



ST CATHERINE'S
COLLEGE

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

CONTACT



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Preparing students to stand shoulder to shoulder with their peers: locally, nationally and globally.

We wanted to write to update you on the current situation, and to thank you for your continued support and prayers for the St Catherine's College community.

Against a changing and challenging background, our community has continued to work together to enable us to begin the school year successfully and ensure the continuation of education for our pupils. This is a collective achievement, and we want to thank you for your part. In spite of the additional challenges and pressures, St Catherine's College feels a great place to be at the moment. The children are happy; the school is purposeful; and the mood is calm. The response of the pupils has been truly incredible.

As you may be aware, the main Covid-19 control measure at St Catherine's College is the division of the site into separate schools, one for each year group. Most lessons are taught within a year group's school, with any movement to specialist rooms being escorted by the teacher. Support staff are an extra duty presence to ensure good order while teachers move at lesson changeovers. Extra cleaning staff have been appointed to help existing colleagues to clean rooms between lessons. Every year group has additional handwashing stations. We encourage pupils to make good use of these, as well as the hand sanitiser in every room. We are especially grateful to pupils for observing the rule to wear face masks in shared internal areas; *"when not in class, wear a mask"*!

The Covid-19 pandemic is generating a devastating legacy both nationally and internationally. While we are fortunate that the Sussex Coast remains one of the UK areas with the lowest proportion of cases, we are nevertheless determined to maintain St Catherine's College as the safest possible environment. We would like to reassure you that planning is in place to manage the unfortunate situation should we have a positive case in school. We want to assure you that we will inform you immediately upon confirmation of any positive Covid-19 test result. We will take the firmest action and precautions in order to keep our community as safe as possible, in conjunction with Public Health England.

We remain committed to providing our pupils with the much-needed stability of continued education and the support and the companionship of our friendly Christian community. Please do contact us if we can offer any further support to you or your family.

We would like to ask you, at this time, to keep St Catherine's College in your thoughts and prayers as we keep you in ours. As always, we thank you for your continued support.



Solomon Berhane
Headteacher



Nigel Jewell
Deputy Headteacher



Sophie Thomas
Deputy Headteacher



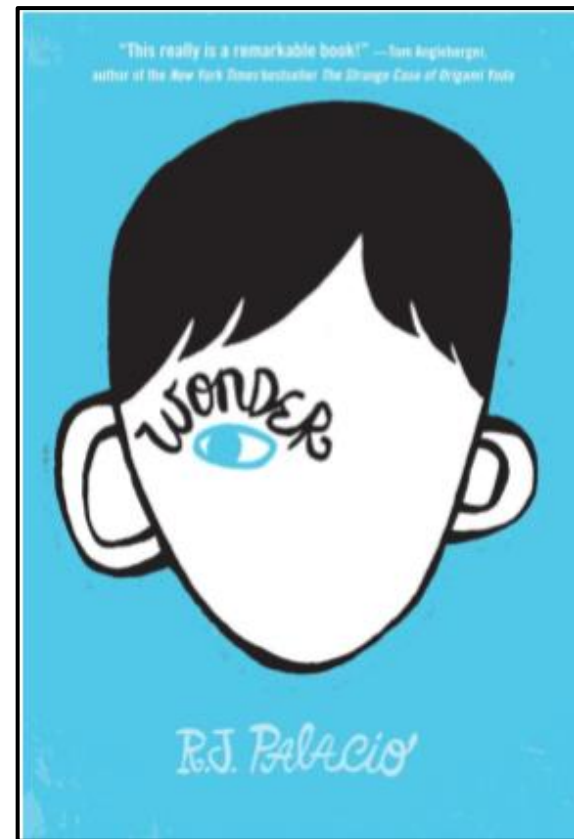


I am going to start this week's edition of contact with a HUGE amount of pride and a HUGE well done to our new Year 7 cohort. They have joined St Catherine's College after missing out on a huge chunk of primary school, their SATs (which I'm sure some won't complain about!) and having very little knowledge of the School. We were unable to run our usual transition programme where we visit pupils and invite them in to meet us, so we were just as nervous about the first day as the students were as we hadn't been able to get to know each other.

Prior to joining us, the pupils had been given a number of tasks to complete. They were asked to complete 'Mission Responsible' and some work from English, maths and science, amongst others. Once again, all pupils were given a copy of the novel 'Wonder' which promotes our Christian values by getting pupils to think about how they treat others. It also lets our new cohort recognise that it is ok to feel a bit nervous when they do something new and encourages discussion around the core value of resilience. As always, if you haven't read the novel, give it a go...it really is 'wonderful'.

