



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

2nd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Silver Linings 12

I do hope this letter finds you well and that you are managing to plan some kind of break for the summer holiday. I am finding it quite hard to believe that it is now just over two school weeks until the summer break.

At the time of writing the government just made their announcement about how schools should operate in September. As signposted earlier this week we are expected to have year group bubbles, staff will need to social distance from students, and contact between year groups must be minimised. Whilst this compromise may provide more time physically in school for students it could potentially limit access to specialist resources and specialist rooms such as Science laboratories and the Design Technology rooms.

Be assured that, as always, we will do our best for your daughter whilst meeting these new requirements. The health and wellbeing of students and staff must be our top priority, but we will not be looking to limit the curriculum in any way, or to reduce the number of GCSE's that year 10 will be starting and year 11 will be continuing. Any decision to reduce the number of examination entries for any student would be made in consultation with you on an individual basis. We will now need to revisit our plans for September and work with the new guidance. School will look a little different and operate differently in the Autumn term, and together we will make this work to the benefit of all our students.

This summer term will end on Friday 17th July 2020. The next academic year will begin on Tuesday 1st September with an INSET day for staff only. In September we recognise that everyone will need to be properly inducted in the new systems and routines of school. In order to do this well we will need to allow each year group time to have the opportunity to experience the whole school layout and one-way system, and to understand the restrictions we will still be operating with. The outline plan for the first week is as follows:

Monday 31st August – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 1st September – Staff INSET day

Wednesday 2nd September – New year 7 and new year 12 only

Thursday 3rd September – All of Key stage 3 (years 7,8,9)

Friday 4th September – All of Key stage 4 (years 10 and 11) and year 13

Week beginning 7th September – Whole school begins for all year groups

Two other notable dates for the summer break are 20th August and 13th August, when students will be receiving their GCSE and A Level grades respectively. Information about the process will follow. At the end of this letter there are various links, including a new one to a summer campaign and survey from SOLACE. Reports about domestic violence have increased during the period of lockdown and SOLACE are keen to hear from young people about any experience but also their views on how we can be more pro-active collectively to prevent it.





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The attendance of students from year 10 and year 12 this week has again been exceptional. Almost 100% of those permitted to attend every day have welcomed the opportunity to come into school. This shows just how much our students value their education, and just how determined to succeed they are. Well done to them all.

All students have been doing some end of year assessments this week and this will continue into next week. Again, their engagement has been remarkable, so well done to the girls, and please keep going. When the assessments are completed we'll change the tempo and move onto Creative Arts Week, starting with Sports Day!

Do keep your photos, pictures, poems, stories, songs, essays and anything else that records your experiences of 'learning in lockdown' coming in to office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk. They will form a part of our time capsule and become a very important archive for students at SSSO in future.

These last few months have been quite remarkable. Personally, I have really missed the daily contact with our staff and students, and I am looking forward to September when I hope things will be much more recognisable and closer to the 'normal' I remember. However, I am very mindful that the virus has not gone away and there is not yet a vaccine. As we watch the lockdown being re-imposed in other cities in our country, we must all continue to take care of ourselves and our communities. We must keep our distance, travel safely, and do all we can to ensure there is no second spike of infections in our city and therefore no need to re-impose restrictions in our community. Please reinforce with your daughter the need to socially distance on her way to and from school.

We have learnt a great deal about new ways of working and developed different strategies for teaching and learning that may help us do things differently and better into the future. We have had to reflect on what our institution stands for, to acknowledge ways we could have been more pro-active in the past, and to find ways to play our part in bringing about a fairer and more just society. Our response to the Black Lives Matter movement, seeking to ensure we are an anti-racist school, is an ongoing piece of work that will run through our whole school and will not be a one-off event. I look forward to working with you, our parents, our students, and our staff as we continue this journey in the new academic year.

Stay safe and stay well, with very best wishes

Catherine May
Headteacher





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Links / Resources

Faith-based Assembly

This week's faith-based assembly is on generosity and can be found here:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/activity-clubs/faith-at-home/episodes/generosity-secondary>

Prayers / Thoughts for the Day

'Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.' 1 Peter 5:7

'Finding yourself is not really how it works. You aren't a ten-dollar bill in last winter's coat pocket. You are also not lost. Your true self is right there, buried under cultural conditioning, other people's opinions, and inaccurate conclusions you drew as a kid about who you are. "Finding yourself" is actually returning to yourself. An unlearning, an excavation, a remembering who you were before the world got its hands on you'.
Emily McDowe

'When someone is broken, don't try to fix them. (You can't)
When someone is hurting don't try to take away their pain. (You can't)
Instead, love them by walking beside them in the hurt. (You can)
Because sometimes what people need is simply to know they aren't alone.'

'You are the light of the world' Matthew 5.14

Link to SOLACE Women's Aid Youth Survey

SOLACE are developing a summer campaign, to highlight issues facing young people today and to fund our children & young people therapeutic services. At the heart of this campaign are young people's voices and they would like to hear about the issues affecting them and their friends in lockdown and beyond. If you would like to take part, please click on the following link: <https://www.solacewomensaid.org/news/be-heard-and-shape-our-youth-voices-campaign-complete-survey-today>

Life after Covid-19 – link to competition for students aged 14+ to share their ideas and vision for the future can be found here (deadline for entries 10.07.20):

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/world-after-covid/>

Holiday food and activity programme:

Beginning July 22nd, the 'Lambeth and Southwark's Summer of Food and Fun' programme will ensure that children and young people (aged 4-19 years), their families and/or carers are able to access a regular source of free nutritious meals over the summer, whether at a local club or at home, and join an array of community





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activities including sports, theatre, arts and crafts and cooking. For more information please see the link below:

<https://www.mayorsfundforlondon.org.uk/lambeth-southwark-summer-food-fun/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Latest DfE guidance on protective measures for holiday / after-school clubs

There is new guidance for parents and carers setting out what they need to know about changes to after-school clubs, holiday clubs, tuition, community activities and other out-of-school settings for children and young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Please see link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

