

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you celebrating the imminent end of remote learning! I know some of you will remind me that from Monday 8 – Wednesday 10 March work is still being set online however we are one step nearer the return to familiar routines and familiar surroundings.

The return to school will have evoked in all of us a variety of responses. It is ok to feel anxious, nervous, excited or maybe all three at once. The experience you have had is unparalleled and, the most important thing to remember is that you have overcome; you have overcome challenges, barriers and continued uncertainty and for that you should be very proud.

I know the return to school comes with continued questions, especially for Y13 with regards to how grades for A level will be awarded. I thank you for your patience as we work to produce clear guidelines for you. Currently, the most I can offer is to signpost you to the published guidance on the DfE website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021> I hope very soon to be able to give you greater clarity and understanding of exactly how the process will work.

On Thursday 11 March we return to school. Y12 students will return for tutor at 8.45am which will extend into lesson 1 with normal lessons resuming from lesson 2. All Y12 students are required to attend. For Y13 students, they are expected to follow their normal timetable from lesson 2 on Thursday, there will be no lesson 1 due to the extended tutor session. Prior to lockdown we encouraged students to come to school for their timetabled sessions and this remains the best guidance. The LRC and Café remain open areas to use at any point during the school day and will be open for students from 8am to 4pm daily. Many of our processes remain as they were before lockdown but please do read through the information sent by Ms Cusack to help you prepare.

I speak for the whole staff at The New Sixth when I say how delighted we are to be welcoming you back next week and to getting back to what we do best.

Enjoy a lovely, restful weekend.

Mrs Lucy Staves, Director of Sixth Form

Dates for your Diary

March

Thurs 25 Mar	Y13 Parents Evening—3.30-5.30 pm
Thurs 11 Mar	All Year Groups in School
Sun 28 Mar	British Summer Time begins—clocks go forward one hour

April

Thurs 1 Apr	End of Term 4 - 1.30 pm Finish
Fri 2 Apr	Good Friday - School Closed
Mon 19 Apr	Start of Term 5 - Week B

Contact Details

If you have recently changed any of your contact details (telephone numbers, email addresses) please inform Mrs O'Bray, Office Supervisor
lobrayc@st-gregorys.co.uk



TRAVEL NEWS

First Bus will be running extra services at peak times on routes **41, 42 & 172** from 8th March.

The details of the extra journeys are as follows:

Service 41 - additional journeys from Ambury dep. 0828 to Odd Down Park and Ride arr. 0838 and from Odd Down Park and Ride dep.1514 to Ambury arr. 1524.

Service 42 - additional journeys from Royal United Hospital dep. 0758 to Odd Down Park and Ride arr. 0818, and a journey from Odd Down Park and Ride dep.1514 to Royal United Hospital arr. 1534.

Service 172 - additional journeys from Bath Bus Station to Mendip Gardens during the morning and afternoon school / college start and finish times.

Chaplaincy Thoughts

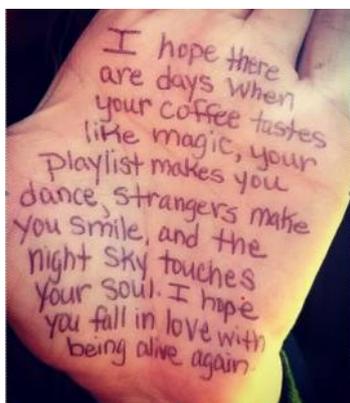
As we prepare to return to a sense of normality (in the most recent sense of it!), there may be quite the mixture of anxiety, apathy and anticipation amongst you all.



We can get so mixed up with how big everything is, how vast the challenges and problems are; that we can forget how much every conversation, smile, act of kindness or endeavour matters.

Around Pentecost every year, when talking about the gifts of the Holy Spirit (such as wisdom, understanding, etc) the RE staff and I are always asked about one in particular - Awe/fear of the Lord. I like to explore it in the sense of 'Awe and wonder', do we see the awe and wonder of everything around us? Do we get those wow moments, or really appreciate parts of life which can give us a lift?

This graphic I came across captures what I mean perfectly:



Do I anticipate everyone is going to fall in love with the return to sixth form, it's ambitious. But who knows how much of a positive effect it will have on you socially, mentally and academically. I'll conclude with a quote from scripture where we see what can only be described as *blunt Jesus*. In response to a man who had been sick for 38 years trying to gain help to lower him into a healing pool, Jesus says **"Get up, pick up your mat and walk."** (John 5:8). A little harsh maybe, but he is healed and walks off carrying his mat renewed and well.

There are two things to look at with this exchange. Firstly, Jesus approaches the man and asks him if he wants to be healed, and in response the man complains that nobody else is there to help him out. Jesus asks us whether **we** want to better ourselves, and **whether we are willing to help ourselves** or are we looking to others to do the work for us?

Secondly, Jesus faces the wrath of the Pharisees again by healing on the Sabbath. Ridiculously, to carry your mat would have been considered work, so Jesus' response to the man to "get up, pick up your mat and walk" is a direct challenge to skewed interpretations of *the Law* being more important than people's health. It is challenging the most hardened hearts and closed mind-sets. So again, ask yourself how open are you to the future, to the new few weeks and months and how well things can go for you?