Mr Wenham, Mrs Clegg and I are proud of how Year 7 have settled into their new school and how they have adapted to life at secondary school. Keep up the amazing work, Year 7!

Susan Williams, Assistant Headteacher



LETTER FOR PARENTS ABOUT COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Public Health England have produced a letter for schools which explains when a person requires a COVID-19 test and what the main symptoms of COVID-19 are. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see letter.



If your child has:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in, sense of
smell or taste

This could be a sign of
coronavirus

Book a test

If your child has:
a runny nose, is sneezing or
feeling unwell
But they don't have:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in,
sense of smell or taste

These are
not normally symptoms of
coronavirus

Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial
111 or see your GP



EQUIPMENT

A request from Mr Pittman:

I am pleased to say that after returning to school following a difficult six months, our students engaged in their lessons and are focussing on their learning. To help reduce the risk of infection and keep our community safe, pupils and staff are wearing masks in corridors; wearing coloured badges that identify which year school zone they are part of; and using their own personal equipment. To that end, we ask that pupils bring the following equipment to school every day:

- **Face mask, year school coloured button badge, student diary**
- **Black, blue and green pens/biros**
- **Pencils, colouring pencils, pencil sharpener, rubber**
- **Ruler, protractor, pair of compasses**
- **Drywipe white board pen, highlighters**
- **Glue stick**
- **Scientific calculator (available to purchase from the Mathematics Department at £6.50)**
- **Reading book or revisions guide**
- **English dictionary**
- **Mandarin/French/Spanish dictionary (This will depend on which language is studied)**
- **Cycle helmet for bicycle users**

Should students be required to use scissors, these will be provided by the class teacher and disinfected after use.

Replacement button badges are available in each of the year school offices (20p) as are masks (disposable for 20p; reusable cotton for £1 or three for £2). Profits from the sale of replacement masks and badges will go to charity.



LITERACY

A report from Ms Preston:

I am really excited to take on my new role as Literacy Coordinator as I fervently believe in the equal right of every child to access all the learning opportunities on offer at St Catherine's.

Above all, the most important skill is reading. I was fortunate that my mother taught me to read when I was 3 years old and I am infinitely grateful to her for the joy which reading has brought me throughout my life, from *Janet and John* to *Jane Eyre* and from Shakespeare to *The Hunger Games*.

As well as the benefits of reading in building vocabulary; improving spelling; learning sentence structure; reading meaning beyond the words; appreciating creativity; developing imagination; improving concentration; enriching cultural understanding; developing empathy and problem solving; it is still so much fun!

Reading ability has a proven effect on the future life chances of a child. Children who read books often at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16, gain higher results at age 16 than those who read less regularly. Higher level reading proficiency improves success across the curriculum, not just in English. Low levels of literacy cost the UK an estimated £81 billion a year in lost earnings and increased welfare spending, impacting on 'the success of the economy as a whole'. Reading actually helps you to get better paid jobs and even be healthier!

But the main reason I am always banging on about reading is that it is just brilliant to lose yourself in a story. Who wouldn't love to go to Hogwarts school or Miss Peregrine's home? Who would not want to find a whole world through the back of a wardrobe or take a tour of Wonka's chocolate factory?

Please encourage your children to read at least twice per week for 45 minutes to an hour, or every day for 20 minutes; or better still, read to them or with them so that you can talk about the story together.

Watch this space for regular reading updates, including book recommendations for different tastes and age groups and how to get hold of them. If you or your child reads a particularly great book, share the joy at cpreston@stcatherines.college. Happy reading!



BHM 2020

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

A report from Mr Pittman:

October is Black History Month in the UK, an event that has been celebrated nationwide for more than thirty years. The month was originally founded to recognise the contributions that people of African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to the UK over many generations. Now, Black History Month has expanded to include the history of not just African and Caribbean people but black people in general.

Catherine Ross, guest editor of the Black History Month 2020 website writes, 'Black History Month 2020 is a time for people to come together and hopefully learn lessons for the present and the future. It's a time to honour the commitment to learning and standing united against racism. It's a time to reclaim history and re-imagine how our shared history will be told in the future.'

At St Catherine's College this month, we will be taking the opportunity to 'dig deeper' into our country's history and 'look closer' at the contribution of people of colour. Following a summer of Black Lives Matter protests, we will 'think bigger' about what lessons we can learn about our shared present and future.



MUSIC

A report from Mr Healy:

This term, Year 8 have been studying Rhythms of the World and this week they started using Logic Pro on our new iMacs, for the first time. The students were amazing and quickly started composing their own beats - we can't wait to see how creative they will be in the future!



