

S. Peter's Collegiate School

ISSUE 14 26/02/2021

-Parent Bulletin-

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Following on from the Government's announcement on Monday that schools would be open from the 8th March, I wanted to say that we are absolutely delighted that very soon we will be able to have the school full of students again. It is just not the same without them!

I am so grateful to all of the staff for their efforts whilst we have been in this period of lock down, however, nothing replaces the scenario of actual face to face learning and the companionship that students have from being in school.

We have been working all week on the plan to be able to bring students back to school. We have purposely not communicated a plan until now, only for it to have to be changed following further announcements. I have fielded many questions following the initial announcements, because somewhat missed in the detail was the fact that Secondary schools would need to have a phased return to school in order to organise a thorough testing programme.

It would be fair to say that organising this has been a mammoth task. The co-ordination of staffing, resources, facilities, time and all under the constraints of 'bubbles' has proved to be very difficult, but I am proud of how the staff in the school have worked to put this together.

It is important that we are transparent and make everyone aware that the few weeks leading up to Easter will not be an exact replica of how we would like school to be. Testing is a priority and as a result there is disruption to normal schooling.

Further announcements have also been made this week regarding Year 11 & 13 exam grades. At this early stage of writing I am sure that this will develop further still over the next few days. I have previously written to parents/carers about the overarching vision being one of 'realism and optimism' for these grades. No grades will be based on any one test, instead coursework, class tests, mock examinations and class set exam style questions (amongst other things) will be drawn on to arrive at final Centre Assessed Grades. Recently we carried out a series of assessments with students at home to enhance this portfolio of evidence, this has proved to be a worthwhile exercise and these can be included to help teachers arrive at final grades. Some parents/carers and students are understandably worried about this process. I will endeavour to update further when more information is released.

The first site visit for the potential new build is taking place next week and I am very keen to be involved in this. I will try to share in the weekly bulletin any updates that are available. What I have been told so far is that from start to finish this is likely to be a project that lasts up to two and a half years in total.

I hope that everyone has another good week next week, it is till fantastic to hear about all of the brilliant things that are going on with home learning. It would be good to encourage students to spend some time away from screens again and hopefully next Wednesday's Reading activities can support this. Details of these are featured in this copy of the bulletin.

Wednesday the 3rd March is World Book Day at S. Peter's. (Year 7-10). Work will be set by the English Department for the day and put on the specially created World Book Day classrooms

CONTACTS

Head of Year 7 - jpeacock@speters.org.uk

Head of Year 8 - dsherriff@speters.org.uk

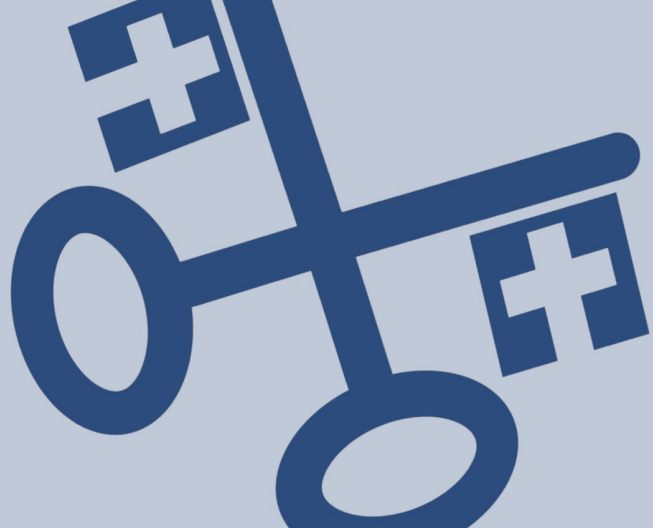
Head of Year 9 - ajohnson@speters.org.uk

Head of Year 10 - dmaullin@speters.org.uk

Head of Year 11 - gsmith@speters.org.uk

Post 16 - 6thform@speters.org.uk

For general enquiries speters@speters.org.uk



COMPUTING— CyberFirst Competition



For the first time ever we had 10 Year 8 girls competing in the National CyberFirst Girl's Competition. This is a national competition where girls complete various tasks to do with logic and coding, cyber security, networking and cryptography online. Unfortunately, this year we didn't make it to the next round. However, well done to all involved for taking part this year.






TALK TO STRANGERS WEBSITE WARNING

Have you heard of Omegle?

