



Wisdom Service Hope

St Mary's and St John's CE School

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

Telephone: 020 8202 0026

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Principal: Martin Serrão BA, MEd (Camb)

14th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well and that you enjoyed the bank holiday weekend.

Government advice on reopening schools

You may have seen in the news that the government is considering reopening schools on 1st June if it is considered to be safe to do so by that date. Please see the latest update from the government for parents/carers [here](#).

Following the latest guidance from the Department of Education, SMSJ is planning to welcome back some primary and secondary students in June. We will be providing further information on which groups at the end of this week. This plan is dependent on the 5 Government tests which have to be met at that point in time. We will of course advise you of any changes as we are made aware of them so that you know what our school's reopening will look like in practice.

It is a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we have been doing everything we can to make sure we are ready to receive your children safely.

However, we are also not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school, since you know your children and personal situation best. We will keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so that you can make an informed decision.

In the short-term, nothing has changed at SMSJ. We would like to thank you for your continued support in helping your child learn from home. We will need to keep going with this for a while yet, so please do continue to do what you can and stay in touch with us about how your child is doing.

Distance Learning

We are monitoring the completion of distance learning tasks by our students and we have noted that some of our students are marking their work as complete but then not uploading it which means that our teachers cannot review their work and provide them with feedback. Please encourage your child to submit their work or if they are struggling with any tasks to let their subject teacher or PAM know so that we can offer support.

GCSEpod for students in Years 9 and 10

GCSEpod is a fantastic resource we have invested in to support our students with their GCSE studies. Teachers will set GCSEpod activities as part of Distance Learning but we also encourage our students to make use of the vast, teacher-designed resources on GCSEpod to enhance their independent learning and revision. If your child has forgotten how to log on to the site they can easily re-set their details [here](#) by clicking 'I've forgotten my log in details' or contact Mr. Davite, Ms. Ahenkan or Ms. Thomas for support.

Distance Learning Rewards

The role of rewards in recognising students' wisdom, service and hope in learning is a key part of developing the potential of young people at SMSJ. At this time more than ever, praise is a key component of motivating students and maintaining staff/pupil relationships.

Heads of Faculty and Phase Leaders will be nominating students to their weekly 'Honour Board' based on the quality of submitted learning. Nominations will be released each week and will contribute to the Interhouse tracker.

In addition, our Heads of Year and Phase Leaders will release weekly league tables of student rewards from class charts which will be displayed in the student newsletter every 2 weeks.

We look forward to seeing a multitude of students nominated and celebrated over the coming weeks. Accumulated rewards during distance learning will be linked to further rewards when we return to school.

Colouring for wellbeing

Studies have shown that colouring for as little as 10 minutes a day can help with anxiety and the effects of depression. Please click [here](#) for some free images to colour as a family.

Future Learn

For thousands of free courses from top companies and universities, visit this [website](#).

Is coronavirus affecting your education or work? Explore online courses to continue studying, build professional skills, and connect with experts. There are also tips and advice for making money during the coronavirus lockdown, and how to save money whilst in isolation.

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

The Royal College has produced a range of stay at home activities for children and young people please click [here](#) to access.

Careers advice

Click [here](#) to sign up for the free current edition of the *Careermag*, giving careers advice and support for parents/carers and students.

The [Careers and Enterprise Company](#) have developed a series of career talks connecting young people with stories from slightly older peers who have recently made that transition into the workplace from education. This week women succeeding in STEM are featured: 'Meet Rebecca and Katie. They're proving how young women can excel in engineering. They explain how they got a Degree Apprenticeship at Jacobs and the impact it has had on their careers.'

Safeguarding

You will be hearing from our school counsellor, Mrs. Castagno, in a letter next week to mark the start of Mental Health Awareness Week. Mrs. Castagno has asked us to make you aware that she is available to support your child over the phone if you feel they would benefit from specialist support due to their anxiety in these uncertain times. If you feel that your child would benefit from a conversation with our school counsellor, please email acastagno.302@smsj.london.

Should students or parents/carers have any safeguarding concerns during school closure, please email our Designated and Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

Primary Phase, Neale House Campus, Prothero Gardens, Hendon, NW4 3SL
Junior Phase, Bennett House Campus, Sunningfields Road, Hendon, NW4 4QR
Senior Phase, Stamford Raffles Campus, Downage, Hendon, NW4 1AB



- Sarah Pittaway secondaryhead@smsj.london
- Simon Atkinson primaryhead@smsj.london
- Marcelina Silva msilva@smsj.london

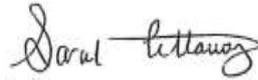
Please note that the school email will be monitored during usual school opening hours only. If a child is at risk of immediate danger, please contact the Barnet MASH team on 020 8359 4066 or the police on 999.

We wish you and your family the very best of health. Please keep us updated if any immediate family member does become ill so that we may offer any support that we can.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Atkinson
Head of Primary



Mrs Pittaway
(Acting) Head of Secondary