MATHS HOMEWORK

A report from Miss Tinkl:

We know that students make the best progress when they work hard in school and continue their hard work at home. In order to best support students, we have a set minimum mark of 70% to be achieved on all their maths homework tasks, to maintain a high standard of work at both school and at home. If a student does not complete their homework or does not achieve the 70% mark, we offer support through after school maths catch-up sessions. Due to the year group bubbles we can only offer this for each year group once per week. If your child is booked into a maths catch-up session you will be informed of this through the EduLink "No HW detention" notification and you will be informed of the date of the catch-up session.

Please be reassured this is a supportive measure and we are here to help our students to improve on their mathematics.

Our maths catch-up sessions are:

Year 7	Monday register in SC6, escorted to computer room TE2
Year 8	Wednesday register in MA4, escorted to computer room IT2
Year 9	Thursday register in HU4, escorted to IT3
Year 10	Tuesday Week A, Friday Week B register in LA5, escorted to IT5
Year 11	Monday after P6 register in HU9, escorted to IT4

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Tinkl, Head of Maths: stinkl@stcatherines.college



TOP HOUSE POINT ACHIEVERS

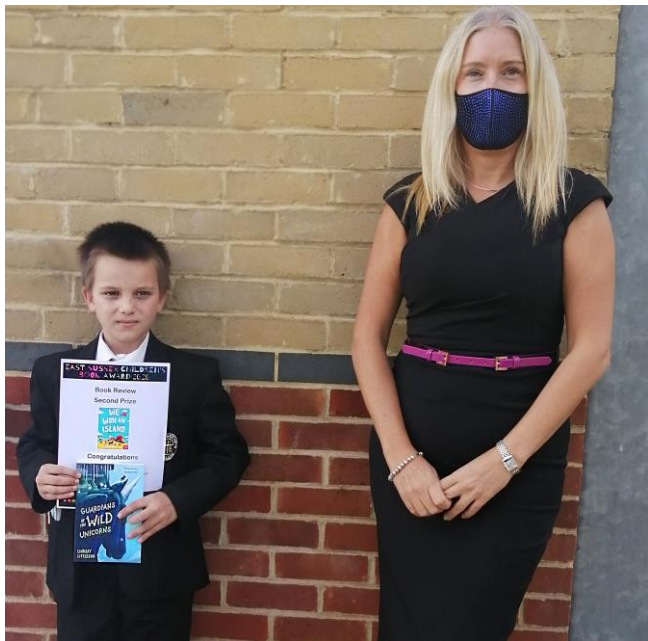


YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Tia Black 138	Jasmine Gallop 135	Shakira Halliwell 125	Joseph Hill 134	Ailsa Cameron 132
Elliot Denyer 136	Logan Adams 132	Eden Prescott 121	Solen Sain 113	Kiera McLean 121
Abigail Sellings 134	Scott Page 130	Sophie Sultan 113	Keira Young 113	Berrie Robertson 118
Daniel Kearney 125	Eva Bramley 128	Konstantin Springate 110	Benjamin Manners 108	Mia Colwell 117
Leme Muja 123	Jack Davies 126	Kaleb Berhane 108	Oliver Hall 107	Bradley Hodgetts 113



YEAR 7 PUPIL WINS BOOK REVIEW COMPETITION

A huge well done to Alfred, Year 7 pupil, who has won second and third prizes in a book review. He won some books and was presented with a certificate. Well done, Alfred!



LOST PROPERTY

Lost property found from the start of this academic year will be kept in year offices. Therefore, if your child has lost something, please ask them to go to their year office. All lost property is logged. Unclaimed items are recycled after eight weeks.

Thank you to all those parents and carers who have put names on their child's items. This means that we can reunite lost property with its rightful owner. Can I please encourage other parents and carers to label equipment and uniform? You can write on most items with a Sharpie (biro washes out).

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Poston at aposton@stcatherines.college



SCIENCE CAREERS

STUDENTS: Keep an eye on your EduLink inbox and the Yellow Bulletin every week to learn about a wide range of Science careers! Think all scientists wear a white coat and work in a lab? Think again! A career in Science could take you all over the world in the Armed Forces, as an oceanographer, an astronomer or a nuclear scientist. It could see you working with famous sports stars as a sports scientist; working in medicine as a nurse, doctor, anaesthetist, psychologist, surgeon; or you could work with animals as a vet, zookeeper or farrier... the possibilities are endless!

99 BUS CHANGES

Some small changes have been made to the Stagecoach 99 bus timetable to accommodate our students.

