



**St Saviour's
& St Olave's
School**

An 11-18 Church of England Girls' School

HEADTEACHER: CATHERINE MAY BSC (HONS) MBA

New Kent Road, London SE1 4AN Tel: 020 7407 1843

email: office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk

24th April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

SILVER LININGS 3

Welcome back to the new term - I hope had something of a break and that you and your family are well.

We are trying to get back into the new normal routine, and I hope that students are accessing and completing work in a variety of ways. If your daughter feels like wearing her uniform then remember summer dresses are now allowed (until the end of September)!

We were open over the Easter break for those families who are key workers and had no other options for childcare, and I really appreciate the staff who volunteered to come in during their holiday.

It's heart-warming to see the positive things happening all around us; I know some of our students are volunteering in the community, and staff are organising the writing of cards for people who are elderly and potentially lonely in these times of self-isolation. Thank you to all of you who are trying to find ways to make life easier for others in these challenging circumstances.

Across our city people are trying to make a positive difference and included at the end of this letter are a number of links to organisations offering new ideas and opportunities to support students' learning, as well as resources for supporting our mental health and well-being. Please do have a look at them.

On a more practical note, we have now been notified that the GCSE and A' level results days are going ahead as planned on 20th August and 13th August respectively. We will notify you of the organisation of those days nearer the time.

I have also been asked to pass on some information from the metropolitan police about a crime known as 'county lines'. They have asked all schools to pass their communication on for the information of all parents and carers of young people in London. That letter will follow this one.

There has also been much speculation in the media about when and how schools will reopen. Please be assured that we will open just as soon as we are allowed and in a way that we are confident we can protect the health and well-being of our school community. We are currently reviewing every aspect of school life in the light of social distancing rules and hygiene practices. I'm certain of two things, that school will definitely re-open, and it will definitely be different!





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There were some fantastic entries to the competitions over Easter. Thank you all for the entries; there were some very inventive crosses made from household items, and some most impressive recreations of works of art. The judges are still deliberating, so watch this space for the announcement of the winner.

We know that many of our families will have been affected financially by this crisis. We are currently providing Tesco's Vouchers to all our Free School Meals students. If you think your child may now be eligible for Free School Meals you can check your eligibility quickly by visiting <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk>

A Certificate of Eligibility is available through the website for any child eligible for a free school meal. Please follow the instructions below:

- 1: Click - Check Eligibility
- 2: Click - Proceed, create a new Account
- 3: Click - Drop down box Local Authority - Insert - Southwark
- 4: Click - Drop down box School - Insert - St Saviour's & St Olave's School
- 5: Read Terms - Before you can use the Free School Meals Eligibility Checker, you need to read and accept the Privacy Notice.
- 6: Input your Details: You must complete all the boxes - paying particular attention to those in the green area, which indicates information that is matched against DWP/HMRC data
- 7: Click Submit - If you are eligible you will be able to download a certificate and email to office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk

Your child/children will then receive free school meals until 31st March 2022.

If you require further financial support, please contact the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/emergency-support>

As we are getting used to this new normal, and preparing for re-opening, our Directors of Learning are taking on the challenge of delivering assemblies from a distance. We hope they will be arriving in your inbox sometime next week, so look out for that. They will also come with year group messages so that students can stay in touch with year group news.





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A final idea I'd like to share that came from our partners at PIXL, designed to help us notice the positive aspects of our lives at the moment, is to keep a kindness diary. For 30 days keep a note of every act of kindness that is shown to you and that you show to others. Focus on the positive, remember the good, stay safe.

Thank you for all you are doing to support your daughters in this new world of distance learning.

With very best wishes

Catherine May
Headteacher

Prayers / Thoughts for the Day:

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit' - Romans 15:13

He is not here; He is risen, just as he said' - Matthew 28:6

'Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise' - Victor Hugo

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' - Philippians 4:13

'I used to be afraid of the dark until I learned that I am light and the dark is afraid of me' - D.R. Silva





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Supporting Links / Resources

Launch of BBC Bitesize

The BBC has launched an education package across TV and online, featuring celebrities and teachers, helping to keep children learning at home and supporting parents.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Guidance on helping children with special educational needs and disabilities learn at home can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Updated guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings providing additional information on the support available for parents, online educational resources and support for vulnerable children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Every mind matters – advice on supporting the mental health and well-being of children at this time can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/looking-after-children-and-young-people-during-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/>

'Troo'

Guys & St Thomas's Charitable Trust have launched a new app in Southwark to help improve the wellbeing of young people by talking to a chatbot 'Troo' about anything from self-esteem, body image and friendships to school, family and relationships. Although developed before COVID-19, the app has been updated to include a conversation about the virus that young people will find helpful. You can find it [here for iOS](#) and [here for android](#) devices.





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