20th April 2020

**Dear Parent/Guardian,**

I hope that you and your family are all well and coping with the lockdown. These are tough times for you all but hopefully by following the government guidelines we will overcome COVID 19. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

We have returned following the Easter break and thought it would be prudent to update you on what’s coming up this week and the information we have which is shown below. As you will be well aware from the government’s daily briefings there is no clear indication when schools will be fully or start to be partially open. However, I am optimistic and I do feel we are moving closer to that day now than we were.

**Tutor Phone Calls – This week**

During this week, your son/daughter's tutor will be in touch with you to see how you are all getting on and check whether you have everything you need to complete the work currently provided on our website. It is crucial they have access to their office 365 account so that they can make direct contact with their teachers regarding their work to ensure they can make the best progress they can while studying at home.

**MS Teams – Years 9 & 10**

From today we have set up MS Teams so students can contact their teachers live at the times stipulated on their usual timetable. This is a new process for all so there may be initial issues to iron out over the next couple of weeks. Students will therefore be able to be get specific feedback about the tasks they are doing and support with the next stages of their learning. Hopefully this will be a step closer to teaching from a distance. Over the next two weeks we are looking to broaden this to years 7 & 8.

**Free School Meal Vouchers**

We share the frustration and the lack of support from Edenred with the voucher scheme. It’s great that the majority of our families have received their ecodes on time, however unfortunately not all our families have received them or they’ve been delayed. We are told that the issues have been due to the system not being able to cope with the demand. I am told this is being addressed but the guidance is still saying that it will take up to 72 hours from when they are ordered on a Tuesday each week to receive them. Contact details for Edenred are below. The school will still be providing food on site each day. Please contact Ms Marion Meider at mmeider@stgcc.co.uk if you have any questions for the school.

Edenred - 08434534000

**Government Announcement 19th April 2020 – All Students - Home Learning**

Yesterday the Department for Education announced it will be supporting free online lessons for primary and secondary pupils through BBC Bitesize and Oak national academy at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

I am sure this will be a very good additional resource for your son/daughter to use at home with daily lessons in Maths & English as well as some other core subjects now available from today to support them with their home learning. Please can I ask that students don’t use this instead of MS Teams (which gives them direct contact with their teachers for all their subjects) but in addition to maximise their learning. We want to ensure there is regular contact between the students and the teachers regarding their work.

**Laptops – Year 10 Disadvantaged Pupils:**

In the same press release the Department for Education has said it will lend laptops or tablets for some deprived 15-year-olds who do not already have access to a computer who will be taking their GCSEs next year.  At this stage there is no logistical information about how this is to be set up. Therefore, please can you give us time to receive the next steps.

**Year 11 Grades (Vocational & GCSEs) & Confirmation Results Day – Thursday 20th August 2020**

We now know that our Year 11 students will be able to collect their GCSE results on Thursday 20th August 2020 from 9-11:30am in our main hall. If you are unable to collect your son/daughter’s results on that day they will be sent 1st class by 2pm. If you have any questions about this please contact Mr Guyer on sguyer@stgcc.co.uk

This is the same day as previously planned and all Year 11 students will receive their results in the same way using the standard format that all previous students have received. In my last letter I attached a letter from Ofqual for parents and students about how your son/daughters’ results will be calculated. This is still available on our website at the following link if you don’t have a copy:

<https://www.stgcc.co.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=78>

Year 11, we are all still thinking of you and hope you are all coping well in this unfamiliar and unusual situation. Please remember you are very much part of our family and we are busy planning a formal leavers’ assembly and arranging details for the prom.

**Year 11 Formal Leavers Assembly Dates:**

 We have agreed two potential dates for our Year 11 leavers assembly shown below. This is for parents and all Year 11 pupils. This will be dependent on when schools are permitted to re-open but we thought it would be helpful to share these with you. We will, of course, confirm which one by Monday 11th May.

* Friday 5th June 2020 3-4pm
* Friday 10th July 2020 3-4pm

**Year 11 Prom -** Unfortunately due to the COVID 19 outbreak we have **cancelled the Prom on Friday 10th July 2020 and have rearranged it for Friday 20th November 2020** at Victoria House in Hamble. We have tried our best to keep this date but both Victoria House and the school feel that with social distancing measures in place it will be the hospitality industry that will be last to return to normal and therefore the original date was no longer realistic.

**Year 7 Parents Evening**

A gentle reminder that Year 7 parents’ evening that was due to take place on **Wednesday 22nd April 2020 has now been rearranged to Tuesday 23rd June 2020 5-7pm**.

**Mental Health & Wellbeing**

The coronavirus crisis is having a huge impact on young people. The loss of routine, and exam cancellations are all factors that are causing stress and increased anxiety, as well as additional health concerns. For teenagers this can be a really challenging time and we are here to support you all. Please click on the link below for expert advice and guidance to get you through this challenging time.

<https://www.stgcc.co.uk/page/?title=Student+Help+and+Advice&pid=233>

**Safeguarding - Pupils**

**staysafe@stgcc.co.uk**

This email address is available **only for pupils** if you are feeling concerned for your safety, wellbeing or anxiety which is affecting your ability to function as you normally would. This will be looked at daily. For parents, the email address will be emailed to all students via their school email accounts.

Finally, please stay safe, follow the guidance by the government, and look after each other. We will continue to keep in touch.

Yours faithfully,

​

Mr J Habberley​​​​​​​
Headteacher