



**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](mailto:office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk)

15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## SILVER LININGS 6

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. Although the lockdown continues, we remain open for children of key workers and all vulnerable students. If you were contacted at the beginning of the school closure period, your daughters continue to be welcome to attend school daily from 9.30am to 2.30pm. If you have not yet taken advantage of this and would now like to, please email your child's Director of Learning to book her a place. The Directors of Learning (DoL) and their contact email information is below:

Mrs Elliott-Janvier, DoL 7: [celliot@ssso.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:celliot@ssso.southwark.sch.uk)  
Mr Quartey, DoL 8: [dquartey@ssso.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:dquartey@ssso.southwark.sch.uk)  
Ms Whitton-Kaluza, DoL 9: [nwhitton@ssso.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:nwhitton@ssso.southwark.sch.uk)  
Ms Delvaille, DoL 10: [SDelvaille@ssso.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:SDelvaille@ssso.southwark.sch.uk)

If you do have any other concerns, please get in touch with us by emailing [office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk) or make use of the wellbeing section of our website. If we can help, we will, and if we can't directly help then we may be able to signpost you to someone who can.

Following the Prime Ministers announcement on Sunday, we have continued to shape our plans for the wider opening of school. I want to reassure all parents and staff that the health and safety of our community remains our top priority. When we are satisfied that we have sufficient staffing levels and safety precautions around our building, we look forward to welcoming our students back in a gradual and phased return, beginning with years 10 and 12. I must caution that at this moment in time nothing has changed yet, and we are still operating a virtual school with learning happening predominantly at home. I am working closely with all my colleague Headteachers in Southwark and with the Local Authority officers to ensure we act in the best interests of our whole community. When we are able to welcome more students into school in a phased and gradual way we will communicate again with information about the timing.





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Information and guidance is coming out frequently and we are working hard to follow it all. I was pleased to note that there is a review taking place by Public Health England into the disproportionate impact of Covid 19 on the BAME community. The review is due to report at the end of May, and we will be looking at that closely to ensure we act on any additional advice and learn any necessary lessons, for the protection and benefit of our whole school community. The link to DfE advice for parents is also included at the end of this letter.

In the meantime, I'd like to thank again all of our staff who have continued to do all they can, within school and from their own homes, to provide work and feedback to our students, to maintain and clean our building, and maintain communication with our community. I also want to thank you, our parents, carers, and partners in the St Saviour's community, for all you are doing to support your daughters with their learning whilst at home. In the spirit of saying thank you I'll also draw your attention to 'Thank a Teacher Day' which takes place on May 20th. A link is attached at the end of this newsletter.

A further thank you that I'd like to include here is to Rob Thomas, Chief of Staff and COO of Coutts Bank, and one of our school governors. Prior to the lockdown he took part in an expedition to climb Kilimanjaro, and used the opportunity to raise some funds for our school. We are very appreciative of the £1500 he has donated to SSSO, and congratulate him on completing the climb! We have also been promised a complete new set of eye protection for all of our science labs, to be funded by the Merchant Taylors Livery Company, to replace the ones we donated to Lewisham hospital at the start of this crisis.

I am grateful for all of the support that St Saviour's receives. I am aware that many of our older students have engaged in various volunteering activities, and in keeping with what I know of the community spirit of our St Saviour's community, I was delighted, but not surprised, to hear of the latest - Rhoda Abdul in year 12 has been assisting her mum to make countless face masks for her colleagues in the NHS. Well done and thank you to all who are doing so much to help others.

Whilst trying to plan for the safe return of our current St Saviours community, it is also the time of year where we should be meeting year 6 students who will be joining us next year in year 7, and settling the option groups for current year 9 students for them to start in year 10. We are looking to the future, and we know it will be good, we just have to find different ways to 'be school' for a bit longer, until we are able to begin to use our building fully again.

At this time of year, we would usually hold a whole school Eucharist service in the school hall for all students and staff. The focus of the service is the transition years, year 11 facing GCSE's and ending





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their uniformed school days, and year 13 facing A' levels and looking forward to University. As the current season in the church is still 'Easter', Reverend Imogen has created an act of collective worship on that theme which is now on our website, and you can find the link below. This week's national assembly was on the theme of 'Discovery', and that link is also provided at the end of this letter. Our Muslim staff and students are experiencing a very different way of marking Ramadan without access to mosques and without being able to meet extended family. I hope that we will all be sustained by our faith through these challenging times and find peace in our new ways of worship.

Next week is Mental Health Awareness week, and there has perhaps has never been a more appropriate time to focus on issues of our mental health and emotional well-being. Mrs Elliott – Janvier will be circulating some lessons and resources to help students focus on attaining and maintaining good mental health to support effective learning. Please take the opportunity to discuss these with your daughter.

With very best wishes,

Catherine May  
Headteacher

## Prayers / Thoughts for the Day

'Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be like and learn to find the joy in the story you are actually living.' Rachel Marie Martin.

'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.' Ecclesiastes 3:1.

'I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.' Psalm 27:13-14.

'May we grow, not to what was, but instead towards what we can become.'





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'Sometimes you find yourself in the middle of nowhere, and sometimes in the middle of nowhere, you find yourself'.

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11.

Supporting Links / Resources

**Easter Season Assembly:**

<http://www.sso.southwark.sch.uk/page/?title=Easter+Season+Worship&pid=714>

**National School Assembly:** the link to the most recent National School Assembly can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0keXnJkHpn8>

**Thank a Teacher Day:** the link to information on this can be found here:

<https://thankateacher.co.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>

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>

