

Tuesday 5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: School closure and support with home/remote learning

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well during these times. By now you will have seen the announcement that we are going into our third national lockdown. In that announcement the Prime Minister stated that all schools would close from Tuesday 5 January until at least February half-term. Therefore, I would like to update you on the home learning arrangements for the next six weeks.

We are in the process of staffing a six-week curriculum programme for students eligible to return to school and provide remote learning for students at home. As we all experienced during the first lockdown, we do ask that you see this home learning experience as a marathon, not a sprint. 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.

Where possible, students can follow their daily school timetable at home (copy in planners). If your daughter has misplaced her school timetable, she can email the Admin Team adminteam@stjulies.org.uk and they will provide a new copy. The VLE has been updated and students can access their daily lessons and resources each day <https://vle.stjulies.org.uk/moodle/>. This also includes direct communication with their subject teacher. Alongside this, students will be invited to attend virtual lessons via Microsoft Teams, GCSE podcasts and other online platforms (Educake and MathsWatch). If your daughter is unable to attend a live lesson, the session will be recorded.

Our remote learning policy states:

4. Content and Tools to Deliver This Remote Education Plan

Resources to deliver this Remote Education Plan include:

- Online tools for KS3, 4 and 5
- Use of pre-recorded videos, instructional videos and assemblies, e.g. Chaplaincy website
- Access to Microsoft Teams
- Phone calls home
- Printed learning packs
- Use of BBC Bitesize, Oak Academy, fully resourced VLE, Educake, MathsWatch, Active Learn and GCSE Podcasts

NB. The above strategies will be determined by the subject teachers in line with individual competencies and available resources, e.g. this may apply to staff who are self-isolating and will have additional constraints at home. Some staff will be in school delivering in-house support so may not be available for all lessons every week.

5. Home and School Partnership

St. Julie's Catholic High School is committed to working in close partnership with families and recognises each family is unique and because of this remote learning will look different for different families in order to suit their individual needs.

Where possible, it is beneficial for young people to maintain a regular and familiar routine. St. Julie's Catholic High School would recommend that each 'school day' maintains structure.

We would encourage parents to support their children's work, including finding an appropriate place to work and, to the best of their ability, support pupils with work encouraging them to work with good levels of concentration.

Every effort will be made by staff to ensure that work is set promptly. Should accessing work be an issue, parents should contact school promptly and alternative solutions may be available. These will be discussed on a case-to-case basis.

All children sign an 'Acceptable Use Policy' at school which includes e-safety rules and this applies when children are working on computers at home.

A copy of the full policy is available on the school website www.stjulies.org.uk

Year 11 and 13

On Monday 5 January, the Prime Minister stated that GCSE and A Level examinations will not go ahead as planned. We are waiting for a further announcement from the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson and Ofqual on the alternative arrangements. Once we receive this information we will keep parents fully informed.

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.

Wellbeing and pastoral support

Alongside the academic curriculum, we will continue to provide wellbeing and pastoral support. The pastoral team will be in contact with your daughter over the next couple of weeks. However, daily communication will be available if your daughter needs to talk to a member of staff.

- All parent/carer emails should come through the school admin account reception@stjulies.org.uk
- Any complaints or concerns shared by parents or pupils should be reported to a member of SLT – for any safeguarding concerns, refer immediately to the DSL 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 every one of you.

Mr Anderson (School Chaplain) provides weekly updates via the Chaplaincy website as well as daily prayers and reflections. 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. The weekly e-bulletin will continue to be published every Friday and includes a whole range of information as well as useful links to resources. All communication systems can be accessed directly via the school website www.stjulies.org.uk.

Thank you for your continued support during these difficult times. We look forward to when St. Julie's can open its doors again and we can welcome your daughter back to our school community.

Please take care and stay safe,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K McCourt

Deputy Headteacher