

S. Peter's Collegiate School

ISSUE 08 08/01/2021

-Parent Bulletin-

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



I hope that all families had a restful Christmas. Despite the additional restriction that have since been put in place, I am very hopeful that 2021 will eventually see a return to some sort of normality for us all.

On Friday 18 December we hosted an incredible event in school and were joined virtually by eight other Secondary Schools. The Girls' Empowerment afternoon was absolutely inspirational, to hear from CBE, BAFTA and Olivier award winning actor, Fiona Shaw and athlete Denise Lewis OBE about their journey's, was fantastic. Two very successful women in their own field who have not forgotten the struggles they went through, or the hard work that went into their outstanding achievements.

As a school, we tried incredibly hard last term to improve communication to parents. This not only included the introductions of the Bulletin, but also a determination to try to respond quickly to any announcements where necessary. To have to respond not once, but three times in quick succession to Government directives was at times extremely challenging, but at least we now know where we stand until February half term. The school is not the same without all the students here. Many of the staff have commented how they really miss the noise.

Students in Years 8-13 have had previous experience of virtual learning at times during this Academic year and are used to how things work. It is amazing that already just under one thousand students have taken part in virtual lessons this week. Hopefully next week, following the training we have provided, the Year 7 students will also be actively engaged with virtual lessons as well as the work that has been set on Google Classrooms.

The children that have been in school this week have joined in with the virtual lessons alongside children at home. I have personally joined some of the lessons as well and have really enjoyed the learning experiences. If you are experiencing any issues, please can I remind you to contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance. The school website also has a section on virtual learning that should help. I was disappointed that National Express cancelled their school bus services, due to schools being closed to most students. Public bus services are still running, however, students who have Free School Meals can still receive support vouchers, as has previously been the case.

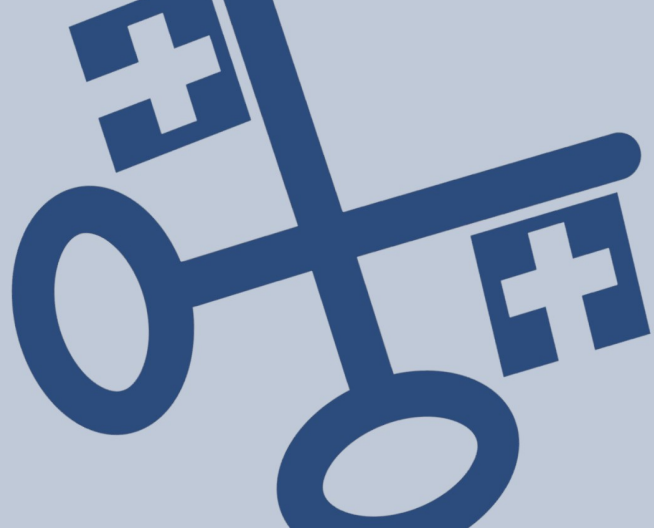
I am aware that for Year 11 & 13 students (and parents) this week's announcements regarding Public Examinations may have caused some anxiety. We purposely have avoided making too many statements on this issue so far, in order not to add to this. Our stance is as follows, and it is taken from the perspective of developing students for their future, whilst also giving them the best chances that we can to have glittering prospects ahead.

Now that examination grades will be based on Teacher assessed work, we will have to hold several more assessments and tests with students from both year groups, in order to ensure that the grades that are submitted are accurate and that they stand up to external scrutiny. I also think that we have a duty to prepare students for Further Education, where they will have to sit examinations regularly. If we do not do this we would effectively be letting our students down.

CONTINUED

REMINDER:

- For those pupils attending school the bus service is not running, public buses are still running
- Free school meal vouchers are available to qualifying pupils



Our Year 11 & 13 students have not finished school. There is still a lot of time in which progress can be made between now and the end of their courses. Coursework should be finished whenever necessary as it is very likely that this will be checked thoroughly and we need to work closely with students in order to be able to predict grades that are both optimistic and realistic.

I want to end this week by wishing you all a happy new year and express my wish that everyone remains safe.

REMOTE LEARNING STARTS - Miss Wheatcroft & Mr Walker

The school is currently a very strange place. What makes the school have that buzz is the students that attend it, unfortunately at the moment our students are not with us due to the National lockdown but the schools intent is to still educate our students and help them make progress and attain in their areas of learning while at the same time enjoying their lessons.