Matt Robinson, Lay Chaplain

Y12 Business News

On Wednesday 10 March Y12 Business are taking a virtual tour through live streaming in an Audi Factory in Germany as part of their Operations Unit Module.

They are doing this in collaboration with the Audi team as a class but individual members of the public can also register to sessions if they would like to have a insight into these operations.

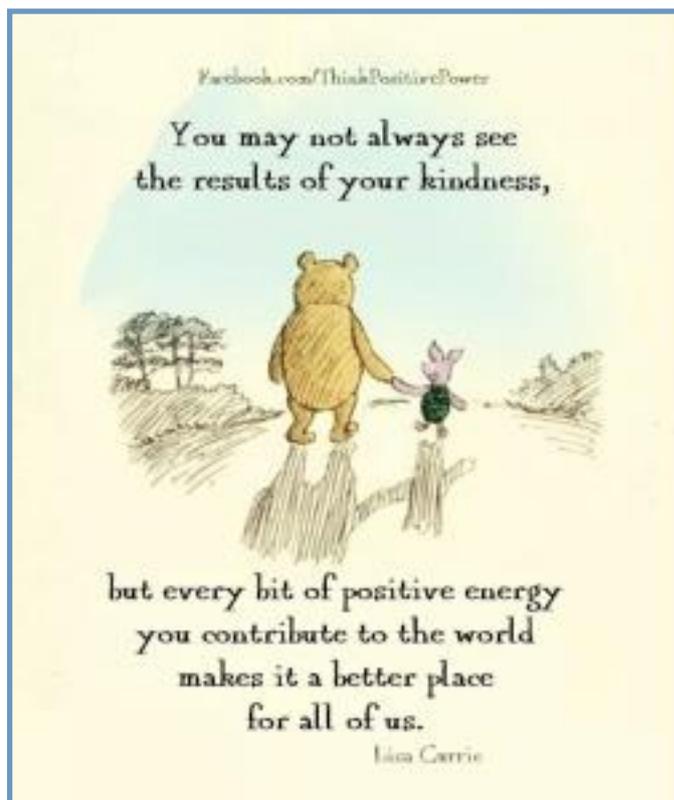
<https://www.audi.stream/>



Better Health every mind matters

[Every Mind Matters](#) offers a range of free resources that help spot the signs of common mental health concerns, offers practical self-care tips and guidance and explains when to seek further support. It also has a free NHS-approved online tool the Every Mind Matters [Your Mind Plan](#)

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>



Celebrations and Events in March



St. David's Day - 1st Mar 2021

St. David is the patron saint of Wales, and celebrations include wearing daffodils and leeks, eating traditional Welsh food and wearing Welsh national costume.

[More about St. David's Day](#)

World Wildlife Day - 3rd Mar 2021

World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that conservation provides to people.

[Event Website](#)

World Book Day - 4th Mar 2021

Annual celebration of books and reading celebrated by reading, book related activities and dressing up as characters from books.

[More about World Book Day](#)

International Woman's Day - 8th Mar 2021

A worldwide celebration of women's rights and celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

[Event Website](#)

Mother's Day - 14th Mar 2021

The day where we show Mum just how much we love her in the UK

[More about Mother's Day \(UK\)](#)



Pi Day - 14th Mar 2021

A day of celebrating the wonder of mathematics, 14th March was chosen because the value of Pi is often taken as 3.14.

[More about Pi Day](#)

St. Patrick's Day - 17th Mar 2021

Ireland's national day is celebrates the Irish patron saint Patrick. The day is celebrated all around the world with Guinness and shamrock decorations.

[More about St. Patrick's Day](#)



Global Recycling Day - 18th Mar 2021

A day to recognize, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet. It is a day for the world to come together and put the planet first.

[Event Website](#)

Spring Begins - 20th Mar 2021

Whoop Whoop! Spring starts today!

World Frog Day - 20th Mar 2021

A celebration of frogs which are an important indicator of an ecosystem's health and help to keep the ecosystem balanced.

World Poetry Day - 21st Mar 2021

A UNESCO day to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world.

[Event Website](#)

Tolkien Day - 25th Mar 2021

Organised by The Tolkien Society, to encourage fans to celebrate and promote the life and works of J.R.R. Tolkien by reading their favourite passages from his books.

[Event Website](#)



Piano Day - 29th Mar 2021

A day for piano players and lovers to share the joy of the piano. It takes place on the 88th day of the year, for the number of keys on a piano.

[Event Website](#)

It's that time of year again when we move the clocks forward.

This year it's happening on Sunday 29 March, but as the actual time change is during the night, you'll probably be fast asleep in bed when it happens!

