

## Parent / Carer Newsletter 5

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

This week, the House Progress Leaders led their first virtual assembly and this can be seen on the school website. Mrs Breislin also added a message about what her family have been getting up to during the lockdown. So, we thought it would be useful to give you an insight into the 'virtual life of a school in lockdown' so that you can see what we have all been doing!

### **Working in school:**

Each week we have a new staffing rota to work with the students who are attending school. This includes our catering manager who provides the food for these students and a cleaning team who have been ensuring that we follow strict hygiene guidelines. The teachers in school have created new lessons, new enrichment activities and have adapted to teach mixed age group lessons!

### **Working from home:**

Most of our staff, like you, are working from home and many are home schooling their own children whilst also juggling all of the weekly household duties. We know that households across our community look very different, with families sharing computer access, office and learning spaces being created in dining rooms and new family activities such as PE in the lounge, online family quizzes and a lot of baking! We are very hopeful for the future chefs of our nation!

### **Keeping in touch:**

We have been holding regular staff meetings online through Zoom and Teams. These have been held by departments to discuss the work we are setting for students and our centre assessment grades, by the school governors to hold their termly meetings and by pastoral teams to discuss who we have been in touch with and who might need support. Our school counsellors are also working remotely to support our community. The leadership team meet several times per week to talk about the week's events both in school and from the national educational news. Staff have been involved in online meetings with other schools and with our learning networks across the city. Despite some odd camera angles, muted participants and occasional frozen screens, we have become adept at the new etiquette required in an online meeting!

### **New systems:**

Students in the upper school have all been issued with Office 365 accounts and the ICT team are rolling this out across the whole organisation at the moment. We had to fast track this work as it was due to be in place for September...but it has been very helpful and we have done a lot of quick learning about this new technology along the way! The data team have also created helpful tracking documents for the staff as we work on the centre assessment grades.

We have enjoyed keeping in touch with you all and a different newsletter goes out to parents/carers, students and staff each week. We have also set up a new account to capture student work. Free school meal vouchers are sent to families weekly and we are awaiting information from the government on the new laptop scheme for students.

### **Staff learning:**

Our first big learning curve was definitely how to ensure that our students could be taught virtually. We have seen teachers' creativity in abundance. Some lessons are being taught online, others have audio teaching attached to powerpoint presentations and we are using a number of fantastic learning platforms for different departments.

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Aside from all of the new technology that staff have learnt about over the last few weeks, some teachers have also been involved in online CPD sessions. Some of these have been nationwide events and it has been a bonus to be able to attend these from our own homes!

**Capturing lockdown:**

Our students have sent in some wonderful examples of work and creative projects over the last few weeks and we are capturing all of this, alongside the work done in school, to create a display in school for when we return. This unique experience will have tested every human emotion at some point and part of our future work in school will need to reflect this period of recent history.

**Planning ahead:**

This term is a key recruitment time in education and we have adapted our processes to include online interviews to ensure that we have our full complement of staff for the new school year. We have recruited some excellent teachers and staff who will make great additions to the All Saints family.

Our new Year 6 and year 12 students will soon be receiving information about their September start. Our transition teams for both year groups have been working hard to ensure that these new students start to feel part of the All Saints community.

We hope that this has given you a flavour of the work that has been going on in and out of school since lockdown. We miss the students and each other and we are looking forward to when we can all meet again. As we celebrate VE day, we reflect on another generation who also gave up so much for the lives of others.

Sending all of our best wishes. Our thoughts and prayers go out to families who are currently affected by illness or bereavement.

Lord God our Father,  
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace,  
for the relief of want and suffering,  
and for the praise of your name.  
Guide us by your Spirit;  
give us wisdom;  
give us courage;  
give us hope;  
and keep us faithful now and always.  
Amen.

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