The school's aim is to implement a programme of online learning. From Period 3 on Monday 5th January, Virtual lessons have been delivered to Years 8 to 11 and from next week Year 7 students will also have many of their lessons delivered virtually, this will continue to provide a high quality education provision for students, some may also have work set, but this will last for the duration of a normal lesson.

The staff at S. Peter's are committed to our students' education and realise the importance of face to face learning and have developed their skills of teaching online lessons. Over the coming weeks, students will be set on line assignments and it is important that they complete these. This is essential for our Year 11 and Year 13 to submit work set students following recent announcements about exams. The school is also developing its provision so that students can be set and undertake their assessments online, and more information will be given to pupils via email and google classroom.

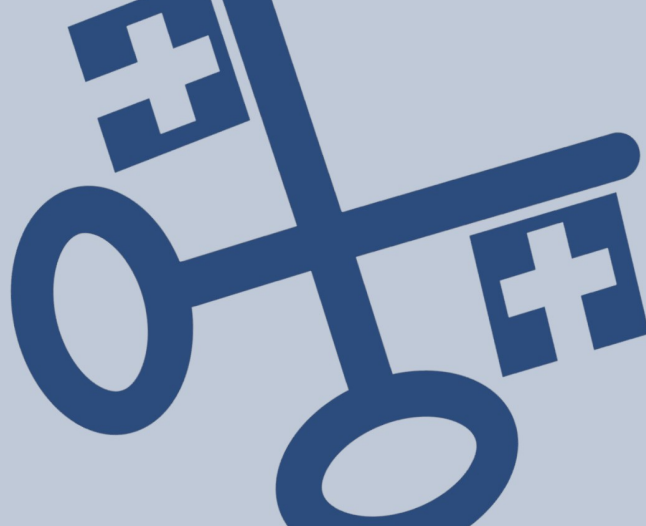
We are using the Google Classroom tool to deliver the lessons and it is amazing how quickly the students have adapted to this form of learning, logging on and taking an active role in their education. Attendance in on line lessons has been very high and students are already submitting work to staff. Staff have spoken about the positive approach students have shown and their engagement in work.

For Year 7 It is a very different way of learning and we do understand that it may take students some time to get used to this. We as a staff have been massively impressed by the way in which Year 7 students have engaged in their online work this week. On Friday 8th January the Year 7 students will have the opportunity to take part in an online webinar to help prepare them for next week's virtual lessons. This will be run by our ICT experts Mr Mclean and Mr Leek.

We are also aiming to support the students' well being. Heads of Year are posting information every day in order to support and help our students through these strange and difficult times and students are receiving worship sessions led by members of staff when they normally have

REMINDER:

- Our safeguarding team are available at all times you can contact them on: safeguardingteam@speters.org.uk
- The first point of contact for parents and pupils is your form tutors



10 TOP TIPS REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feedback progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.



CONTACTS

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

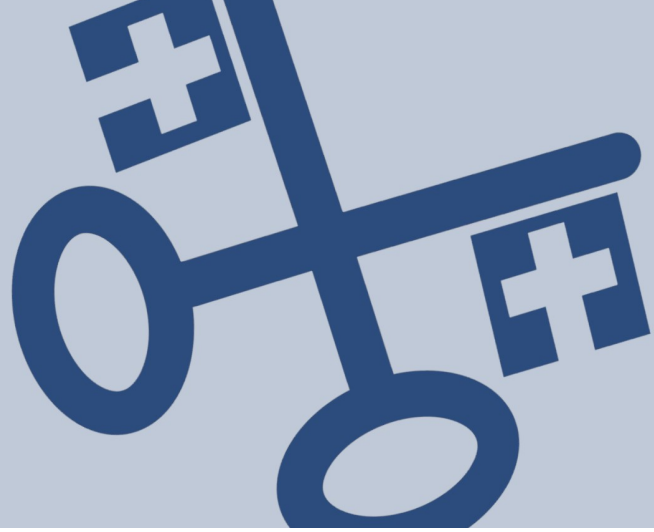
Head of Year 9 - ajohnson@speters.org.uk

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

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For general enquiries speters@speters.org.uk



SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS & ECONOMICS – Mrs. SIDHU

Happy New Year to all! The last term was a very busy one for the Business department. Due to restrictions all curriculums at all stages have had to be adapted to ensure all students still gain the full 'Business Studies' experience without missing out.

KEY STAGE 4 UPDATE

Our Key Stage 4 students have been investigating small businesses and looking into how an idea can be made into a successful business. They have investigated market research techniques that include market segmentation.

