



# ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Our Ref: SBE/STH/NJE/KPRO

5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the government announcement last night, and news of another national lockdown, we are so sorry to be writing to you again with further updates about how St Catherine's College will operate over the coming weeks.

We would like to begin by thanking you all again for your patience and understanding during these times of rapid change. We know how frustrating and worrying this situation is, and we understand the huge implications and pressure that this has put on families.

The Government announced that this national lockdown will be in place until at least February half term. During this time, we will be fully committed to running a full timetable of live lessons via Microsoft Teams, where students will follow their normal set timetable with their regular classroom teachers.

In order to participate in the lessons, students will log onto Microsoft Teams Calendars at home, and at each of their normal lesson times will simply 'join' the lesson. Please note lessons will not usually last the full hour in order to allow for a rest break and preparation for the next lesson. Lessons will begin at 9:10am (period 1) and the school day will finish at 2:45pm for all students. During live lessons, if students do have their cameras on, then we ask that the 'classroom' or 'blurred' background is set as the backdrop. Students are not required to wear school uniform; however, they must be appropriately dressed (no vest tops or other revealing clothing).

We would like to apologise for any technical issues your child may have experienced today, we have sent out further Microsoft Teams guides to all students and parents/carers.

## What is expected of students?

It is important that students attend all their live lessons. If you know in advance that your child will not be able to attend a live lesson, please email [attendance@stcatherines.college](mailto:attendance@stcatherines.college) with the date, time and lesson they will not be able to attend and the reason for this. It is also important that students complete the tasks set in the lesson.

## What about access to ICT?

We do not want a digital divide to create a learning divide. Please be reminded that, if any child does not have direct access to a PC, laptop or the Internet for live lessons, you should contact their Head of Year as soon as possible.

## Has the School remained open?

St Catherine's College is proud to play its role in supporting our local key workers. The School remains open for children of Key Workers and those identified as needing additional support.

## Key Worker Provision

Unfortunately, since we set up our Key Worker provision, the time frames have now changed. If you require Key Worker provision for your child from Monday 18 January 2021 to Friday 12 February 2021, please complete this form: [Key Worker Provision Request 18 January – 12 February](#). It is important for you to complete this to secure a Key Worker place for your child for the rest of this term – we are so sorry to have to ask you to complete another form. If you have any queries in relation to Key Worker provision, please contact [sschaaf@stcatherines.college](mailto:sschaaf@stcatherines.college).

## What is happening with exams?

Last night's announcement stated that *"it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements"*. Until we have further details, it is crucial that all year 11 students continue to work in the positive and enthusiastic way they have been up until now. We have been so proud of everything they have achieved to date. Unfortunately, the second part of our mock examinations will need to be postponed. We will be in contact with year 11 and their parents/carers as soon as we know more.

## Who to contact?

- Reception will be open Monday to Friday 8am – 3pm (01323 465400)
- All staff members can be contacted via email. Staff email addresses can be located here: [Staff Contact List](#)
- For technical issues, IT Support can be contacted by email at - [itsupport@stcatherines.college](mailto:itsupport@stcatherines.college)
- If you have any safeguarding/welfare concerns, please contact Ms K Guppy – [kguppy@stcatherines.college](mailto:kguppy@stcatherines.college)

## Mental health and student welfare

The mental health and welfare of our students is our key priority. If you have any concerns regarding the health and wellbeing of your child, please let us know via this link - [Referral for wellbeing support](#) - and someone will be in contact with you as soon as possible.

Some helpful guidance is available at:

[Health In Mind – Coronavirus and your wellbeing](#)

[Anna Freud, National Centre for Children and Families – Coronavirus Support](#)

[World Health Organisation – Helping children cope with stress during the Covid-19 outbreak](#)

We also wanted to take this opportunity to express our thanks for all you are doing in supporting us as we respond together to this situation. The engagement and support we have seen from our parents/carers in managing this really difficult situation has been so heartening. The situation is fast-changing, and we are doing our very best to give you the most up to date information as we receive it from the Government.

### Next Steps

- We will write to you again in the near future with further information
- We will be in touch with year 11 to clarify arrangements for their support during this period.
- If you have any questions, feedback or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In a previous letter to you we wrote that *“we know children only have one chance at their education”* and that we would *“endeavour to provide the very best learning experience that we can”*. We are very proud of your children and how they continue to respond to this ever-changing situation. We will continue to do our very best to look after them by providing high-quality education alongside strong pastoral care.

We are very grateful for your continued support, thank you.

Yours faithfully



Solomon Berhane  
Headteacher



Nigel Jewell  
Deputy Headteacher



Sophie Thomas  
Deputy Headteacher

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**