

# S. Peter's Collegiate School

ISSUE 09 15/01/2021

## -Parent Bulletin-

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### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



In many ways the Lockdown this time around has been very different to the one that we had in the Spring of 2020. The dark mornings and nights can make it feel different. Motivation to exercise and try new things is at times a little harder. I am sure that home schooling for parents is also extremely challenging at times. In fact, I often go home to hear stories of many different activities and sometimes some issues that have occurred during the day. My own children spend some

days at school and some at home currently and I think they miss the camaraderie of friendship more than anything.

Whilst reading with my eight-year-old son, (Jasper) earlier this week, I asked him how he was feeling about things, I also asked him what he remembered about life before Covid-19, he talked about his Grandparents and cousins, he also talked about Football and Cricket a great deal, but when I asked him to try and find a word that explained things, he used 'freedom'.

My youngest child, Sadie turns four this weekend, I wonder just what she remembers of normal life. She often uses the phrase 'When the Virus stops, can we....'

Listening to the news every day can be hard for us all, but more and more there are positives attached towards the end of bulletins, slowly an increased amount of people are being vaccinated and hopefully the picture becomes brighter on that front every week.

In the mean time we have a responsibility to help our young people manage their emotions and try to get them to take part in positive things that will improve their mental health and help shape their future. In school over the next few weeks we are launching a Bake Off challenge and a Fitness Challenge, hopefully, both of these will provide us with some fun, something to get involved with and something to strive for.

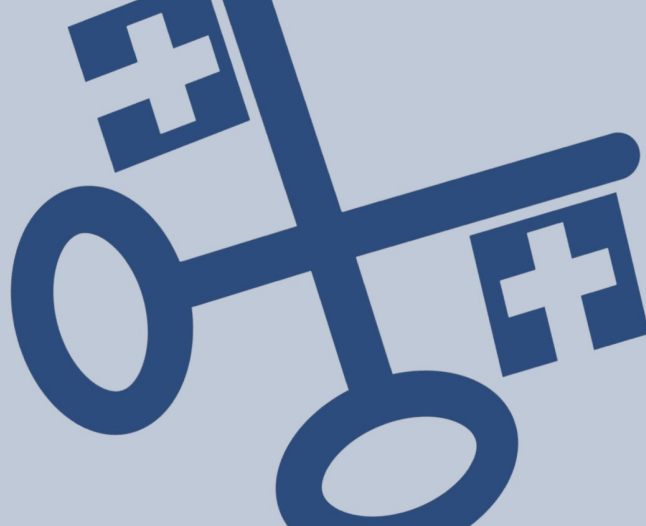
Looking to the future is a key focus for the school currently. We are excited to be joining the Three Spires Multi Academy Trust soon and there will be some information events for parents to attend (virtually) being announced soon. We also are already planning for a new timetable and Curriculum for September 2021, and I cannot tell you how nice it will be to be able to deliver normal lessons and utilise all the rooms in the school for the purpose that they are meant for. It will also be brilliant to see the school in full flow with Musical and theatrical events, together with striving to win a few sports trophies.

It is coming up to the time of year when we ask Year 8 students to start choosing subjects for future studies. I consider it important to ensure that choices that are made are done so, with the knowledge that they can help shape career pathways and the future.

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## 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
- We have asked parents for feedback on our remote learning programme complete the feedback form [here](#)



During next week, we will be asking all students in Year 8 to complete an on-line poll of their preferred option subjects. This will need to be returned by the stated date on the forms of **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January**. The outcomes from the poll will not stand as option choices; instead we will use this initial information to help us piece together the most appropriate curriculum offer for our students. This activity is commonly used in schools so that they can then try to put subjects into the appropriate groups, ahead of providing information for parents and students about what choices they can make. Only of course this will probably be the first time that schools will have carried out this exercise with students not currently in the building.

At this stage there is no guarantee that any option subject would run, as this relies on sufficient numbers to make courses viable.

