children at home. Please do take time to have a look at these. They can be found [here](#).

Our Chaplain Fr Saju is always happy to offer prayers for the intentions of students and their families and you can contact him by email at [sjohn@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:sjohn@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk). We meet every morning as a staff (online and in person) and pray together for our whole school community, particularly those families who need our support and consolation.

Let us all hope and pray that brighter days are just around the corner.

With best wishes

Mr P. Dunne - Headteacher



Outstanding