They have also explored how businesses grow and are able to adapt in different cultures and countries around the world. Students will be moving onto looking at Business ethics in this ever changing world. Explore how key decisions are made by stakeholders which impact how if a business is a success or not.

KEY STAGE 5 UPDATE

Business Studies is very popular at Key Stage 5; students have been investigating functional areas of different businesses and have looked at how they work together in order to support the activities of the business. Students have regained skills in how to use financial information to be able to check the financial health of a business (an important skill to have under the current circumstances). Learnt how to probe and explore the complex relationships between businesses and their stakeholders.

Students will be moving on to understanding the different protocols that have to be followed when working in business and learn the importance of key skills such as good communication and the impact these skills have on the daily running of a business.

VOICE OF THE LEARNERS

Business Studies Student Voice

We ran a student voice recently asking students what they thought of their Business lessons, Here is a small sample of some of the feedback we have received...

"I enjoy that we find out how to start a business and learn what can happen when we start one"
Key Stage 4 student

"I like learning new key features and finding different ways to start one. If you are thinking of picking Business as an option Pick it! You find out loads of information about how to start a business, and potential loss towards the business, so you can prevent it. Overall it's great to choose, and you will succeed with a successful business"
Key Stage 4 student

"I enjoy learning the information of how a business runs and the aspects of a business"
Key Stage 5 student

"I chose Business as an option as this subject can lead you onto loads of different pathways and doesn't just focus on one area"
Key Stage 4 student

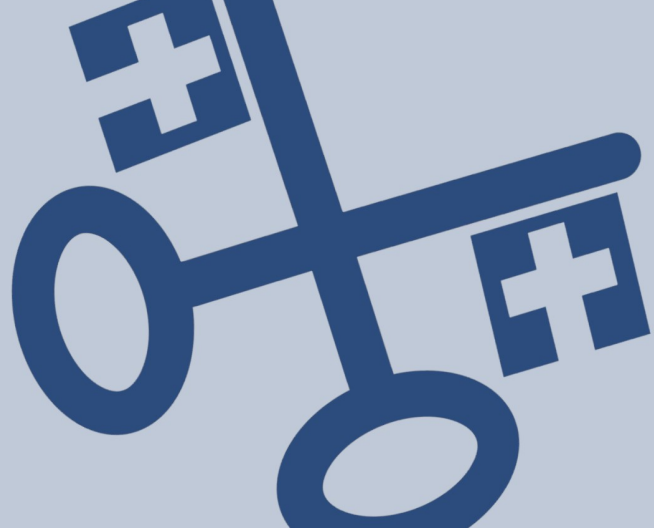
"I liked being able to talk about business in the real world and how it affects our daily lives, but most importantly because I like Business. I enjoy the variety of different tasks set in lessons"
Key Stage 4 student

"I picked Business Studies because it sounded interesting and something I would want to do in later life. I enjoy learning how businesses work with money and how they spend it and gain it"
Key Stage 4 student

Continued

REMINDERS:

- Have you signed up for our Parent app yet?
Email speters@speters.org.uk
- Sixth Form 2021 application process is now open [click here](#)



“I picked GCSE business because I knew I could earn a lot of money when I grow up, by doing my own business and having people work for me. I enjoy being able to share ideas with people sitting next to me and them helping me if I get a bit behind” *Key Stage 4 student*

“I chose Business because it was interesting, I wanted help with my budgeting and most of my family have done Business and I’ve always heard amazing stories about it. Business can open a lot of doors, you need to put in the hard work to reach your achievement. You are given get to a lot of fun activities like putting a Business plan together and selling products which helps you to understand what the Entrepreneur has to do and how he works as a team with his/ her employees” *Key Stage 4 student*

“I picked GCSE Business Studies because it’s always a useful qualification to have in any job we may go on to do. I really enjoy learning about all of the techniques and clever ways companies market and sell their products” *Key Stage 4 student*