I would like to encourage all families to talk with their Year 8 children over the next few days about careers aspirations and plans for future studies. Whilst we understand that it can be difficult to have a definitive idea at twelve or thirteen years old of everything that you want to do in the future, we believe that conversations about this topic are essential to help guide all of our young people.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON REMOTE LEARNING 'LOCKDOWN LEARNING'



It's been a very busy week of online learning at S. Peter's with Years 7-13 all now receiving virtual teaching. A big 'Well done' to those students participating so actively in their virtual learning; students are enthusiastic and engaged in their lessons, keen to use the opportunity to keep studying and enjoying the contact with their teacher and classmates. Staff have commented on their conduct and, in particular, the maturity they have demonstrated as we all get used to a very new way of learning together!

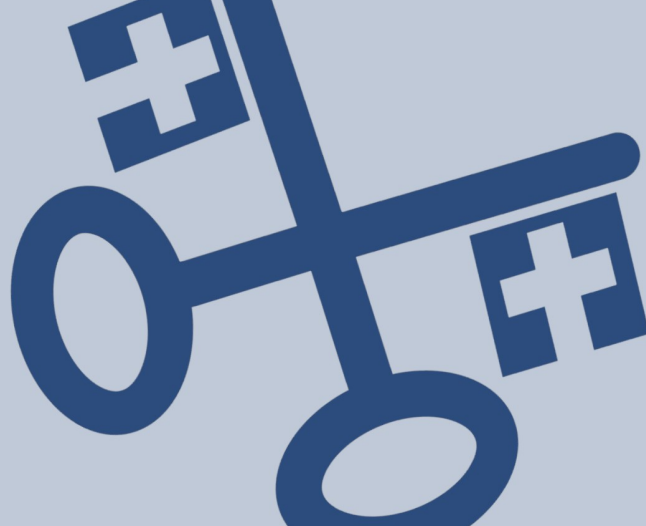
It has been amazing to see how well our Year 7 cohort has adapted to receiving their lessons through google meet. I was fortunate to drop in to a virtual Geography lesson a couple of days ago. The students were busily exploring the British Isles (all from the comfort of their own home!) and they were enthusiastic, enjoying their lesson and keen to tell me what they were learning.

We also have a number of Year 7 students in school. We asked them to share their opinions on their experiences so far:

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## REMINDER:

- Pupils should be logged on and ready to access remote learning at 8:45 am each morning
- If your child has forgotten their logon details please email [itsu@speters.org.uk](mailto:itsu@speters.org.uk)



*"I like to still have a few set tasks/project time mixed with live lessons."*

*"Live lessons let me feel more 'normal' - interacting and hearing my classmates and teacher."*

*"I have quickly found my confidence in using google meet and google classroom."*

*"I like the variety of live lessons - all teachers and subjects are done slightly differently - this is like when lessons are taking place in school."*

*"More interesting work this week now I have some live lessons."*

Mr Nield was also keen to offer his view on his first full week of online teaching:

"These first few weeks of term seem to have been a real success so far. We have been using a mixed teaching approach with both live virtual lessons and setting work during lesson time. The response and attitude from the students has been brilliant. The majority have fully immersed themselves in online learning and embraced the idea that they can learn their subjects, whilst staying in their pyjamas! The virtual lessons do allow for instant feedback, which means teaching can still be adapted to suit the needs of the pupils in the class and good progress can be made. Both staff and students are embracing this challenge in a way which epitomises the St. Peter's ethos."

Next week, our Year 11 students will be undertaking their assessments online – that's new for them and definitely a new style of testing for teachers. We are all on a very steep learning curve, continually developing and adapting to challenging circumstances. The very best of luck to our Year 11s who, I'm sure, will do their best!

We must thank you, as Parents and Carers, for the assistance you are giving us in supporting your child's home learning, working with the school to ensure the best outcome for your child. We value the home school partnership that exists; it is an important part of our ethos here at S. Peter's. We are a family school.

