

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 12 and 13 students

I hope you and your family are safe and well. I am writing to inform you about the plans for September. Following national school closures on Monday 23 March we had to adapt very quickly to new ways of working. Over the last few months we have developed remote learning systems to support your daughter's education at home. May I take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful work you have completed with your son/daughter during these very difficult times. We are aware that many families have faced great difficulties and trauma over the last few months and we will continue to support families moving forward.

Well-being and Support

Over the last few months school has been extremely busy ensuring that social distancing and hygiene measures are in place for all students and staff. Alongside this, we have continued to maintain a thriving community which is reflected in the weekly newsletters www.stjulies.org.uk. This captures a snapshot of the work which has taken place over the last few months to engage students in remote learning as well as take part in a range of activities.

From September we want to reassure you that your daughter's well-being is of the utmost importance to us. It is essential that as a Catholic community your daughter has the opportunity to reflect on the last few months and for staff to support your daughter's individual needs. We fully appreciate that during this global pandemic, families may have faced great adversity and trauma. Through our transition programme we will ensure that each student can share their experiences and have access to appropriate support, if required. We will focus on the importance of kindness, friendship, respect and resilience.

Remote Learning

Your daughter can continue to access pre-recorded videos via Educake, GCSEPod, MathsWatch, Oak National Academy and Pearson. Alongside this, staff have released some pre-recorded videos to support new topics or to explain key concepts.

Whilst the interactive features of the VLE offer a better experience we appreciate that online home learning may not always be possible. If you are having technical difficulties with access please email passwords@stjulies.org.uk, but for those who are completely unable to access digital resources we ask parents to contact school reception@stjulies.org.uk and request paper copies of work which will then be posted home.

All summer bridging work can be accessed via the VLE. The deadline for your daughter to complete and return this will be Friday 4 September. An assigned teacher will mark this work and provide feedback.

A copy of your daughter's end of year report will be published home in July. This will include academic information from September 2019 to March 2020. Students will also be commended on any work completed during national school closures.

Year 12 Face-to-Face Learning

It was great to see so many Year 12 students return in June and July. We also understand completely that some students could not return for a range of reasons. However, remote learning will remain the predominant form of learning during July and August.

A Level Results Day

A Level results day will take place on Thursday 13 August (10-12:30pm). Students will receive a print out of their grades awarded. Due to the exceptional circumstances regarding summer exams in 2020, staff will be on hand to answer any questions and support students with their next steps. Information was posted to all Year 11, 12 and 13 parents on 3 April, 20 April and 27 April. This outlined guidance on the exam grading process for Summer 2020. A copy of the Ofqual guidance www.gov.uk/ofqual 'Summer 2020 grades for GCSE and A Level – guidance for teachers, students and parents' was also provided for parents (copy enclosed). On page 4 of this document it states:

How will centre assessment grades work?

We are asking schools and colleges to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year. It is important that schools and colleges take into account the full range of available evidence when they grade students – including non-exam assessment; the results of any homework assignments or mock exams; any other records of student performance over the course of study.

This information will allow Ofqual, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when GCSE, AS and A level students in England are making those judgements. That means the final grade your daughter receives could be different from the one we submitted to the exam board.

Due to social distancing measures and strict guidance from Public Health England, students will need to attend school unaccompanied. On arrival, your daughter will be assigned to a designated area to receive her results. Unfortunately we cannot have large groups of people mixing on site therefore students will only be allowed on site for a maximum of thirty minutes. There will also be a queuing system to limit the amount of students on site at any one time.

Progression to Year 13

- Most students who joined Sixth Form in September 2019 will study with us for two years.
- This can be reviewed in situations where students wish to leave after Year 12 or where performance, attendance or conduct in year 12 suggest that the student has not been fully participating in education.
- Repeats of Year 12 will not be allowed except in a very few cases (e.g. where serious illness has prevented attendance)
- Entry to Sixth Form and progression to Year 13 courses is ultimately at the discretion of Mr Alderman, Headteacher.

Autumn Exam Series

An important feature of the overall arrangements this summer is the planned additional exam series in the autumn, which will provide an opportunity for students unable to receive a calculated grade, and others who would like the opportunity to improve their grade, to take an exam.

Due to the current uncertainty about when schools and colleges will re-open fully and the public health restrictions that may be in place, Ofqual are not consulting on the exact dates when the exams should take place. If possible, Ofqual envisage that AS and A level exams should take place in October and GCSE exams in November, with the exact timing to be confirmed, having taken advice

from government, the exam boards and groups representing schools, colleges, teachers and students. Please refer to the addendum in the Exams Policy for further information.

