

A Fortnightly Newsletter for Parents, Students, Governors and Staff

15 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

There may have been some suspicions but I think we have all been left a little dazed at the sudden Government action to move us into lockdown and close schools. My sincere thanks to all students, parents, staff and governors for the support and encouragement that you have offered our community as we have had to reassess plans and make swift changes in challenging circumstances.

I would like to welcome Anne Kinch, who joined us as our sixth form administrator this term in very surreal conditions. I am sure you will all get to know her over the coming weeks.

The assessment fortnight got off to a good start this week with Y12 assessments being conducted online and/or on papers sent home. I would like to congratulate students who have been very diligent in their preparations and communications with staff to make sure these have been completed to the best of their ability. Y13 assessments start in earnest next week so I hope they will similarly run smoothly.

For the week beginning **18 January**, Y12 students should follow their usual timetable and engage with the extension, enrichment and preparation work that has been uploaded to each subjects Google Classroom. Tutor will also begin for Y12, meeting on Tuesday (19 Jan) and Thursday (21 Jan) at the later time of 9.15 on Google Meet. Full remote learning will begin for the whole sixth form from **Monday 25 January**. Please do take a moment to familiarise yourself with the new school day that has been devised to support student welfare whilst working online.

I am aware that the hot topic for Y13 will be the cancellation of exams and that there will be many questions about the awarding of A level grades this summer. There has been no further confirmed information shared on this topic but I would strongly urge students to keep their focus firmly on maximising their academic progress; studies will continue and I would advise that students continue as if exams will happen so that they are in a strong position once we have more information.

To close, I would just like to remind all members of our community that there is no 'right' response to the current circumstances we are all in. However you are feeling is most likely a normal response to an abnormal situation. Myself, Mr Ackland, Mrs Kinch, the tutor and mentoring team are all here to support our students in whatever way we can so please never hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Lucy Staves, Director of Sixth Form

Dates for your Diary

January

Mon 18 Jan	Enrichment Week—Year 12
Mon 25 Jan	Full online learning starts for VI Form
Fri 29 Jan	Formal UCAS deadline date

February

Fri 12 Feb	End of Term 3
Mon 22 Feb	Start of Term 4—Week A

An introduction

Hello from St Gregory's new Sixth Form Administrator

Having completed my first 2 weeks at St Gregory's, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about me. My name is Mrs Anne Kinch and I am delighted to be the new Sixth Form Administrator.

I have spent the last 20 years working in the NHS as the Business and Finance Manager of a very large general practice with a patient base of approximately 26,000 patients over 3 sites. We also held the contract to provide GP services to several prisons and juvenile centres as well as the MOD.

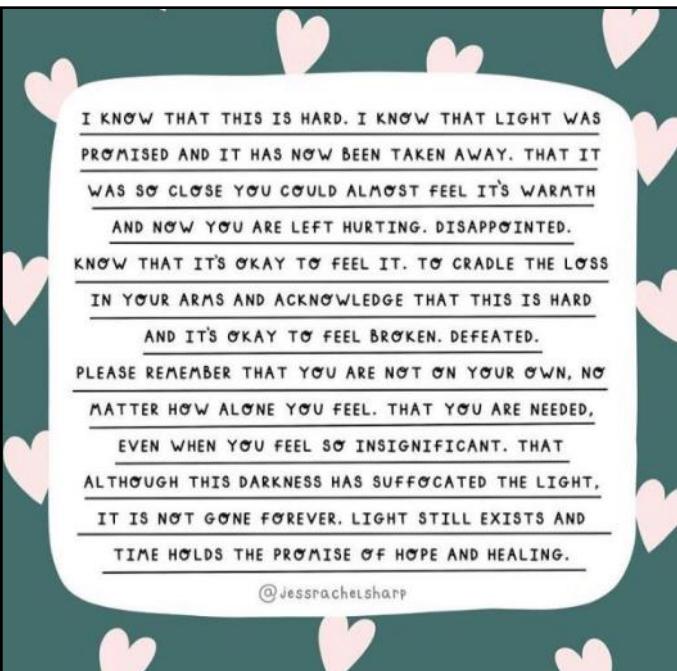
Although I do not have a school background, I have had 3 children all complete their studies at their school's sixth form during recent years and my son, the youngest, is currently a Year 13 student. In my spare time I spend a lot of time walking my 2 young, very energetic sprocker spaniels.