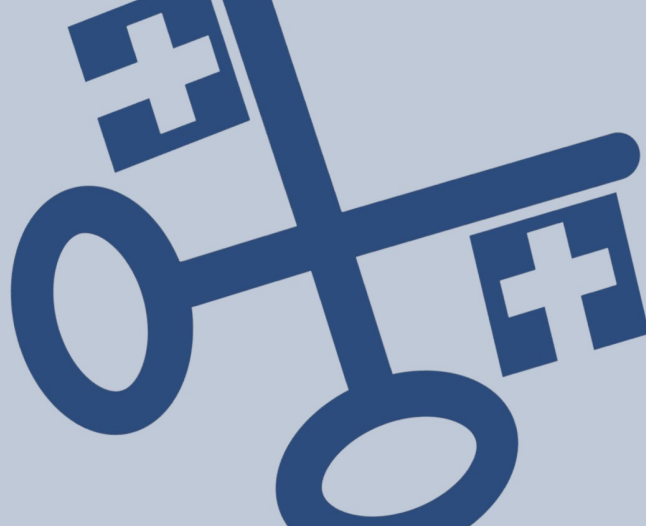
It is particularly rewarding to receive such lovely feedback. A big thanks for all the positive comments that have been sent over the last two weeks. The staff really appreciate the feedback during such strange and difficult times.

Following on from that, we have contacted all students and parents and request that you complete a [survey](#) with regards our online learning provision. Please take a few minutes to complete and submit it by Tuesday 18th January. The responses will enable us to gain a much broader picture and develop the best possible provision.

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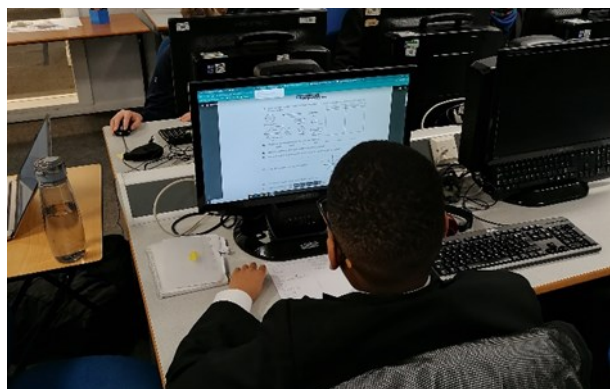
## NEWS IN BRIEF:

We received a thank you email from the charity Shelter this week after they received our cheque for £270. We raised the money last term by having a Christmas raffle. Staff donated in the hope of winning a number of food and drink hampers.



Given the fact that students are spending so much time in front of screens, engaging in virtual learning, please can I take this opportunity to remind you to ensure your child is taking regular breaks. Students should take time out between lessons and at lunch. Encourage students to stay off their phones and other electronic devices during their school hours, too. As a Dad, I know that can be a challenge...

We still have a number of students learning in school. Staff are coming in, following a rota system, to supervise these students. Do be aware that, on these days, they may not be delivering live virtual lessons but work will be set. Likewise, if staff are absent due to illness work will be set and in some cases other teaching staff may deliver lessons for students.



I'm sure you'll join us in thanking all the teaching and support staff. They inspire, engage and support students so brilliantly.

A special mention to Chris, Dal and Dav - our ICT team who enable us to deliver our lessons, problem-free!

Do take care over the coming weeks and stay safe...

**Mr. Walker and Miss Wheatcroft**

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## FREE MOBILE DATA ALLOWANCE UPGRADE

The Government recently announced that they would be offering free mobile data upgrades for families who do not have fixed home broadband.

This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted.

Find out if you qualify and read more about the scheme [here](#).

