

Monday 11 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Continued school closure, support with home/remote learning and updates

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well during these times. Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday 10 May, in which he outlined some changes to the national lockdown, I would like to provide some updates in response. Based on government guidance, secondary schools will remain closed and primary schools will possibly reopen from 1st June for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. There are currently a number of consultations taking place with regards to this so that schools can ensure the safety of students and staff remains paramount.

Support staff continue to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness in school and are working hard every day to ensure it is safe for all students to return once a date has been agreed.

Home Learning

Further to the letter published on Monday 20 April, I have attached a copy of the recommended weekly timetable for parent/carers to follow with their daughter at home. Alongside this, staff are setting weekly assignments via the VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) and students can ask subject teachers questions via the online platform and email. Students can also access a full range of resources via other online platforms such as: Oak National Academy (Years 7 – 10); GCSEPod; MathsWatch and Educake to name but a few.

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 see the details at the end of this letter, 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.

Ideally, your daughter should be spending a period of time each day completing the educational tasks that have been assigned. The majority of students have been accessing the VLE, other online resources and engaging well given the current circumstances. We do ask that you see this home learning experience as a marathon, not a sprint. Likewise, the timetable provided is only to be used as a recommended guide. We understand completely the pressures families are under and we do not want to add any additional stress or worry. The whole purpose of the work provided by staff is to ensure that students keep focused and engaged in their learning.

Based on the VLE analysis, just for last week, 2048 activities were completed and over 7000 modules and assignments accessed. These figures do not include other online platforms, which the large majority of students have also been accessing.

Parent Survey

Parent voice is very important to us and moving forward we want to make sure that we are supporting as many families as possible. We are working under very different circumstances and it is hard to replicate a classroom experience using remote learning. We've all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you're doing supporting your child's well-being and learning during this time.

It would be good to hear from parents to let us know what has worked well out of the activities provided over the last five school weeks (not including the Easter holidays) and what has proved

difficult to achieve using remote learning. This information will help us to make adjustments to our remote learning programme and, where possible, provide additional support.

Please access the online survey via this link <http://survey.stjulies.org.uk/index.php/165757?lang=en> or via the school website www.stjulies.org.uk. The survey should take no longer than ten minutes and comments are optional. The deadline to submit the survey will be **Wednesday 20 May 2020**. We will use this information to support any continued home learning over the final half-term and in preparation for the summer holidays.

Year 11 and 13 – GCSE and A Level grading 2020

On Friday 3 April we published the latest guidance from Ofqual regarding the cancellation of summer exams 2020 and an explanation as to how exam grades will be awarded. A copy of this information was sent by post and a copy is available on the school website. This also includes FAQs regarding coursework, non-examination assessments and other qualifications.

Further guidance has been published by Ofqual regarding how schools will evidence and calculate estimated grades, including guidance on vocational, re-sit and private candidates. Curriculum teams are working very hard to ensure fair, objective and appropriate grades are awarded for each individual student. Due to the confidentiality of this process staff will not be able to discuss any grading with parents/carers and/or other external providers, under any circumstances. Any discussions relating to the new grading system may result in an allegation of malpractice and this is something we must avoid in order to maintain the integrity of the system.

Year 13

Students are reminded to check UCAS Track regularly for updates. UCAS has made amendments to the deadline for accepting offers in light of the pandemic. Students may find they have different deadlines to their friends therefore they need to ensure they are logging in regularly and don't miss their acceptance date!

Year 11 Transition to A Level

For students currently in Year 11, a home learning programme was put together three weeks ago to support the transition to A Level study (Year 11 to 12 Bridging Projects). Students should complete work for subjects they are wishing to pursue in Year 12. A reminder that A Level entry requirements for each subject are still to be considered when choosing subjects, as per the Governors' Entry Requirements 2020. It is great to see how many students have applied to Sixth Form this year. Please refer to the two additional letters sent by Mrs Jones (Head of Upper School) outlining the Sixth Form curriculum, timetabling and extra-curricular offer for 2020-21.

Please continue to check the website and newsletters for regularly Sixth Form and Careers information. Students can access a range of subject related and career pathway opportunities. For example, Observe GP, Virtual Law lectures, questionnaires and career guide booklets.

Year 10 and 12 students

I appreciate the worries students may have at this time as they prepare for GCSEs and A Levels next year. Please be assured that the resources available online and assignments set by staff will help bridge this gap. A full support plan will also be put in place for students once they return to normal lessons. A full summer bridging programme will be available for all students to access over the summer holidays via the VLE. **Once we receive further guidance from Government action plans and the Local Authority we will send a separate letter to confirm the arrangements for Year 10 and 12 returning to school.** In the meantime, it is crucial that students continue to work from home

and focus on the work set by staff. At this point, no alterations will be made by exam boards to accommodate missed work this year. Therefore, all Year 10 and 12 will sit full GCSE and A Level public examinations in May/June 2021.

Year 8 Options

This process is now complete and we are delighted that most students received their top three options. We would encourage Year 8 students to try some of the Year 9 material through the online platforms as a starting point and to support their learning at home.

It has been great to see how many students have been awarded certificates during school closures including merit winners and 'Stars of Lockdown'. Year 7 and 9 students have answered thousands of questions via Educake, Maths programmes and various assignments set by staff. This is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud of your daughter.

Safeguarding

Staff continue to work tirelessly during this time to support families. Even though this has meant a change to our typical working environment we have ensured that families continue to receive e-vouchers and access to support from other external providers. Families can also access a range of very useful resources to support their daughter such as, Kooth which provides counselling and well-being support for young people. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has also released resources to support healthy minds and advice on how to relieve anxiety and stress levels during these difficult times. The Safeguarding Team can also be contacted via email safeguarding@stjulies.org.uk.