Monday to Friday, the 99 bus heading towards Bexhill/Hastings will now stop at Tanbridge Road at 15:25 instead of 15:20. For Year 11 students who leave school at 16:05, after period 6, if there is not enough capacity on the 99 bus at 16:20, there is an additional Seaford and District bus due at Tanbridge Road at approximately 16:20.

PARENT/CARER INFORMATION

To ensure that contact can always be made, it is essential that the contact information which we hold for parents/carers is always up-to-date. This information can now be checked and amended on EduLink. Over the next three weeks, we will email you detailing what you should check and how, along with a guide that is stored on the 'Notices and Guides' page of EduLink. Changes that you make will be automatically be sent to the School.

If you need support logging into EduLink, please email lford@stcatherines.college. However, if students need support, they should contact ITsupport@stcatherines.college. Thank you for your co-operation.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 November 2020 – INSET DAY

4 December 2020 – SCHOOL CLOSED



RECEPTION

Owing to the limited size of our reception, we have had to limit the number of visitors to a maximum of three people. To support this capacity, we are kindly asking that:

- If you need to speak with a member of staff, it will be necessary to make an appointment in advance. Please arrive no earlier than five minutes beforehand.
- While waiting for an appointment or to pick up your child during the day, it may be necessary for us to ask you to wait outside / in your car.
- If you are entering the School properly, we will ask you to complete a Covid questionnaire (including track and trace details) and to check your temperature. The questionnaire will be destroyed after 21 days.
- If you need to drop anything at school (eg, a forgotten packed lunch or PE kit), please do so at main reception owing to the closure of the Bedewell entrance.
- Any Year 8-11 student entering school after 9.00am, eg, after a medical appointment, will do so via main reception. It is mandatory for students to wear a face mask as they enter the School to reach their class. Year 7 should ring the doorbell beside the last door on the carpark side of their Bedewell building.

Please accept our apologies for reception being less comfortable during this pandemic. It has been necessary to put the sofas into storage to facilitate social distancing and extra cleaning. However, we hope that the welcome remains warm.



Microsoft Teams

Quick Start Guide

New to Microsoft Teams? Use this guide to learn the basics.

Microsoft Teams was used successfully by our students during lockdown. Teams enabled students to access our live lessons and study effectively from home. Staff are continuing to use Teams to set homework, record lessons, deliver worships, etc. In the unfortunate event of another lockdown we will revert to using this platform to deliver live lessons. Therefore, we would like all students (and parents/carers) to become confident in the use of Teams.

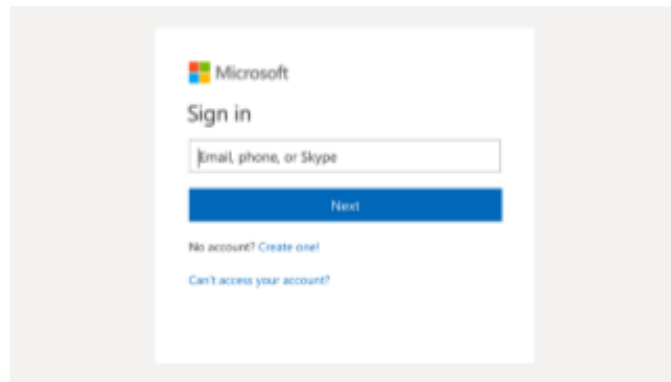
Please see Quick Start Guide information on the next few slides or [CLICK HERE](#) or [HERE](#) for online guidance.

Sign in


In Windows, click **Start**  > **Microsoft Teams**.

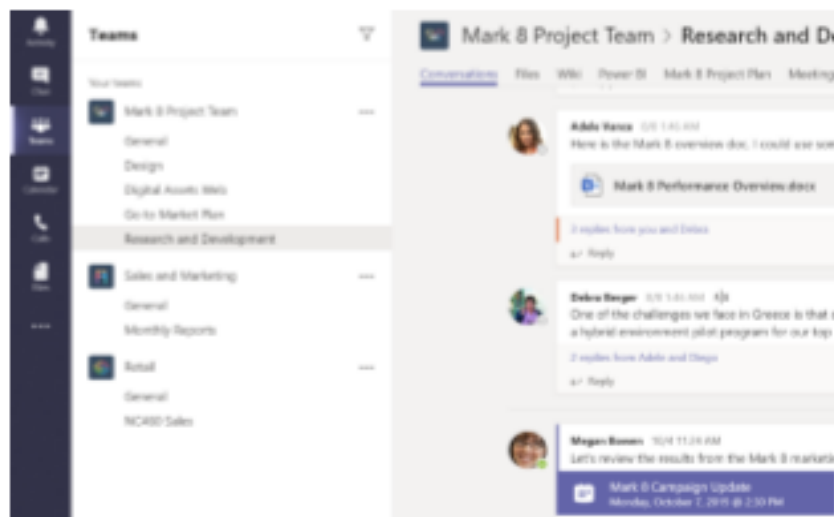
On Mac, go to the **Applications** folder and click **Microsoft Teams**.