**Mr. Leek**

## YEAR 8 POLL FORM SENT OUT

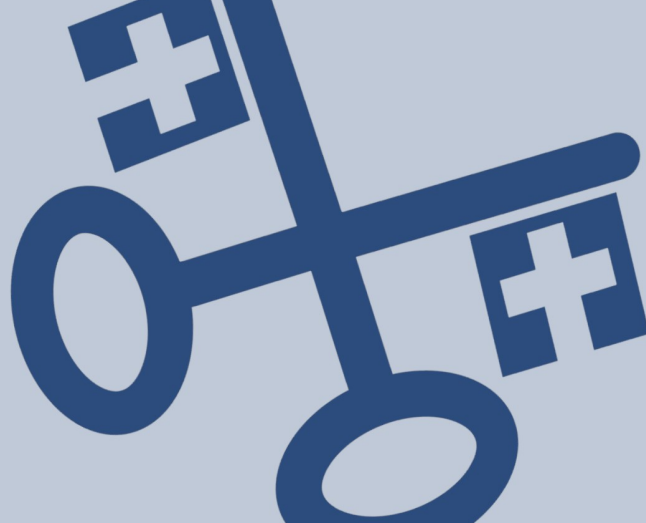
We are sending out a poll form to the year 8 students school email to gather information as to which courses they would like to study in KS4. This information is to ensure that we are providing the best curriculum for S. Peters students and is not their option choices.

We would ask that you take the time to discuss with them ideas about careers and further education, so that they can make informed decisions and then to complete the form which will close on Sunday 24th January 2021.

**Mr. Gardner**

## REMINDER:

- Our safeguarding team are available at all times you can contact them on: [safeguardingteam@speters.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingteam@speters.org.uk)
- The first point of contact for parents and pupils is your form tutors
- There is a dedicated page on the school website regarding our remote learning programme



## Access Google Classroom on

### XBOX



### PLAYSTATION



**If you have limited access to devices at home you can use these games consoles to access remote learning**

## XBOX

You will need a keyboard for this. You don't need a fancy gaming keyboard or anything expensive to plug into a console.

1. Plug a keyboard into the Xbox USB slot.
2. Go to my games and apps.
3. Find and select Microsoft Edge.
4. To access Google Classroom, type [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com) into the URL bar at the top and log in as you would on a PC using your school Gmail account.

## PLAYSTATION

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (WWW with dots around it).
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller.
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications.
4. Go to applications and you will find the internet browser.
5. Navigate to your online learning platform and log in as usual.

If you need to purchase a USB keyboard we recommend using Amazon - at the time of print we found a USB XBOX compatible keyboard for £8.20 inc delivery



## CONTACTS

Head of Year 7 - [jpeacock@speters.org.uk](mailto:jpeacock@speters.org.uk)

Head of Year 8 - [dsherriff@speters.org.uk](mailto:dsherriff@speters.org.uk)

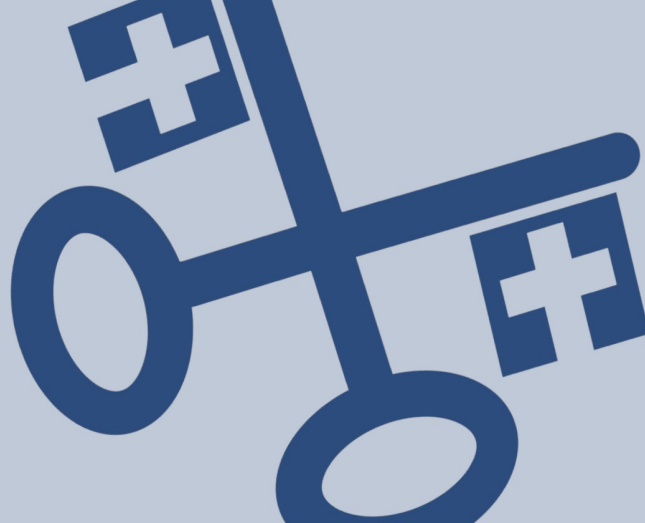
Head of Year 9 - [ajohnson@speters.org.uk](mailto:ajohnson@speters.org.uk)

