

Dear Parents and Carers,

Y13 assessments are now underway and whilst the situation is very unfamiliar to students and staff, the familiar buzz of revision, excitement at finishing and last minute panic is now filling the Sixth Form.

For those feeling more the latter, please be reassured that feelings of anxiety, panic or low mood are a very natural response to the entirely unnatural year you have had.

We will be celebrating our leaving cohort on 28 May from 1.45. I hope that all of our Y13s will join us on the day, some having just finished assessments and some having enjoyed a break from the revision cycle.

Applications for the Student Senior Team closed last Wednesday and I am excited to announce those shortlisted for interview next week. The standard of application has been exceptionally high and I know we will be able to appoint a team of enthusiastic, committed and proactive young people to drive change and support the student experience in the Sixth Form and across the school.

There are many plans afoot for Term 6 so whilst they bring exams for Y12 (the week beginning 21 June) there will also be much fun, community and joviality to be enjoyed which I strongly believe we have all earned over the past eighteen months.

Mrs Lucy Staves, Director of Sixth Form



Dates for your Diary

May

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|------------|--|
| Fri 28 May | End of Term 5 Y13 Official Leaving date |
|------------|--|

June

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|-------------|--------------------------|
| Mon 7 June | Start of Term 6 - Week B |
| Mon 21 June | Exams Week - Y12 |

July

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|-------------|----------|
| Sat 17 July | Y13 Prom |
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MAY

May Day - 1 May The first day of the month of May is known as May Day. It is the time of year when warmer weather begins and flowers and trees start to blossom. It is when people celebrate the coming of summer with lots of different customs that are expressions of joy and hope after a long winter. Traditional English May Day celebrations include Morris Dancing, crowning a May Queen and dancing around a Maypole.

World Bee Day - 20 May

The United Nations designated World Bee Day to raise awareness of the importance of bees and how we need to do much

more to protect them. "In addition to being one of the major pollinators, thus ensuring food and food security, sustainable agriculture and biodiversity, bees significantly contribute to the mitigation of climate change and environmental conservation. In the long-term, the protection of bees and the beekeeping sector can help reduce poverty and hunger, as well as preserve a healthy environment and biodiversity. Scientific studies have proven that bees have become increasingly endangered. It is only through joint efforts that we can ensure the protection of bees and their habitats."



Spring Bank Holiday (Whitsun) - 31 May The spring bank holiday started as the Monday after Pentecost. This is known as Whitsun or Whit Monday in the UK. The Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 moved this bank holiday to the last Monday in May, following a trial period of this arrangement from 1965 to 1970.

Chaplaincy Thoughts

The Lie of Self-Reliance

A reflection by Kelly Colangelo

As a high school student, I can remember carrying a stack of textbooks, barely able to hold their weight. A classmate noticed my apparent struggle and asked if they could assist. I responded with a sharp, "No, I got it!". I can do it on my own...I don't need anyone...I can't trust anyone...I can only trust myself. Have you ever said anything like this? Or, have you ever believed that you could make it through this life on your own?

We live in a time where being independent, totally independent, is a sought-after quality. Don't get me wrong; independence is not a bad thing. It becomes a problem when we believe we can do everything ourselves. The problem? It can shove others out, most notably Jesus.

"Without me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5). The truth is we cannot do everything ourselves and we were not made to do everything ourselves. Sometimes we need to go back to the basics. We already have a Saviour, and His name is Jesus, not me (Kelly Colangelo), and not you. We have a God who chooses us, desires us, loves us, and wants to be in a relationship with us. Countless stories in Scripture illustrate people who needed a Saviour. We are all in need of a Saviour. Identifying the trap of "I can do everything on my own" or "I don't need anybody" is crucial to a life of freedom.

We are made for community. You and I are hardwired for relationships. One of the down-sides of self-reliance is that you don't let other people help you. This can lead to you being overwhelmed or making others feel bad (unintentionally) because they feel like you are not open to inviting them into your life. At college, at home, even in the everyday ruminations of life - people are offering to help you, do you see them? It is not bad if we can complete a task independently; the bad thing is when we refuse to let others help (especially when you can really use the help). The importance of embracing vulnerability is crucial.

We can't do everything is a true statement. And how relieving and freeing it is knowing we are not made to do everything on our own. We have a Father in Heaven who rejoices over being with us on our journey. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him" (Ephesians 1:3-5). Amen!

