




St Peter's Catholic School



National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Faith is our Foundation

Headteacher: Mrs M.E. Murphy



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Archdiocese of Birmingham
Metropolitan Borough of Solihull

Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today, we have reached the midpoint of our half term; what a strange time it is and continues to be. I am extremely proud of all the pupils and staff for their hard work and resilience through these difficult times.

Pupils in school

We are pleased to be able to help the parents who are critical workers by providing supervision for their children in school. Pupils in school have the same provision as those at home in that they are assigned a computer and join their Microsoft Teams lessons with the rest of their class. It is really critical that any pupils who are scheduled to be working in school arrive by 8.45am at the very latest. We must report to the Department for Education exact details of who is in school and this lengthy process must be completed each morning. Where a pupil arrives late, the whole process must be repeated and this is not something we have the capacity to do. From Monday, pupils who arrive after 8.45am will not be able to attend. A reminder that places in school are limited and should only be used if absolutely necessary to reduce exposure to the virus. Should your circumstances change, [you can inform us by using this form](#). Lunch is available and pre-ordered by pupils in school each morning and is debited from ParentPay at the end of each week unless the pupil is entitled to Free School Meals.

Catholic Life

Last Sunday, the gospel reading told of the calling and naming of St Peter, our patron. Jesus gave him the name Cephas meaning 'The Rock'. In this week's assembly, we explored why St Peter was given that title and what it means for our church and our school. Building on this theme, we explored the idea of resilience and how we can keep going even when things do not go our way, an important skill especially during these current challenging times. [The Assembly is here](#). St Peter's role in the gospels reminds us that our faith is one where we can make mistakes and it is not about getting everything right first time – just like St Peter. A reminder that the 'Wellbeing Lottery' where you choose your own winning numbers continues. All pupils have been emailed a copy of this resource provided by our Pupil Support mentors which encourages small changes which can make a big difference.

Attendance

While pupils are working at home, parents should still inform school of any illness or absence so that we can keep accurate records. For example, if your child has a medical appointment one afternoon, we would



appreciate knowing this in advance so that our Attendance Officer can record the appropriate code and staff will know they will not be able to join a Teams lesson.

Communication

School staff will be trying to keep in touch with pupils during this period of lockdown. This could be by email, conversations over Microsoft Teams as well as phone calls. Please note that calls from school can sometimes come as withheld but please do answer. Often, phone calls will be just to check in with families and we would like to speak to the pupils themselves. However, if you have any concerns or questions or would particularly like to speak to a member of staff, do not hesitate to let us know. Email office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk and mark for the attention of your child's Form Tutor and Lead Tutor.

Year 11 and 13 – Exam consultation

The consultation on how grades will be awarded in the Summer has now been released, please read it [here](#). The deadline for response is 11.59pm on Friday 29th January, we urge you to share your views.

Year 9 Options

Despite COVID-19, preparation for Year 9 to take their KS4 options continues, albeit in remote form. In case you have missed them, the Year 9 options assembly for pupils is available [here](#), and the information for parents is located [here](#). Individual subjects have recorded video presentations to explain all courses in detail, including course information, assessment arrangements, further education and career pathways available. These are located [here](#). In addition to this, Year 9 pupils are being supported in making the options decisions by teachers, in telephone IAG (Information Advice and Guidance) meetings via telephone or Microsoft Teams.

Sixth Form Interviews

Sixth Form interviews have started and will be taking place online via Microsoft Teams. If you would like to apply and have yet to complete your application, please apply [here](#). Your sign in details were emailed to your school email address. If you have mislaid or forgotten these, please email the school office. The deadline for Sixth Form applications is Friday 5th February 2021.

Advance notice – Year 12 parents' evening

Year 12 parents' evening will be taking place on Thursday 25th February. Appointments will be held remotely using an online platform called School Cloud. Parents will be emailed details on how to book and attend appointments.

Year 10 and Year 13 parents' evenings – CHANGE TO DATES

Please be aware that we have changed the dates of Year 10 and Year 13 parents' evenings. These will now be taking place on the following dates:

Year 13 – Wednesday 10th March

Year 10 – Wednesday 24th March

As with Year 12, appointments will be held remotely using an online platform called School Cloud. Later in the term, parents will be emailed details on how to book and attend appointments.