Head of Year 10 - [dmaullin@speters.org.uk](mailto:dmaullin@speters.org.uk)

Head of Year 11 - [gsmith@speters.org.uk](mailto:gsmith@speters.org.uk)

Post 16 - [6thform@speters.org.uk](mailto:6thform@speters.org.uk)

For general enquiries [speters@speters.org.uk](mailto:speters@speters.org.uk)



## CAREERS GUIDANCE CONTINUES DURING LOCKDOWN

S. Peter's students have a lot of activities to look forward to in Careers this half term.

Our Unifrog platform continues to be one of our focuses with students continuing to engage with the service, which allows them to explore careers and progression routes throughout their time at school. Our Unifrog Careers challenges on 2nd December provided our students with the opportunity to explore the platform and use the amazing wealth of resources that are available to them. This half term students have access to a number of student webinars to enable them to improve their employability skills, and for older students to investigate pathways to University.

[Find out more and sign up](#)



All students have received resources to take part in the Black Country Virtual Careers Expo which launched on Thursday 14th January and will run for four weeks.

[Find a link here](#)

Our students will also be taking part in National Apprenticeship Week which will run from 8th-14th February.

Mrs. Tranter

## SIXTH FORM NEWS — Mrs Leek

We are well aware of the stresses that lockdown has on you and your families. One of the biggest concerns parents face is how to keep their children motivated. During the last school closures, 81% of students stated that they suffered a drop in motivation, and 40% stated that self-motivation was their primary challenge. We want to help parents keep their children motivated during lockdown; we have put on a webinar focused entirely on student motivation on the 19<sup>th</sup> January.

This is aimed primarily at the parents who have children in Years 10-13. But all parents are welcome to attend.

*Managing Motivation: How to boost and sustain your child's motivation during lockdown*

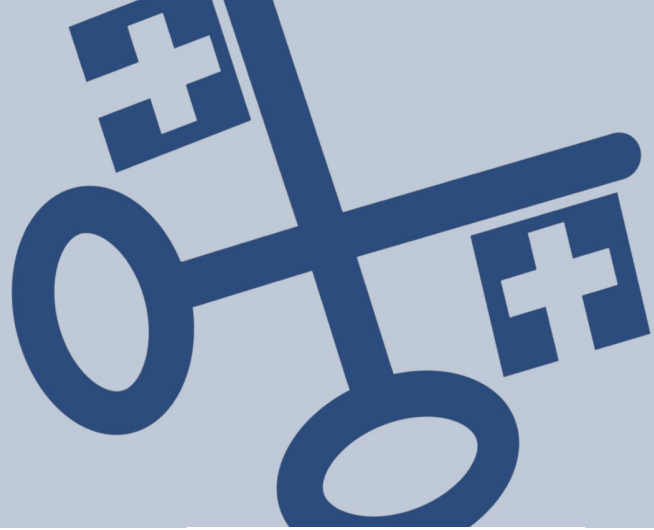
**Date:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00pm

**Registration link:** <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

## REMINDERS:

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



## FAITH MATTERS

**The steering wheel is, arguably, the most important factor in driving safely on the road.**

No journey can be completed without it. When the steering wheel locks up...the car is stranded! It is used EVERY moment of the journey! The spare wheel however is just kept locked away, out of sight and is just for emergencies! So - in the middle of our current emergencies, is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?

**"Is prayer  
your steering  
wheel or  
your spare  
tyre?"**



**-Corrie Ten Boom**

Corrie ten Boom is an example of Christian faith in action. Arrested by the Nazis along with the rest of her family for hiding Jews in their Haarlem home during the Holocaust, she was imprisoned and eventually sent to the Ravensbruck concentration camp along with her beloved sister, Betsie, who perished there just days before Corrie's own release on December 31, 1944. Inspired by Betsie's example of selfless love and forgiveness amid extreme cruelty and persecution, Corrie never stopped praying in all circumstances. She went on to travel widely as a missionary, preaching God's forgiveness and the need for reconciliation."