Matt Robinson | Lay Chaplain

Y13 PROM NEWS



Y13 Prom is happening on Saturday, 17 July 2021

An email has been sent to all Y13 students asking for any suggestions about what form you would like the Prom to take. All suggestions are welcome and you can complete the google form (link below — you have to be signed into your school account) with your ideas:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdaY8NjYj7n1tf75alcQdsnhVYvfgXvBEpEbwTXyfddOO_LpQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Mental Health Awareness Week



Hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, Mental Health Awareness Week will take place from 10-16 May 2021. The theme is "Nature". For more information go to:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week/why-nature>



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

PROGRESSION

Free Apprenticeship & University Webinars



We understand that attending an open day is a significant part of a student's decision when it comes to choosing their options. Whilst we still cannot welcome students to our campus at this time, we are delighted to invite them to join our open morning on **Saturday 8 May 10am-12pm** via Zoom.

During this two hour session, principal Dr Janet Rose and vice principal Mandy Donaldson, will provide a comprehensive live tour of Norland, giving students the chance to explore our campus and see where our TEF Gold-rated degree and integrated diploma training takes place.

The second half of the morning will feature a live Q&A session, where students will have the opportunity to meet our friendly team and ask staff and students all those important questions about studying at Norland.

Ctrl & Click on the link:

[Book now](#)

Engineering in ACTION

ONLINE, June 28th 2021

1.00-3.45pm

We are delighted to announce another afternoon of *Engineering in Action* for KS5 students, taking place **ONLINE** as a special half-day programme on the afternoon of **June 28th 2021**. Students will hear three inspiring talks:

- **Sam Rogers** - testing and developing a pioneering human flight suit
- **Anna Ploszajski** - exploring designer materials
- **Katie Cresswell-Maynard** - projects which make a difference in the world

[Find out more and book tickets](#)



Join a new UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair on **Wednesday 26th May 2021**, taking place from 12:00 to 18:00 (GMT/UTC). Following the success of our virtual events during lockdown, we are bringing our highly interactive fair back for even more students to experience, with a wide range of universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers joining us. This event will allow you to explore all your post-18 options in one place, with a huge range of exhibitors coming along. Universities will include Russell Group, red brick, modern and specialist institutions, as well as colleges and apprenticeship providers. You'll be able to explore exhibition stands, live chat with admissions officers, student ambassadors, academics and recruitment teams to ask any questions you have, view virtual campus tours, prospectuses and information, and take part in 10 live and interactive webinars in the auditorium.

The event is completely free of charge for students, parents and teachers. Our events are designed to make researching your post-18 options really engaging, there will be lots of interactive elements for you to explore virtually whilst at school or at home. The event is ideal for Year 12s to explore all the fantastic higher education and career options available, as well as being a fantastic way for Year 11s to gain motivation and inspiration. We also recommend attending if you are currently in Year 13, and undecided about your post-18 options. The event will allow you to consider the universities you can apply to during Clearing or explore apprenticeships if you are looking to take that path: <https://ukunisearchsouth.vfairs.com/>



TRAVEL NEWS

First bus are providing the following additional journeys at peak times.

Service 41 - additional journeys from Ambury, Bath Centre dep 08:28 to Odd Down Park & Ride arr 08:38, and a journey from Odd Down Park and Ride dep 15:14 to Ambury, Bath Centre arr 15:24 .

Service 42 - additional journeys from Royal United Hospital dep 07:58 to Odd Down Park and Ride arr 08:18, and a journey from Odd Down Park and Ride dep 15:14 to Royal United Hospital arr 15:34 .

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

*Students are reminded to observe the social distancing spacing on the buses.

*Students are required to put their masks on prior to boarding the bus, and to wear the mask throughout the journey, in line with government guidance.

*Students may wish to bring their own personal small bottle of hand sanitiser to clean their hands before boarding transport, and again on disembarking.

Miss Medcroft, Transport Co-ordinator

Car Parking/Student Drop Off Notice

Please be mindful that as the school car park has been cleared for the safety of the students gathering in their bubbles before school, parents and carers are asked **not** to drop off at the main site or from Odd Down Football Club as parking for staff is very limited. Students can be dropped off at Odd Down Park and Ride.

Useful Links

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/study-skills-guides> - UCAS has produced some information on essential study skills.

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/leaflets/> - help if you don't know which degree to choose.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/nursing-the-application-of-bioscience-psychology-and-sociology> - an online course - Introduction to Nursing

Sixth Form Bursary

16—19 Bursary Fund

In Sixth Form there is a Bursary fund available to help students pay for Text Books, Stationary and IT, Transport and course equipment. The fund is limited and is discretionary and means-tested for eligibility but does NOT affect the calculation of any other benefits you may be receiving such as Universal credit. If you think you might qualify and have to buy bus fares, uniform or books, **retain your receipts**. If your application is approved by the School Governors these costs can be reimbursed.

Forms and further information can be obtained confidentially from Mrs Kinch, LRC.

Contact Details

If you have recently changed any of your contact details (telephone numbers, email addresses) please inform

obrayc@st-gregorys.co.uk

Mrs O'Bray, Office Supervisor