



St Mary's and St John's CE School

"With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)

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Wisdom Service Hope

Principal: Martin Serrão BA, MEd (Camb)

31st March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers/Year 11 Students,

Re: Bridging the gap

We hope that you are well and staying safe.

Following our previous letter and the establishment of the 'bridging the gap' Google classroom we hope you have been making use of the resources and materials available. We wanted to take this opportunity to give you further information on some of the questions you have been asking.

How will grades be awarded?

Please note that due to the staffing issues last week, Year 11 March data is still being collated. Please bear with us whilst we finalise this process and remember that mock data will only make up part of the final teacher judgements.

The advice from Ofqual still leaves many questions unanswered. It is clear that grades will be calculated using a combination of teacher assessment and exam board calculations. There is no indication of the weighting afforded to these different methods contributing to the calculation of grades at this time. The latest guidance from the government can be found [here](#).

Whilst it is understandable that students and parents/carers will have questions about this process, it is unhelpful to speculate about the nature of the system of awarding grades at this time. Please be assured that teachers will provide a holistic yet realistic predicted grade, following Ofqual/exam board guidance. The senior team will review grades before submission to ensure that they are accurate and a fair reflection of individual student capabilities.

I wasn't able to have my interview, what should I do?

Students who were unable to be interviewed will be sent a copy of the questions. Students need to complete the document and send it back to Ms Wood-Cain at pwoodcain302@smsj.london

I haven't received an offer letter, what should I do?

Once all the interviews have concluded, students will receive conditional offer letters via email.

How will entry into the Sixth Form at SMSJ work?

The entry criteria to the Sixth Form at SMSJ will remain the same and can be found [here](#) on the school's website.

What should Year 11 students be doing now?

It is vital that students maintain the routine of working during this period. Please complete all the transition work for the subjects you intend to study next year. This should include your reserve subject. This can be found on the school website in the Sixth Form section and on the Google classroom. The code is **ek43ikr**.

Should you need any further guidance when completing the work, please email the Head of Department.

Once you have completed all the transition work, continue to make use of the resources found on the Google classroom. These include:

1. Super-Curricular reading - Use these resources to develop your subject specific interests further. This will support you in your A Level studies and personal statements. In addition, it will also help you develop your independent study skills ready for university.
2. Super-Curricular lectures- Use these resources to explore different areas of research within your subjects. These lectures will support you in your A Level studies and personal statements. They will also help you prepare for this style of learning at university.
3. TED talks - Use these resources to explore contemporary issues. These talks will support you in your A Level studies and personal statements but will also broaden your understanding of global issues.
4. Online courses- These courses are free and an excellent way to develop your skill set and broaden and deepen your understanding of a variety of subjects both within and outside of your A Level subjects.
5. UCAS- Research courses and universities to get an understanding of the entry criteria and modules you could study.
6. Prospective Oxbridge applicants- Prospective Oxbridge applicants are well read and are able to talk confidently about a range of contemporary issues both within and around their subjects. These resources are there to challenge you and provide you with the stimulus to analyse and synthesise conflicting arguments and evidence in preparation for your assessments and interviews.

Why do I need to study now?

It is highly likely that Sixth forms and colleges could ask students to sit baseline assessments particularly for popular subjects. Irrespective of this, the work we are providing will ensure that students have the opportunity to commence their studies through access to subject specific learning, which will mean they are fully prepared for September. The discipline demonstrated by students now, through independent study, will stand them in good stead for their future higher education.

Students will be continuing their studies when schools/colleges reopen and need to ensure that their knowledge is up-to-date. The more you do now the more prepared you will be for September.

How do I manage my mental health and well being?

We would like to take this opportunity to signpost you to the resources sent to you by Mrs. Pittaway in her letter dated 27th March, 2020.

We would like to thank you for your patience, support and kind words during these unprecedented times. The staff at SMSJ are immensely proud of the way in which Year Eleven have conducted themselves through this unsettling period. They have shown wisdom beyond their years, service to teachers and one another and relentless hope. We have no doubt that the Diamond year group will continue to shine and we look forward to their continued success.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or need any further support.

Best wishes,

Ms. Gershon
Assistant Principal
Head of Sixth Form

Ms. Thomas
Assistant Principal

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