I very much hope that I will get to meet, or at least speak, to as many of you as I can over the coming months despite the very unusual circumstances we find ourselves in. Please feel free to email me or call me if there is anything that I can do to offer support or help with any queries.

Mrs Anne Kinch

KinchA@st-gregorys.org.uk

Chaplaincy Thoughts



hope

If you only carry one thing throughout your entire life, let it be hope. Let it be hope that better things are always ahead. Let it be hope that you can get through even the toughest of times. Let it be hope that you are stronger than any challenge that comes your way. Let it be hope that you are exactly where you are meant to be right now, and that you are on the path to where you are meant to be... Because during these times, hope will be the very thing that carries you through.

- Nikki Banas

Matt Robinson, Chaplain



Burns Night is a cultural event that takes place on 25th January in Scotland. It celebrates the life and work of Robert Burns, a Scottish poet who is widely seen as the national poet of Scotland. Burns' best known work is "Auld Lang Syne".

New School day Timetable

To support students and staff as they work online, on or off site, the following changes have been made to the school timetable and came into effect on Monday, 11 January 2021.

School day during remote learning

Time	Activity
9.15-9.30	Online tutor programme (Y13 –
9.30-10.15	Lesson 1
10.15-10.30	Break
10.30-11.15	Lesson 2
11.15-11.30	Break
11.30-12.15	Lesson 3
12.15-12.30	Break
12.30-1.15	Lesson 4
1.15-1.45	Lunch
1.45-2.30	Lesson 5
2.30	End of online learning

Problems accessing Google Classroom? No access to a laptop or computer? Make use of an Xbox or PS4! See instructions below:

HOW TO ACCESS GOOGLE CLASSROOM FROM AN XBOX AND PS4



1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to *Library*
3. Select *Library* application
4. Within the library use the search bar to type in *Internet*
5. Select the *Internet Browser* app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box *Google Classroom* and select the first link that comes up:
Classroom: manage teaching and learning Google for Education - link below'
<https://edu.google.com/products/classroom>
8. Select *Go to Classroom*. Then log in using student email and password.



1. Go to Home Menu
2. Select *My Games and Apps*
3. Scroll down to *Apps*
4. Go to *Microsoft Edge* application
5. Type in a search for *Google Classroom*
6. Select *Go to Classroom*
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.



PROGRESSION

Apprenticeships



Bath College
VIRTUAL
**APPRENTICESHIP
EVENT 2021**

SAVE THE DATE
**3RD MARCH
– 2-5PM –**

www.bathcollege.ac.uk/apprenticeships

- FREE EVENT -



• UK university &
apprenticeship
search virtual fairs

Wednesday 27th January
12pm - 6pm

Universities
Colleges and
Apprenticeships | 10
Live Webinars

Register here



<https://ukuniversitysearch.vfairs.com>

Opportunities

Bristol University - Stem Up!

This new online programme is for students nationwide in the first year of their A-levels, BTECs or prospective mature students or equivalents who are interested in studying a STEM subject at university. From April 2021, students will attend 5 online sessions each Thursday after school. To apply and get further information, go to:

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/science/outreach/stem-up/>

Sutton Trust Summer School — 2 to 6 August 2021

Applications for the Sutton Trust Summer School have now opened. Sutton Trust Summer School offers students the opportunity to experience student life in one of the UK's most exciting cities. For further information, go to:

<https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/>



TIME TO TALK DAY
Thursday, 4 February 2021

A small conversation about mental health has the power to make a big difference. For more information and to take part go to:

<https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/get-involved/time-talk-day>

We are here to help

Sixth Form Head Pastoral—Mr Ackland

Director of Pastoral Care—Mrs Tuke

Family Support Officer—Zsuzanna Jenkins

Pupil Support —Mrs Rita West and Dr Simon Brooks

School Nurse Service —Yvette Tayler (07976 916058)

Careers Advisor—Mrs Parker and Mrs Ruck

Medical Room, First Response Officer—Mrs Katy Stevenson