Over the past couple of weeks the website popular with young children Omegle has been in the news. Police are warning parents to be vigilant after reports children are accessing the website and talking to strangers.

The Omegle website allow its users to link up with random people for virtual video and text chats, and claims to be moderated.

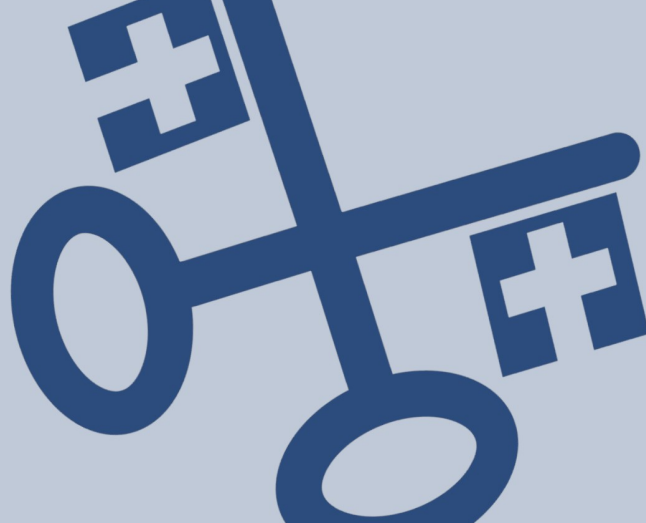
What parents need to know about Omegle

NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content. 	RISK OF CYBERBULLYING The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them. 	UNMODERATED CHAT Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to 'please be careful'. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.' 
PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting. 	RISK OF EXPLOITATION Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual/psychological grooming (users coercing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do). 	ADULT THEMED CONTENT Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided. 

For more information on Omegle [click here](#)

REMINDERS:

- Our website has a detailed section on remote learning found [here](#)
- Wednesday 3rd March is World Book Day at S. Peter's. (Year 7-10). Work will be set by the English Department for the day and put on the specially created World Book Day classrooms



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

Next week is National Careers Week. Students will have the opportunity to take part in a number of events that will be posted throughout the week including the NCW Virtual Career Fair, the STEM Careers Virtual Fair. We also have a number of students already signed up for individual events which is great news.



National Careers Week (NCW) is a celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people leaving education.

For more information [click here](#)

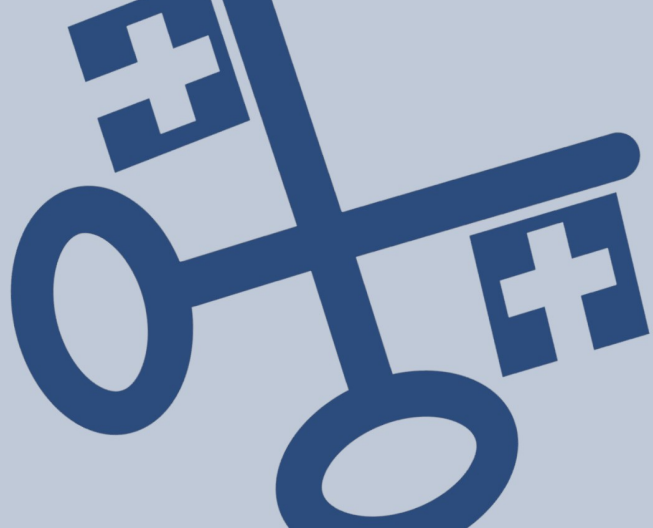
MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE

There is no doubt of the significant impact that the last year of lockdowns has had on the mental health of everyone, inclusive of staff and students. At S. Peter's, we pride ourselves on the strength of our pastoral system which always puts student wellbeing at the forefront of school life. This week, twelve members of staff including governors, teachers and support staff, completed a two-day online Youth Mental Health First Aid course run by Mental Health England, in order to have the tools to continue supporting our staff and students. During the course, staff studied various aspects of mental health and received training in how to utilise and deploy different avenues of care. It was a fantastic course and provided a great opportunity to examine and discuss these issues within a supportive environment.

Due to its success, a second course will be running next week with a cross section of staff involved.

REMINDERS:

Our weekly Frog Blog is available on the school website click [here](#)



Don't press this button!

Issue 024



Are you Tempted?

