11th May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that you and your family are all well and you had a good bank holiday weekend. I have said in previous letters how lovely it has been to receive messages from students and parents with the work your son/daughter has been doing at home. We are very lucky to educate such a talented hard working group of students. We are continuing to publish their work on our website.

**Government Announcement – Sunday 10th May 2020**

The Prime Minister announced yesterday his conditional plan to ease lockdown measures. With specific reference for schools it states that it may be possible that primary pupils will return, beginning with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from Monday 1st June 2020. **The ambition for secondary schools specifically Year 10 pupils is that they will return to school and at least get some time with us before the summer holidays. There is not date set on this but the Prime Minister referred to step 2 being a phased return in June.** Guidance on Years 7-9 was absent and I’m afraid I have no further news either. We therefore must remain positive and hope that it will be safe for us to return at some point before the summer holidays as well. There will be detailed guidance coming out in a few days that sets out how schools will be able to enforce social distancing in schools and on public transport.

**What is key for our students is that they remain healthy and happy, and well supported by us which we will continue to do with our phone calls, MS Teams, safeguarding checks, laptops & emergency service in school.**

It is important to keep up with the work, and we are delighted that nearly every student is now regularly on MS teams and submitting work to our teachers. If your son/daughter cannot get it all done, please do not worry, we will catch up. The teachers are setting out their work progressively rather than all at once to support you with it. Crucial though, is our home learning offer to support all students with their work so please stick to a routine, ask for feedback and guidance when you need it and ensure you log into every lesson. If you feel that you are not getting the support you need please contact me**.**

**Year 11**

The Post 16 partnership has worked together to develop resources for Year 11 students affected by the impact of the Coronavirus. The result is ‘Flying Start Southampton’, an impartial website built for young people in the city to support their transition to post-16 education and training.

The partnership has brought together Southampton City Council, Bitterne Park Sixth Form College, City College Southampton, Itchen College, St Anne’s Sixth Form, Richard Taunton Sixth Form College and the Southern Universities Network (SUN), with the aim of providing impartial support, information and advice on further education, apprenticeships and future employment options. SUN is hosting the site on the following link:

<https://www.sunoutreach.org/resource-category/flying-start-southampton/>

The site includes:

• Careers - Planning for the future utilizing the Windmills iCan programme

• Developing study skills – for all students - resources provided by college partners

• Post-16 subject specific – to explore chosen subjects and beyond – links to partner sites.

• FAQs for young people & parents and carers

• Health and wellbeing resources

**The Information below has not changed since my letter last week**:

**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. **There are quarantine activities now on the following page to help cope with the additional stress you may be feeling at the moment.**

<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.

**Amendment to our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy**

We just wanted to make you aware that due to the COVID 19 crisis we have added an amendment to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. This can be seen at:

[**https://www.stgcc.co.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=40**](https://www.stgcc.co.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=40)

As a gentle reminder, this means there is an expectation that children defined as vulnerable should be attending school unless otherwise agreed by the family with social workers.

**Tutor Calls – Week Beginning – Monday 11th May 2020**

A gentle reminder that this week your son/daughter’s tutor will be in touch to see how they are all getting on and if there is anything they need that we can help with. We do miss seeing our students every day and as a group of teachers we are missing teaching and hope we will come back together soon.

**May Half Term – School is Open for Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Pupils only - Registration**

A gentle reminder again that in order to support our key worker families, the school is open from Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2020 from 8:40am till 3:00pm. A range of activities will be put on over the week but will be mainly supervision based rather than teaching. Mr Webb has kindly agreed to run his minibus service but the other two buses will not be running. If you would like to register a place at school for this week please can you click on the link below and complete the **online form by Tuesday 19th May at 9am.**

[**https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8mJRt-Dz8kini2H46dDMEVTp4Kq856dFtQ8gs\_x24nRUNlBES0hFUVIwNFVOQjhJQVYzQUlaTUZDOS4u**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8mJRt-Dz8kini2H46dDMEVTp4Kq856dFtQ8gs_x24nRUNlBES0hFUVIwNFVOQjhJQVYzQUlaTUZDOS4u)

**Home Learning – MS Teams - Years 7-10**

MS Teams continue as normal this week. This is live for all classes in years 7-10 apart from CORE PE**.** Feedback on attendance continues to be increasing and hugely positive and the quality of work being produced has been outstanding. Thank you for your support, but can I mention that if you have not been able to attend please do not worry as we can catch up. Teachers are there sharing PowerPoints/documents and resources to help with home learning and the teaching. If there are any issues please let us know. Teachers will be in touch if we have noticed you are not online all week just to check you are ok. All work is now being sent by email or through MS Teams. A summary of what is being set is on the website for each subject/year group for the week.

**Important Dates**

* Year 11 Leavers Assembly – Friday 10th July 2020 3-4pm: Arrive from 2:30pm
* Year 11 Prom – Friday 20th November 2020
* Year 7-10 Presentation Evening – Thursday 2nd July 2020 - 7pm
* Year 7 Parents Evening – Tuesday 23rd June 2020 – 5pm-7:30pm
* Year 6 Transition Day – Wednesday 1st July 2020
* Mentoring Day – Tuesday 14th July 2020

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