KS5 Curriculum

Over the last few months, our curriculum teams have reviewed and adjusted curriculum maps in preparation for the start of the new academic year. This will give students the opportunity to review, retrieve, reconnect and understand aspects of their Key Stage 5 curriculum and how this links with new topics. These adjustments will ensure that any gaps in knowledge and understanding are addressed quickly to support progress in the classroom. Baseline assessments will take place during September in most subject areas. This will provide an overview for staff to identify your daughter's strengths and areas for development. Year 13 mock exam resits will also take place.

A full curriculum overview for each department can be accessed via the school website www.stjulies.org.uk. This includes key information for each department which also includes prior knowledge and how we build on skills. A copy of the curriculum booklet for 2020/21 can also be viewed via the website.

Assessment

To support your daughter's progress at St. Julie's, she will be provided with an A Level flightpath target from the start of Year 12 to the end of Year 13. Please refer to the Assessment section of the school website for further information.

Other key information

Information regarding school uniform, behaviour for learning and general school rules can be accessed via the school website.

Chaplaincy website

We actively encourage families to access the Chaplaincy website which features a Thought for the Day – every day - as well as topical weekly resources and other information about our school ethos <http://chaplaincy.stjulies.org.uk/>

Key contacts

We understand that you may have additional questions in preparation for the start of term, please use the contact details below if you require any further information.

Mrs Jones – Head of Upper School ajones@stjulies.org.uk

Mr Willis – Deputy Headteacher KS4/5 cpwillis@stjulies.org.uk

INSET day – Tuesday 1 September

Year 7 Induction Day – Wednesday 2 September

Year 12 & 13 Induction– Wednesday 2 September – please refer to Mrs Jones' most recent letter for more details

From Thursday 3 September, we will hit the ground running with full academic lessons starting from 9:50am. Alongside this, students will be supported by our pastoral teams and PSHE programme.

All calendar dates and weekly updates will be published via the school website www.stjulies.org.uk. To support the first month of school, please see below a copy of the academic calendar. The academic calendar for 2020/21 will be published on the school website.

| Advent Term – September | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|--|
| Date | Day | Events |
| 31/08/2020 | Monday | |
| 01/09/2020 | Tuesday | INSET Day 1 |
| 02/09/2020 | Wednesday | Year 7 – Induction Day: First Day at St. Julie’s Catholic High School – well-being, teamwork and orientation activities Sixth Form Induction - well-being and orientation activities. Please refer to Mrs Jones’ recent letter for details |
| 03/09/2020 | Thursday | All students return to school Year 13 Mock exam re-sits begin 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 students return |
| 04/09/2020 | Friday | Summer Bridging work deadline |
| 05/09/2020 | Saturday | |
| 06/09/2020 | Sunday | |
| 07/09/2020 | Monday | Baseline assessments begin – Year 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 School photographs |
| 08/09/2020 | Tuesday | International Literacy Day |
| 09/09/2020 | Wednesday | |
| 10/09/2020 | Thursday | Year 7 SEN Welcome Event |
| 11/09/2020 | Friday | |
| 12/09/2020 | Saturday | |
| 13/09/2020 | Sunday | |
| 14/09/2020 | Monday | Year 7 GL Assessments, reading, spelling and CAT4 Year 11 Revision Programme starts Year 9 Lucid testing and Year 12 Access Arrangements Year 8 – 13 Target setting letters published |
| 15/09/2020 | Tuesday | International Day of Democracy |
| 16/09/2020 | Wednesday | National Teaching Assistants Day |
| 17/09/2020 | Thursday | Year 4, 5 and 6 Open Evening – 3.30-6.00pm |
| 18/09/2020 | Friday | |
| 19/09/2020 | Saturday | |
| 20/09/2020 | Sunday | |
| 21/09/2020 | Monday | International Day of Peace |
| 22/09/2020 | Tuesday | Staff training from 3.30pm |
| 23/09/2020 | Wednesday | |
| 24/09/2020 | Thursday | Year 11 Prefects Inauguration Ceremony 6pm |
| 25/09/2020 | Friday | |
| 26/09/2020 | Saturday | |
| 27/09/2020 | Sunday | |
| 28/09/2020 | Monday | Year 7 Targets and Setting letters published to parents |
| 29/09/2020 | Tuesday | Sixth Form Attitude to Learning survey ADHD Awareness Month PSHE lesson 1 – Period 1 Year 9 SEN Parent event |
| 30/09/2020 | Wednesday | |

We look forward to welcoming your daughter back to St. Julie's in September. Once we receive further guidance from the government regarding social distancing measures for September, I will communicate this information with you. In the meantime, I hope you and your family take time to rest and enjoy the summer holidays. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K McCourt
Deputy Headteacher