I had tried to ignore the temptation. Honest! I wasn't sure I would be able to get away with it in broad daylight! The benefits were obvious but were they worth the risk? I had thought about the idea, plotted a way to do it and now I found myself at the point of no return. Once I was committed to the deed though, there was no going back! So there I stood in the queue. In front of me an old lady who had been getting cash out of her handbag stepped up to the counter, when a £10 note fell to the ground behind her. "Interesting!" I'd thought. The lady hadn't noticed it. "Very interesting!" whispered a little voice in my head, "You could have that money and no-one would know, just put your foot on it, crouch down to tie your shoelace and put it in your pocket." It was very tempting. In that instant, I realised I had a choice to make - snatch the money or give it back to it's rightful owner. Well, what would you do?



Every moment of the day we face choices like this and wrestle with that voice inside our head that tells us right from wrong. Should we wear, uniform or not? Speak to people politely, or not? Eat a couple of biscuits or the whole packet? Click on the internet link or delete it? Borrow something or just take it? In these moments of choice, we will be tempted to act against our better judgement even though we know our deeds may hurt us or others. Jesus knew only too well about these moments of decision and the

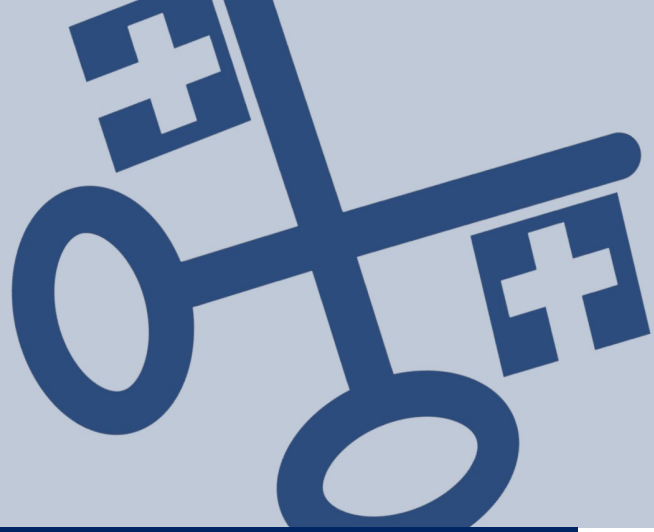
spiritual battle that could impact both the physical and spiritual well being of his disciples, which is why he taught them to take time to talk to God about temptations and challenges we all face!

"When you pray to Our Father in Heaven" said Jesus, "ask that he lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." Matthew 6:13. Obviously, Jesus was concerned to point out to his disciples that they needed to seek God's help in times of temptation because whatever we think may be the cause of temptation, wrong thoughts, desire and actions, Jesus clearly understood, that behind it all, is one who seeks to destroy the good that God has given - the devil. Jesus was in no doubt that, whilst God offered humankind forgiveness, restoration, and truth, the devil sought to deceive and destroy any possibility of such a relationship between God and his people.

[Read More Here](#)

REMINDERS:

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LIVE LIFE: LIVE FAITH

BRINGING THE RELEVANCE OF FAITH TO THE REALITY OF LIFE!



Ever forgotten something you just read? Ever forgotten something you just read? Okay, perhaps your memory isn't that bad but in a world that is full of words, it is a wonder that we remember them at all. Yet we do! We Look...read.... comprehend....meditate ...and then act on words!

It is through words, we gain insight, direction, encouragement and challenge that impact on our life. It is the same with the Bible, so Emily Cox (year 13) explained when talking about **The WORD project** which is set to give the community of S.Peters an opportunity to not **just read the Bible but to live it too!**



Over the coming months, the aim of the project, led by Joel Uppal, Bonita Walker (both in year 13) and Emily as CU leaders, is to create artwork* based on Bible scripture, that can be displayed and seen around the school in various places to encourage reflection on our Christian Ethos that leads to action.



Emily explained that the group's motivation for this project comes from their own experience of how God's word has impacted their everyday life on so many occasions. "Sometimes a Bible verse will encourage perseverance or courage; it may remind you of a promise from God that he is with you; there are times too when you are challenged about the way you are thinking of others and behaving; the incredible way Jesus has restored the relationship between us and God through his death and resurrection are all reasons to take the Bible to heart"

In Isaiah 55:8-11 God promises that as "my WORD is shared it will will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it". That's got to be a positive right? Let's not just read the Bible- let's live it!

*If you would like to be part of **The WORD Project** and create a piece of artwork that can be displayed around the school then get in touch with Emily, Bonita and Joel or email Joe (our chaplain) jmaggs@speters.org.uk for more details.