SOLIHULL COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE - Support for Families

PARENT/CARER TELEPHONE SUPPORT

We are continuing our telephone support line for parents. Parents can contact the service on the number below and a 30 minute consultation with an Educational and Child Psychologist will be offered. To schedule a telephone consultation parents should call: 0121 779 1734 .

ONLINE WELLBEING WORKSHOPS FOR FAMILIES

Our service is offering 3 free online workshops for parents and carers focusing on how to look after their own mental wellbeing. The session will look at what keeps us calm and mentally well and how we make positive wellbeing choices into habits. These sessions will be facilitated by an Educational and Child Psychologist on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday 27th January 13:30 – 14:30
- Friday 5th February 10:00 – 11:00
- Wednesday 24th February 18:00 – 19:00

To book, families should email edpsych@solihull.gov.uk and a Zoom link will be sent.

Information from the English Department

Mrs Przyrodzki has put together a list of books that pupils could download and read during lockdown. See if there is anything that would interest them:

[Extras - Anthony Horowitz | Author | Alex Rider | Sherlock Holmes | James Bond](#)

Two free Horowitz short stories to read online if you want a reading homework for KS3

[Audible Stories: Free Audiobooks for Kids | Audible.com](#)

Free access to children's audiobooks. Can be streamed to phone, tablet, laptop or computer. Click on link then find tab for teen.

[Eleveses with The World of David Walliams - The World of David Walliams](#)

Chapter readings of The Boy in the Dress – limited time only

[Free Children's Books & Audiobooks \(researchify.co.uk\)](#)

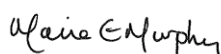
Children's Classics – pdf and audiobooks. Alice in Wonderland, The Wind in the Willows, The Railway Children, Peter Pan and Black Beauty.

Teacher training opportunities

Are you considering a career in teaching? Or do you know someone who is? St Peter's Solihull Teaching School Alliance would love to hear from you. We have School Direct places available for September 2021 in primary and a range of secondary subjects. We have an alliance of primary and secondary schools across Solihull and Birmingham who are eager to train enthusiastic and passionate people. We work with The University of Warwick and Newman University to provide high quality training and support. For more information, please see our website [Teaching School - St Peter's Catholic School In Solihull \(st-peters.solihull.sch.uk\)](http://Teaching School - St Peter's Catholic School In Solihull (st-peters.solihull.sch.uk)) or email us teachingschool@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk

Have a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs M E Murphy
Headteacher

Careers News

Apprenticeships

Interested in finding out more about Apprenticeships and T Levels, download the January Parents' Pack from the website Amazing Apprenticeships using this link: [Parents' Pack January - Amazing Apprenticeships](#). The January edition includes how to get prepared for National Apprenticeship Week 2021, a 10-step plan for finding an apprenticeship in 2021, new Traineeship resources and information, the latest T Level information, a guide to Higher and Degree apprenticeships, Life as a new apprentice at the BBC, End Point Assessment flexibilities, new apprenticeship standards and more.

National Apprenticeship Week 8th February to 14th February 2021

The 14th annual National Apprenticeship Week takes place between the 8th February – 14th February 2021. This year, the theme is 'Build the Future', encouraging everyone to consider how apprenticeships help individuals to build the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career. Whether your child is considering their options when leaving school, or perhaps you may be looking to retrain, National Apprenticeship Week 2021 will showcase and celebrate the positive impact apprenticeships can have and the diversity of career opportunities available. There will be a series of activities taking place for your child in school during this scheduled week.

UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair - Wednesday 27 January

The UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair will take place between 12 and 6pm on the 27th January. This free virtual event for students in years 11, 12 and 13, will feature a diverse range of exhibitors and vital webinars. Students, teachers and parents can find out more and [sign up here](#).

Meet the Russell Group Virtual Event - Wednesday 10 February

This joint event with the Russell Group Universities will also be returning on February 10th from 12 to 7pm. This spring's event will see all 24 universities once again, as well as a new line-up of webinars and virtual tours from each university. You can find out more and [sign up here](#).

Meet the Russell Group: Warm-Up Webinars



Year 12: Embarking on University Research

Wed 3 February | 12:00

[Book](#)



Year 13: Making your University Choices

Wed 3 February | 12:00

[Book](#)



Student Life at Russell Group Universities

Mon 8 February | 16:30

[Book](#)