Learning Support

Our students who have an additional learning need have been signposted to bespoke resources. These students are reminded that they can access a wide variety of support both through the Learning Support Team at school and also from the SENISS Team on their helpline: 07591837693. The team wish to take this opportunity to remind all students that it is OK to be finding things tough right now and are very proud of each and everyone of you.

Year 6 Transition

Normally, at this time of year, we would be starting our face-to-face interviews with parents as part of the Year 6 Transition programme. Unfortunately, this will not be possible, however, we will be organising telephone conversations with all Year 6 parents to support this programme. Transition packs will also be posted home, including a 'Passport to St. Julie's' activities pack.

Curriculum and Assessment

Over the last four weeks, staff have developed clear curriculum and assessment structures in preparation for the new academic year. This has included structural mapping changes and detailed information relating to the intent, implementation and impact of the whole-school curriculum. Assessment structures have been mapped alongside units of work to ensure that students can develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of their curriculum pathway. Parents and carers can access the curriculum information via the school website www.stjulies.org.uk.

The Female Lead

Over the last few weeks a number of students have continued to take part in a range of programmes (virtually!) such as The Brilliant Club, The Girls' Network and other mentoring programmes. Alongside these programmes we have signed up to The Female Lead Society (www.thefemalelead.com). This programme enables students to debate many key issues and research

topics relating to social media, body image and positive female role models. More information will follow about this exciting programme.

Positive news stories

A number of students celebrated the International Day of Dance by sending in a range of videos to share with their school community. In addition, students and staff have been sending in photographs to support the 'Get Caught Reading' programme. I hope students continue to take part in this programme and experience some moments of peace by reading a good book.

Our school website www.stjulies.org.uk is updated every day and includes many resources, including: online Maths lessons with Pearson; free access to e-textbooks and live sessions delivered by Edge Hill university.

Chaplaincy and St. Julie's School Community

Mr Anderson and our 1804 students continue to develop the Thursday @ 7 Programme which aims to give all members of our school community a time to reflect, pray and think about loved ones who have recently been affected by Covid-19. The Chaplaincy website is regularly updated and encourages all members of our school community to take part in the various daily reflections and prayers to support each other. Students may also be interested in watching the Amarillo, dance, drama and music videos created by staff and students.

If at any point during the school closure you have a technical issue with the VLE or other online resources, please contact us using the following email address: passwords@stjulies.org.uk. We will aim to respond to your query within 24 hours on a working day. Likewise, if you are unable to access the online resources, please contact reception@stjulies.org.uk and request paper copies. We will arrange for a pack to be posted home if required.

Thank you for your continued support during these unprecedented times. We will continue to provide updates and plans for how and when school will reopen. Please be assured that we want school to reopen as soon as possible. However, it is essential that this happens in a safe, secure and controlled way such that all staff, students and parents have every confidence in the process of reopening the school following a global pandemic. If you require any further information, support or guidance please do not hesitate to contact school via the direct emails available in the school e-bulletin.

Please take care and stay safe,

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K McCourt

Deputy Headteacher

Year 7 and 8 Home Learning Timetable (recommended guide only)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am – 9:50am	English	English	English	English	English
9:50am – 10:40am	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
Break					
11:00am – 11:50pm	History	Geography	History	Geography	Spanish
11:50 – 12:40pm	RE	Science	Science	Science	Science
Lunch					
1:30pm – 2:20pm	ICT	Art/Design and Technology/Food Technology	Dance/Drama/Music	PE	PE

Year 9, 10 and 11 Home Learning Timetable (recommended guide only)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am – 9:50am	English	English	English	English	English
9:50am – 10:40am	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
Break					
11:00am – 11:50pm	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option A	Option B
11:50 – 12:40pm	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science
Lunch					
1:30pm – 2:20pm	PE	ICT	RE	RE	Option C

Year 11 students should have started the home learning programme (Year 11 to 12 Bridging Work), to support their transition from Year 11 into 12.

Governors' entry requirements for all students will still apply however, all Year 11 students will benefit from accessing this higher-level content to support them on their next steps. **All bridging/transition work can be accessed via the VLE for each subject area.** If students require further guidance, they can also contact their subject teacher directly via the VLE or school email accounts. **The following resources can also be accessed via the VLE: Subject Choices Post-16; What to Expect at A Level; Links to universities; students talking about their experiences.**

Year 12 students are required to continue studying their 3 A Levels or equivalent qualifications as directed by their individual subject teachers.

We would advise all Year 13 students to continue to look at the course content of their preferred university or future college course.

Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students can continue to access weekly assignments/projects via the VLE and complete the online resources. Students can email staff directly via the VLE if they require help with their school work.

To support the recommended home-learning timetable, a provision map has been created for each curriculum area. Please use this as a guide only to support your daughter's learning at home.

Website: www.stjulies.org.uk There are resources available at <http://www.stjulies.org.uk/isolation> but the best and most current material can be found on our VLE at vle.stjulies.org.uk/moodle

When accessing the VLE you will be prompted for your username and password. This is the same information that you enter when you log into a computer in school. **PLEASE NOTE** that you do NOT enter your email address to log in to the VLE, you just use your username, e.g. 19jonesj, and your usual password.

[This document is available as a hyperlinked document on our VLE so that you can just click on the links. Use the link address below or point your phone at the QR code.](http://vle.stjulies.org.uk/moodle/mod/page/view.php?id=1385)
<http://vle.stjulies.org.uk/moodle/mod/page/view.php?id=1385>



[There are useful free resources for almost all subjects available at the Seneca Learning website. Use the link address below or point your phone at the QR code.](https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free)
<https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free>