Thankfully most smart phones, computers, and other devices connected to the internet, normally update the time

automatically. But if you have a watch or clock that isn't digital, don't forget to check if you need to manually reset the time. An American politician and inventor called Benjamin Franklin first came up with the idea while in Paris in 1784. He suggested that if people got up earlier, when it was lighter, then it would save on candles. But it arrived in the UK after Coldplay singer Chris Martin's great-great-grandfather, a builder called William Willett, thought it was a good idea too. In 1907, he published a leaflet called The Waste of Daylight, encouraging people to get out of bed earlier. The idea of moving the clocks forwards and backwards was discussed by the government in 1908, but many people didn't like it so it wasn't made a law. Willett spent his life trying to convince people that it was a good idea, but it was only introduced in the UK in 1916 - a year after he died.

It was actually first introduced by the Germans in World War One, just before the UK did it. During World War Two, the UK actually used what was called British Double Summer Time (BDST), when the clocks were ahead by an extra hour during the summer. But this didn't last for very long. Now, the UK's clocks always go back by one hour on the last Sunday in October and forward by one hour on the last Sunday in March.



PROGRESSION

Free Apprenticeship & University Webinars



UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair

Wednesday 17 March | 12:00 - 18:00

A fantastic opportunity for students from Years 11, 12 and 13 to explore **over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers** from across the UK. Our exhibitors answered over 20,000 questions from students in January, so make sure your students don't miss the chance to engage with admissions officers and student ambassadors to have their questions answered.

We'll also have 10 live webinars taking place on a range of subjects from apprenticeships to writing a personal statement. For more information and to register, click on the link below:

<https://ukunisearch.vfairs.com/>

An advertisement for the UK University webinar series. It features a student in a grey cap and red backpack looking out over a cityscape. The text includes: "UK University webinar series", "unifrog", "Hear from leading institutions across the UK to find the right university for you", "With 13 sessions from 1 to 11 March", and "Sign up for free at unifrog.org/webinars".

UK University Webinar Series - 1 to 11 March 2021

Perfect for students in Year 12 as they start to think about where they'll apply. Each webinar focuses on a different region in the UK, and students will hear from universities including:

- **Queen Mary, University of London**
- **University of Liverpool**
- **University of Exeter**
- **University of Edinburgh**
- **University of Warwick**

Students sign up on the Webinars tile on their homepage or here: www.unifrog.org/webinars

An advertisement for UK University & Apprenticeship Search Webinar Wednesdays. It features the UK University & Apprenticeship Search logo and the text "Webinar Wednesdays".

Webinar Wednesdays

will be returning with three webinars led by university experts, you can sign up and find out more [here](#).

Following the government's recent guidance we are very pleased to announce the

UK University & Apprenticeship Search Fair at Ashton Gate Stadium will take place on **Wednesday 7th July**.

Please see further [details here](#).

This will be a great opportunity for students to gain face to face higher education and careers advice. We have a high number of exhibitors already signed up to the fair who are keen to meet students and teachers in person.



Opportunities



Summer Internships 2021 The Ultimate Work Experience Ages 12-18

The Internships offer the ultimate work experience: site visits, networking time, career coaching and much more - all with top industry professionals.

There are some amazing opportunities below. Please don't let cost put you off - we have the bursary scheme which we can use to support you if you think the experience below would be beneficial.

We have had students work with InvestIN in the past and they have always spoken incredibly highly of them— Mrs Staves

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 2021

Supercharge
your students'
futures

Ages 12-18

REGISTER NOW



Register Now: Ages 15 - 18

Work Experience Opportunities: Speakers for Schools are an organisation that aims to help young people access opportunities both for Work Experience and Inspirational Talks. Here are their more recent Work Experience openings, which you can all sign up and apply for. Links and information are below. Contact Mrs Parker if you need any help in any way.

New Virtual Work Experience Opportunities Recruiting Now:

[Build Yourself with Wates VWEX](#)

Dates: 6 - 9 April 2021

Eligibility: 14 – 19 year olds interested in the construction industry.

Application Deadline: 12 March 2021

[STEM Challenge VWEX with Johnson Matthey](#)

Dates: 6 - 8 April 2021

Eligibility: 14 – 19 year olds keen to find out more about a career in sustainable technology.

Application Deadline: 12 March 2021

[Design and Construction VWEX with Balfour Beatty](#)

Dates: 6 April 2021 (10am – 12pm)

Eligibility: 14 – 19 year olds keen to learn more exciting changes being made in the industry to GO GREEN.

Application Deadline: 14 March 2021

[Introduction to Careers in Light Rail - Midland Metro Alliance](#)

Dates: 29 March 2021 (5pm – 6pm)

Eligibility: 14 – 19 year olds keen to learn more about the light rail industry.

Application Deadline: 19 March 2021

[Green jobs in the construction industry - Graham Construction](#)

Dates: 8 April 2021

Eligibility: 14 – 19 year olds interested in a career in the construction industry.

Application Deadline: 19 March 2021

[The Future of Green Careers - SThree](#)

Dates: 14 April 2021

Eligibility: 16 – 19 year olds keen to find out how do you turn passion for the environment into a future career?

Application Deadline: 19 March 2021

For a full list of placements - [sign in here to search and apply.](#)

INTRODUCING
SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS
VIRTUAL
WORK EXPERIENCE
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LEARN MORE UNDER
THE **INSPIRATION &**
EXPERIENCE SECTIONS