



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

An 11-18 Church of England Girls' School

HEADTEACHER: CATHERINE MAY BSC (HONS) MBA

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21st May 2020

SILVER LININGS 7

Dear Parents and Carers

It's strange to think that we have now done a whole half term of the school year in 'lockdown'. I hope that you and your families are staying well and that you are managing these changes to what was our routine.

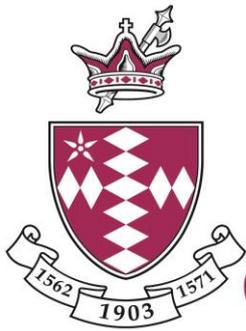
This week is Mental Health Awareness Week, and I hope that your daughters have found the PSHCE work on this topic circulated by Ms Elliott-Janvier to be of interest. The theme of the week this year is kindness, which is certainly something we have seen a great deal of in these challenging times. People have volunteered to do shopping for others, collecting and delivering prescriptions, and generally looking out for others in the community. If your daughter took up the challenge of keeping a kindness diary, I'm sure she has many more examples to share with you.

Just as London was one of the first parts of our country to be challenged by Covid 19, so we are hearing in the news now that we are leading the way in reducing its impact. That is very good news, but we must take care to protect the gains we have made. The public dispute about the wider opening of schools has been quite distressing to witness in the last couple of weeks so I thought it might be worth clarifying our situation. Although our building is not accessible to many at the moment we have never closed. A small number of students have continued to come in, but the vast majority have had to continue their learning from home. We are still a school, we are all still working, but it does look and feel quite different currently as we are mostly doing this from our homes. We will continue to be open for children of key workers next week too, in half term, from Tuesday to Friday (we will not be open on Bank Holiday Monday).

As it is half term next week I hope that you will be able to make the week feel different to term time, and let's all hope this beautiful weather we are currently enjoying continues. I am expecting staff and students to take a break for half term so staff will not be setting lesson by lesson work for the week, and will not be available 'online' as they have been in term time. During half term the next review of the current restrictions will be announced by the government. This is scheduled for 28th May. We will then have a clearer idea of the expected schedule if schools are to be opened to more students. Whenever schools are allowed to invite more students in, we will put our plans in to action as soon as we practically can. Broadly the timeline will be for me to meet with school leaders and premises staff to ensure all health and safety requirements are met, then meet with all staff in school for training on new routines and systems, and then we can begin the process of meeting our students face to face. Currently no firm date can be given until we have the confirmation from the government, and there is much speculation that this will be given during half term.

In the meantime, we will continue to do our very best to support your daughter with her learning at home. I am receiving many snippets of feedback from my colleagues about their interactions with students, and I continue to be impressed with the praise postcards that we have been able to send. One year 8 English group





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have been working well studying Macbeth, engaging with some very challenging work. Not only are they completing their work individually but are supporting each other virtually and even helping their teacher to make better use of the technology. Such a great St Saviour's attitude, demonstrating their respect of their learning. I am very proud of how hard staff and students are all working to make the best of this challenging situation. We truly are all learners!

So that we can continue to learn and find ways to make learning and working from home ever more effective, we sent out a survey to students at the beginning of this week to gather their views on home learning. Please encourage them to complete the survey, sent out via survey monkey, by the deadline of 4pm on Friday 22nd May. In due course we will also be seeking your views on both home learning and the return to school. We completely understand that you will have questions and concerns, not just about how school will operate safely but also about transport, and we will be keen to hear from you.

A group that we have worked very successfully with in school are the charity Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation. They were set up by the mother who lost her son in tragic circumstances, and who now works with young people to try to prevent further loss of life. Please check out the website to read Dan's story. As with most charities they have been very hard hit by this crisis and are looking to hold a fundraising day calling for us all to wear odd socks! Please let your daughters know to look out for communication from their Director of Learning about 'Odd Socks Day'.

It may still take a little while but we are now making plans for coming out of lockdown. We have lived through a significant event and we are hoping to create some kind of archive of how we continued to be a school in lockdown. If you have any images that you are willing to share that summarise 'learning in lockdown' please do email them to office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk. we would also love to hear about what you've learned that you didn't expect to, or things you've done that have made you smile. Let's spread the cheer as we look forward to life after lockdown.

Finally, I would like to say thank you for the thank you's! 'Thank a Teacher' day took place on 20th May, as I shared last week and I have heard from a few members of staff who received them. They were very much appreciated - I would add it's never too late to say 'thank you'.

I wish you a safe and peaceful half term. Thank you for all that you continue to do, to support your daughter and our school.

With very best wishes,

Catherine May
Headteacher





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Prayers / Thoughts for the Day

'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness'. Lamentations 3:22-23.

'If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it'. Mary Oliver

'In the morning when I wake up, I watch you start to rise
After a peaceful night, when I open up my eyes.
Tonight you'll set again, this time in the West.
You brought life to the earth, when the world had just begun.
You're my very best friend, the everlasting, sun'
- Poem recommended by a Y11 student

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you'.
Ephesians 4:32

'No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another'. Charles Dickens.

Links / Resources:

Link to Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation:

<http://www.dsmfoundation.org.uk/>

BBC Bitesize: featuring a range of learning resources across a huge variety of topics:

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

DfE Guidance:

Latest Guidance from DfE on the re-opening of schools can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

