



St Peter's Catholic School



National Teaching School
designated by
National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Faith is our Foundation

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Archdiocese of Birmingham
Metropolitan Borough of Solihull

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well during these strange times.

During this week, I have been reminded of how our community comes together in support of each other. The very generous deliveries of laptops from companies (Altair, IT Capita and Pertemps), as well as from some of our families have been gratefully received, to help in ensuring all of our pupils are able to access the lessons and work that is being set whilst school is closed to the majority of our pupils.

Updates

The government have issued an update to the 'What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges' guidance, following the announcement last week, please read it [here](#).

On Thursday 14th January, Solihull Council issued a letter to be shared with all parents and carers, which is attached to this email, along with a letter for pupils with special educational needs and their parents/carers.

Testing – Lateral Flow Devices (LFD)

Following government guidance, we have now started to test members of staff using the LFDs. Senior staff have undergone hours of training to prepare for these tests and our thanks must go to Mr Fegan, one of our governors, and Mrs Fegan, for sharing their expertise on testing. Our Sports Hall has been converted to our testing facility and we now have eight testing booths. May I thank all the staff who have volunteered to help with the testing, as well as the 50 members of our community who have offered to help out. If you have experience in this field or have a clinical background and would like to support us when pupils return to school, please contact the school office on office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk.

We will begin to test the critical worker children who are currently attending school, later next week. This group will have received a consent letter yesterday, therefore, if you consent to your child self-administering a test, please follow the link on the letter or contact the school office to request further information. You can see some photos of our testing site at the end of this letter.

Pupils in school

In school, the number of pupils who have needed to attend has varied depending on the shift patterns of parents and when our help was needed. Should circumstances change, parents are welcome to [click this](#)



[link to let us know](#). In school, pupils have followed the exact same work and arrangements as those at home, joining Microsoft Teams lessons and following their learning online. Pupils are required to be on site by 8.45am and then are dismissed at 2.50pm in time for the school bus which departs for Solihull and the Coventry Road at 2.55pm. For those in school, full school uniform is expected each day. Lunch is available to purchase in the canteen, although we operate a pre-order system whereby pupils make their choices in the morning at form time.

Remote Learning

As we end the second week of remote learning for the entire school, I would like to thank all parents who have taken the trouble to write in and say how impressed they are with the quality of the lessons being delivered. Our teaching staff really value the positive feedback, and parental appreciation of their hard work. Teachers are keen to learn new ways of working online, and many took part in more online training this week designed to make Teams lessons even more engaging for pupils. This was organised by Mr Chesterman, and delivered by Mr Mallon, Mrs O'Rourke and Mr Grice, and I would like to thank them for their input.

If you would like more information about remote learning at St Peter's, we have just published [further remote learning information for parents](#) on our website. This is to complement our existing [remote learning arrangements by key stage](#) and [digital contingency plan](#). If you are experiencing any technical difficulties with remote learning, please email ICTsupport@st-peter.solihull.sch.uk, all other communications about online lessons should go through the school office, so they can be directed to the most appropriate person to deal with them.

Remote Learning Lesson Times

Please find below confirmation of the current lesson times, with Key Stage 3 lessons being 45 minutes long from Monday 18th January 2021.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9)

| Period | Start | Finish |
|---------------------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 09:05 | 09:50 |
| 2 | 10:05 | 10:50 |
| Break | 11:05 | 11:25 |
| 3 | 11:25 | 12:10 |
| Y7 to Year 11 Lunch | 12:25 | 13:05 |
| 4 | 13:05 | 13:50 |
| 5 | 14:00 | 14:45 |

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

| Period | Start | Finish |
|---------------------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 09:05 | 10:05 |
| 2 | 10:05 | 11:05 |
| Break | 11:05 | 11:25 |
| 3 | 11:25 | 12:25 |
| Y7 to Year 11 Lunch | 12:25 | 13:05 |
| 4 | 13:05 | 14:00 |
| 5 | 14:00 | 14:50 |

Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form)

| Period | Start | Finish |
|------------------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 09:05 | 10:05 |
| 2 | 10:05 | 11:05 |
| Break | 11:05 | 11:25 |
| 3 | 11:25 | 12:25 |
| 4 | 12:25 | 13:20 |
| Sixth Form Lunch | 13:20 | 14:00 |
| 5 | 14:00 | 15:00 |

Year 11 and 13 Exams

Following the announcement from the government that GCSE exams and A-Levels won't continue as normal this year, we are still waiting for further information on how these grades will be decided. At the moment we believe students will sit either 'mini assessments' set by the exam boards or mock examinations in school. With this in mind it is important that students are engaging in their Teams lessons, completing all tasks and homework activities and are continuing to revise. Once we have more information, we will write to you again.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

We would like to remind all Year 9 parents that parents' evening is taking place next Thursday (21st January). This is happening remotely using an online system called School Cloud. All Year 9 parents should have received a link which allows them to book appointments with subject teachers. **The booking system closes at 4.00pm on Wednesday** so please make sure you have booked your appointments before then. Please be aware that appointments are five minutes long and the system automatically ends the call when the five minutes is up. This is to ensure that all appointments run on time and parents aren't kept waiting.

Year 9 IAG Online Meetings

To support the pupils in Year 9 with their Option Choices, staff will be holding IAG Meetings.

An IAG meeting is an 'Information, Advice and Guidance' meeting. Each Year 9 pupil will receive a phone call from a member of staff to discuss their options and where this might lead them in the future. Pupils are not required to make a decision there and then; this is just an opportunity to talk through what they might consider taking. The phone call should only last around 10 to 15 minutes and will be conducted during one of your child's non-core or foundation lessons; hence, it should not interrupt any Teams lessons.

The member of staff will record the discussions and outcomes of the meeting on your child's Start profile, which they will be able to view after the meeting by logging into their profile and going to the 'My Locker' section. For more information on Start, please contact careers@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk.

Oxford Success

We would like to offer huge congratulations to Niall O, Mikolaj M and Luke S who have received offers from University of Oxford to study Engineering, Biology and Chemistry respectively. This is fantastic news and a reflection of the hard work and dedication of all three pupils. Well done!

Olivia signs a contract with Aston Villa Football Club

We would like to congratulate Olivia M, in Year 11, who has signed a professional contract with Aston Villa. This is an amazing achievement at just 16 years old. Olivia will now be training with the first team and we look forward to watching her compete in the Women's Premier League. Olivia is an extremely talented player with an excellent attitude on and off the pitch. It is great to see all her hard work and dedication being rewarded. Congratulations to Olivia and her family.

Careers Newsletter

If the above successes have inspired you to think about your future, please find attached to this email the latest version of the Careers Newsletter.

Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

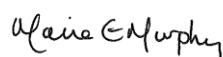
Last Sunday was the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord and all pupils were sent a link to this week's YouTube Assembly around this theme. The Assembly invited pupils to reflect on the new year and while there are so many parts of our lives we cannot control at the moment, we can focus on small changes around what we can control. Mary, one of our Pupil Support mentors, challenged pupils to choose some personal targets in the Wellbeing Lottery (attached/linked/copied below). The Assembly can be viewed here <https://youtu.be/uIFHQHPbYFg>. The Assembly includes the popular serenity prayer:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. Amen

Jesus of course, strictly speaking, did not need to be baptised as he was not born with original sin. However, he insisted in taking part in the ritual like everybody else in solidarity with his people. This same solidarity is called upon today, more than ever as we are all called upon to work together to conquer the latest challenges of the pandemic and at St Peter's, the strong, caring Catholic Community has never felt more alive. From the 50 people who generously volunteered to help with Lateral Flow Testing, to the numerous generous donations of laptops and electronic devices – it really does feel like 'we are all in this together'. A perfect attitude as we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord.

We hope you manage to enjoy a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs M. E. Murphy
Headteacher

Photos of the testing booths

