



**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

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5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## SILVER LININGS 8

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you staying safe and well, and that you have enjoyed a little more freedom as some of the lockdown restrictions have eased. Although we're a long way from what we knew as normal I think many of us have really appreciated the opportunity to meet up with other family members and friends in an outside space. Let's hope and pray that the virus continues to diminish and freedoms can be expanded soon.

Preparations for the wider opening of school have moved up a gear this week. We have finalised a one-way system, which has been quite a task given the age and uniqueness of our building, and lots of reminder signage about keeping a safe distance, handwashing and other hygiene notices are going up. Not all students will return at the same time, and some will still have quite a wait, but please do start to have conversations with your daughters about the preparations they need to make. Consider her travel options, find her uniform, discuss not hugging friends you haven't seen in a long time, and practicalities such as having a mask and a plastic bag to put it in. St Saviour's girls are always very supportive of each other and generous in sharing equipment if someone has forgotten theirs, but this is something that will need to be curtailed. Students will all need their own basic equipment every day and will not be able to borrow it from other students or their teachers. So perhaps suggest your daughter starts with organising her pencil case!

The government guidelines are explicit that years 10 and 12 should be the first to attend secondary schools, and that the process will begin from 15th June. We are updating our risk assessment regularly and hope that we can start to invite year 10 students in limited numbers into school during that week. We plan to hold staff meetings next week for their induction and training in new routines and expectations, and we will then be able to confirm the timings for students to return. The year 10 team will be in touch with year 10 students and their families directly about that process. If you have any questions or concerns about the plans to open school more widely please contact the Director of Learning for your daughters' year group.

It's been a tough week for reasons other than Covid 19 and lockdown. With horror we have watched the news reports from the USA about the murder of George Floyd. With heavy hearts we have watched people across the world demonstrate the frustration and anger felt by so many, not just in





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the USA. Once we have dealt with the practicalities of operating a physical school, increasing our numbers of students able to attend, while still maintaining our virtual school operation, we will turn our attention to making sure we are an institution that is a part of the solution. We look forward to working with our community to make sure the future is not just a repeat of the past. I am encouraged to note that a piece in a national newspaper written to challenge us all to get involved in challenging racism was written by an 'old girl' of St Saviour's. As our motto says, our students really are 'makers of the future'.

I am so impressed every time I hear from teachers about how well so many of our students are managing the challenges of learning at home. They are taking responsibility, persevering, stepping outside of their comfort zones and exercising their independent learning skills. They clearly recognise the importance of learning for its own sake. This current way of working is far from an ideal situation for us all, but these skills will be of great value in their future academic studies. It's possible to assume that online learning works best in subject areas communicated in text and on PowerPoints, but I have been delighted to hear two amazing musical accomplishments this week. One was a piece of beautiful piano playing performed by a student in year 9, and the other a song written, composed and performed by a student in year 7. Both were so uplifting. Well done girls, you know who you are!

1st June was 'Child Safety Day' with a real focus this year on safety in the home. In previous years we have been able to run some first aid training in school for some students but this year we are having to do this differently. Mrs Elliott-Janvier has forwarded some materials from the British Red Cross to students which will help them to recognise dangers, prevent accidents and be a first aid champion. Please encourage your daughter to engage with them and discuss them as a family.

At this time of year, we would usually feel the impact of exams. We would have 'no entry examination in progress' signs around school, and lots of year 11 and 13 students in the hall instead of the classrooms. To teachers it does feel like something is missing, and we can only imagine how strange it must feel to those students who had worked so hard for years towards a major event that now is not happening. They will be getting grades, and I must thank all the staff who have worked so hard to provide the information required of us by exam boards. That information will be scrutinised and moderated at a national level and eventually returned to us in the way exam grades always are. Results will be distributed in August in the usual ways, and I look forward to seeing students again on the results days.

By the time I write again next week I will have met with all staff, apart from those who are shielding, and we will be one step closer to the wider opening of school we all want to see. As an example of the challenges facing us with maintaining social distances, to accommodate the whole staff compliant with the guidelines, I will be meeting with the staff in six different groups! If you have any questions or concerns about school related issues please call on 020 7407 1843 between 9.30am





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and 2.30pm, or email [office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk). We do have a very limited number of staff in school each day but they will ensure messages are passed on. If your question is subject specific, please contact your daughters' teacher or the head of that department by email. Their email addresses are on our website. Thank you once again for your support, for helping your daughter to stay on track and focussed on her work.

Attached are this weeks' thought for the days from Reverend Imogen, I hope you find some peace and joy in reading them, as well as the link to the national assembly again.

Take care and stay safe

Best wishes

Catherine May  
Headteacher



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## Links / Resources:

Link to the latest National Assembly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJppUpn8bel>

## Prayers / Thoughts for the Day

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

'In quietness and trust is your strength' - Isaiah 30:15

"Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is one of inestimable value." - Desmond Tutu

'The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.' Psalms 33:5

'Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity and change.' - Brené Brown

'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

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>

NSPCC support and guidance on talking to children about Coronavirus link:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