On mobile, tap the **Teams** icon. Then sign in with your Office 365 username and password. (If you're using Teams free, sign in with that username and password.)



Pick a team and channel

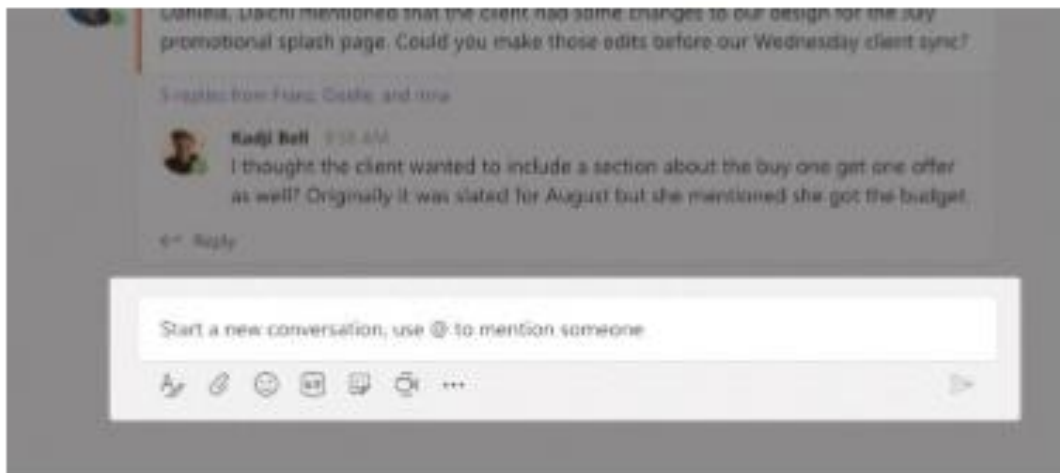
A *team* is a collection of people, conversations, files, and tools—all in one place. A *channel* is a discussion in a team, dedicated to a department, project, or topic. Click **Teams**  and select a team. Pick a channel to explore the **Conversations**, **Files**, and other tabs.





Start a conversation

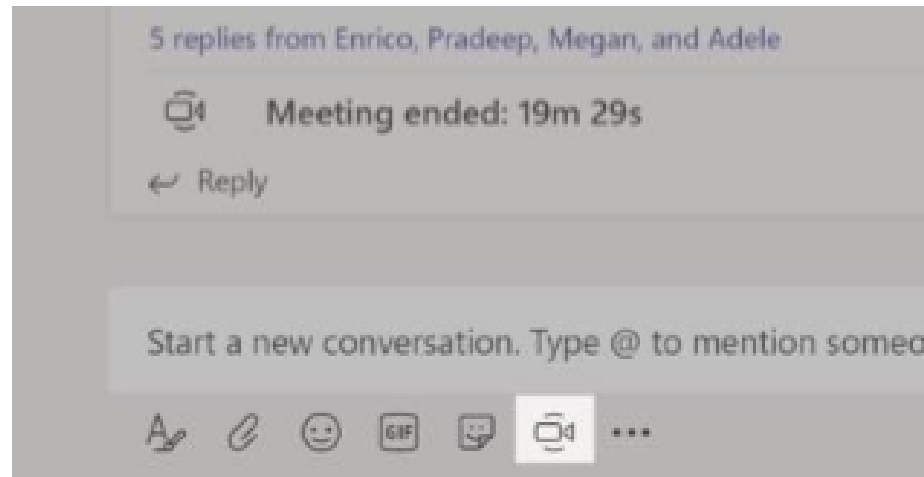
With the whole team... Click **Teams** , pick a team and channel, write your message, and click **Send** .

With a person or group... Click **New chat** , type the name of the person or group in the **To** field, write your message, and click **Send** .



Start a meeting

Click **Meet now**  under the area where you type a message to start a meeting in a channel. (If you click **Reply**, then **Meet now** , the meeting is based on that conversation.) Enter a name for the meeting, then start inviting people.



Looking for support without having to call?

Our new webchat service connects parents and carers with one of our advisors and helps you find the information you need to support your child's mental health.

Contact the YoungMinds Parents Helpline
www.youngminds.org.uk/webchat

YOUNGMINDS



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