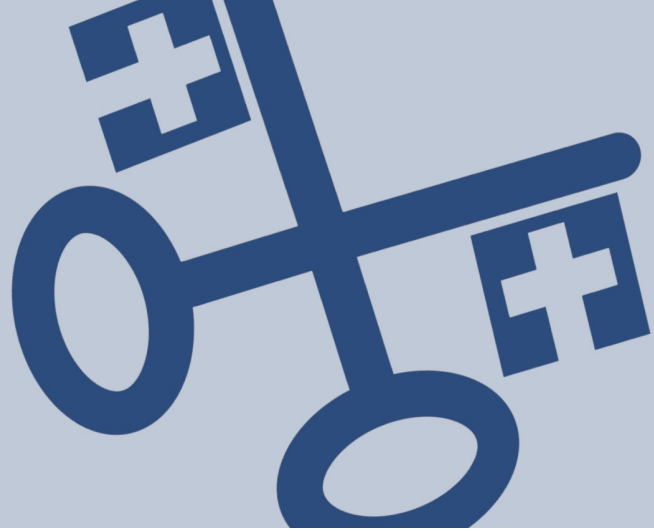
“ The reason I picked Business Studies is because it teaches you a lot about the outside world when you leave school, it gives you key skills you are going to need in the future. The main advice I would give to a Year 11 student would be, don’t pick business if you’re not serious about it. It’s a lesson that will help you a lot. The teachers will make sure you reach your potential . It’s not a lesson to mess around in” *Key Stage 5 student*

“I picked GCSE Business because i think it's a good idea to take it in case I need it in the future. I can learn and watch new things about what happens behind the scenes of opening a business. The advice I will give to year 8 students will be that think carefully if you want to choose this subject, it's not easy but it can help you in your life depending on what you may or may not want to do when you're older” *Key Stage 4 student*

“In Year 8, I chose to study GCSE Business to learn more about what happens within different types of businesses, how they work, as well as the steps to starting up a successful business from scratch. Another reason I chose the subject is because I wasn’t completely sure what career I wanted to pursue in the future, but realised that GCSE Business can lead to a great number of disciplines within higher education. My favourite thing about GCSE Business lessons is that you get the opportunity to explore real businesses, their processes, and the advantages and the disadvantages involved. This includes business rewards, the potential risks and how to prevent business failure. In addition to this, I have learned many skills needed to run a business, such as how money is handled, methods of advertising, and collecting feedback. would strongly recommend choosing GCSE Business as an option subject to a Year 8 student, because it can lead to so many different careers, and not only entrepreneurship (setting up a business). Studying business could support you in a great range of jobs from being an accountant or data analyst to roles such as a costs lawyer. While having a fundamental knowledge of skills that would help you in almost any career, you will also get a head start in learning essential life skills, which will make sure you're ready for your future after education at S. Peter’s” *Key Stage 4 student*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, at the start of a new year for us, although we do not know what lies ahead, we are thankful that if we trust in you, you enable us to know your peace, your strength and purpose in life. Test our faith in you Lord that we can be closer to you Amen



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Mrs Leek

After a busy term the Christmas break came at just the perfect time for all of the Sixth form staff and students.

Refreshed from the break we have now moved to remote learning.

Remote learning at S. Peter's is a mix of virtually taught lessons with work set on our virtual learning platform. We asked students before Christmas for feedback on the virtual lessons that had been done so far and it was all very positive!

With the news this week that A LEVEL exams will not be taking place in the summer, the one clear message we as a school have had is that students are to continue their studies.

This is by no means the end of Year 13's education and all of the learning and work completed during this lockdown will be evidence towards the centre assessed grade. It is imperative that all students attend their virtual lessons and complete all work set.

With this in mind we will continue with our planned assessment programme, with assessments taking a slightly different format.

We are incredibly proud of both Year 12 and 13 students who have the most amazing attitude towards life and what they are currently going through, in what would normally be a very stressful time of their school life. They are committed and diligent in their approach to school and this will only benefit them long term.

FAITH MATTERS

“Happy New Year” ...

I have found this quite a difficult sentiment to express to others if I am honest for the simple reason that, despite our hopefulness that 2021 has GOT to be better than 2020, we don't actually know for sure how it will pan out do we?

Even as our school community continues to successfully adjust to conditions imposed by Lockdown 3 - with staff creating virtual lessons, students engaging online and parents encouraging participation- we may still have questions about the year ahead: Can we still hope for good things to happen? Will everything be all right with my future? **Is there something, anything that we can truly rely on** to bring us peace in the midst of a turbulent world?

Of course, as school Chaplain you would expect my answer to be a resounding YES! **God is our rock and refuge an ever present help in troubled times!** duh! It's the obvious answer and part of 'the job' to remind everyone of this. However, although I do believe it 100%, if I am honest, I have found this quite a difficult truth to live out at times- **it is far easier said than done!** Being a christian doesn't mean that life is easier, less stressful or even devoid of doubt - however, when everything else I might trust in or rely upon is weighed up against faith in God, my experience is that **He is there with me and He remains when all else falls away.** [READ MORE](#)