She recalls in her book 'A Prisoner And Yet' that when she was thrown into solitary confinement in the concentration camp, totally alone and abandoned, chilled to the bone, she turned to prayer, "Saviour YOU are with me. Help me: hold me fast and comfort me. Take away this desolation and anxiety. "As she prayed she said, "peace stole into my heart. The situation did not change but I fell quietly asleep"

What can God give us in the midst of a crisis? He can give us peace. His peace. In Philippians 4:6 and 7, Paul encourages us to not be anxious, fearful or worried, **"but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."**

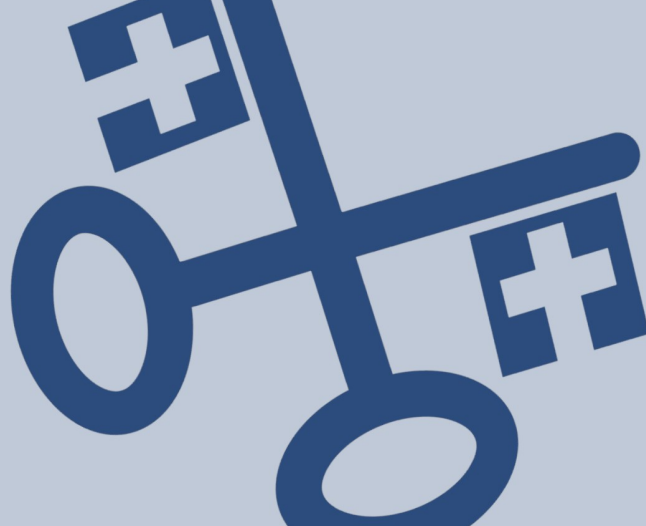


In other words, let PRAYER (our communication with God) be the most essential part of our life rather than the last resort - the 'steering wheel' of prayer that Corrie ten Boom knew! Pray, trust God, and we will have peace. If we chose not to pray then we may well be overcome by our fears, anxiousness and worries.

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## REMINDER

- You can read the frog blog each week on the school website



In order to have the peace of God we need to be at peace **with** God. In Romans 5:1 we read these words, **“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** If therefore you’ve received Jesus Christ by faith as your personal Saviour, then you’re at peace with God.

And, as we humbly come before Him in prayer and trust Him, as Corrie Ten Boom did in that isolation cell (and many other times for sure) then we will have that peace that transcends our understanding; even in physically tough situations, personal battles or unknown circumstances, we can pray and trust Him and have peace.

Often, we seek God, to have the circumstances of life around us changed, as we pray it is more likely that it is US that He changes! Although surrounded by pain and suffering, there is a deep awareness of God’s presence with us. This is our faith. He is with us. How else could a frail prisoner of war, separated from her family, alone in isolation and surrounded by fear and oppression know peace?

In Isaiah 26:3 we read **“You (Lord God) will keep in perfect peace, he whose mind is focused on you: because he trusts in You.”** When we keep our mind on the Lord, and simply trust Him with all of our heart, He will give us a peace that the world cannot give. When all seems to be falling apart around us, God can give us an internal peace that no one can take away.

Keep safe. Keep Faith. Keep Praying.

### Joe

S.Peter’s Chaplain

\*If you would like prayer support or to know more about Christian faith please get in touch with me via email: [jmaggs@speters.org.uk](mailto:jmaggs@speters.org.uk)

This week we end with tips from young minds on how to support your child's mental health during this pandemic.

### Coronavirus and mental health

Tips, advice and guidance on where you can get support for your mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

I'm feeling anxious all the time

My mood is low because of all the bad news

I am anxious about all the changes

I am struggling with self-isolation and social distancing

I am struggling to manage my eating disorder

I have lost a loved one to coronavirus

What else can I do to look after my mental health?

