

S. Peter's Collegiate School

ISSUE 10 22/01/2021

-Parent Bulletin-

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



After another week of school in Lockdown education it has been nice to review some of the comments from both students and parents as regards their experiences and opinions on remote learning in the last few weeks.

The key findings from the survey show that overwhelmingly parents and students feel that the on-line learning experience has improved since the spring/summer lockdown (2020), they also show that close to 100% have accessed live lessons so far. Also, 78% of parents commented that they knew where to find guidance on the website about the remote learning programme, we have included a link to the page [here](#).

We were also very interested in the comments and suggestions that were put forward, the main ones were that;

- It would be helpful if students could be notified the day before as to whether a lesson would be virtual, or work was being set.
- All communication about lessons could be done via Google Classroom (and not via email) so that students and parents only had to look in one place.
- Students were getting tired towards the end of lessons, and it might be an idea that we included a chance for a break in the middle of lessons.

All of the results have been shared with teaching staff and hopefully everyone will be able to see some of the above being implemented from next week. I think the area of regular breaks in particular is very important. This is a different Lockdown to the Spring/Summer (2020) one in many ways. There is less daylight and as a result of improvements that have been made with the school provision, there is perhaps a little too much time spent by students and staff staring at screens, which can cause headaches and eye strain.

From next week, we will certainly be trying to action the above points. I would like to ask all parents/carers to talk with their children about returning on time if their teacher inserts a short break into a lesson.

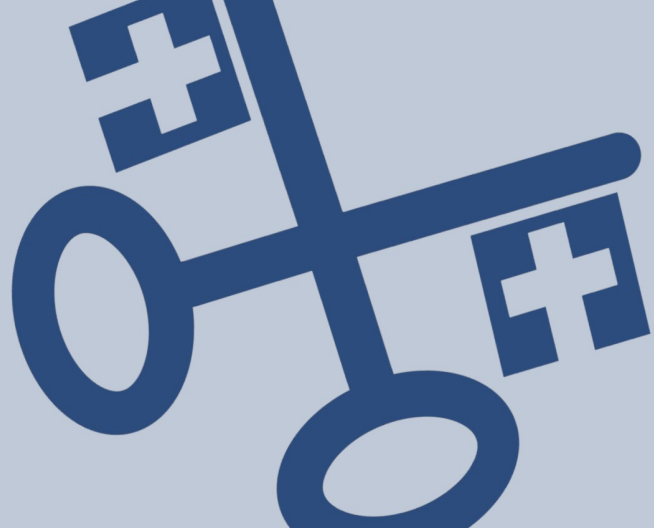
The Year 11 students had a series of on-line tests this week. The data gleaned from these will help us put together Centre Assessed Grades this summer (not exclusively). It is our mission to ensure that we are optimistic and realistic when doing this exercise. We still do not have a clear picture of how the final grades will be decided in terms what evidence will be asked for, so we are trying to ensure that we have ample evidence to support our students. As soon as we are made aware we will endeavour to communicate this.

I am aware that there are some students in Year 11 and Year 13 that will be finding the uncertainty difficult (parents also), and I would encourage them to keep talking to their teachers and the wonderful pastoral staff in school.

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



I want to remind parents of Year 8 students that the survey we sent out regarding Year 8 future pathways is due in next week. It is an important barometer for us to see how we can best accommodate trying to support students as they make choices about their subjects going forward. My eldest son (Sebastian) is in Year 7 and recently I have been trying to gear him up for what lies ahead in Year 8, by talking to him about what he enjoys at school and what he knows about different career pathways. My next step will be to try to show him what kind of levels he would need to achieve to be able to reach his goals. This is not an easy conversation sometimes and quite often our children have no idea what they want to do in the future. I am still persevering however!

REMOTE LEARNING UPDATE 'LOCKDOWN LEARNING'



Miss. Wheatcroft & Mr. Walker

We hope this finds you and your families safe and well. We are mindful of the fact that we are all finding this lockdown more of a struggle and that we are facing challenges that none of us were expecting this time last year. Despite that, we continue to be incredibly proud of the way in which our students conduct themselves. They demonstrate a great deal of resilience.

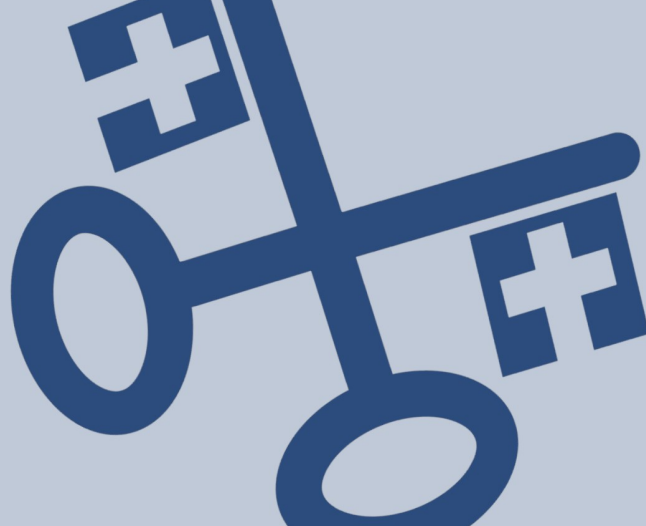
One such student who deserves to be rightly proud of her efforts is Harriet Godwin in Year 7. In November, we shared with you the news that Harriet was the proud winner of Geography's 'Design a Flag for Antarctica' competition, having created a thought-provoking and artistic response to the task. We are now delighted to report that her flag, having been entered into the national competition, was selected as one of the winners. The school recently received a photograph of Harriet's flag being held by Captain James Clark Ross as he stood on ship just off the coast of Deception Island in Antarctica. Wow! That's awesome Harriet!



Harriet Godwin's poster design held proudly by Captain Clark Ross in Antarctica

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



‘It has been a week of assessments for Year 11 - and the first time we have delivered an assessment programme online. It was a significant logistical operation but has been very positive and will prove valuable as we move forward through the year. Rather than seeing a room full of students, heads down and busily writing, teachers have been invigilating a virtual class. A number of staff have commented on students’ impressive focus and determination as their eyes scan the screen intently. Well done Year 11. You really rose to the challenge.

This week has also been an opportunity for staff to communicate with the parents and carers of Year 9 students. To observe social distancing restrictions, meetings were carried out virtually, by phone and some contact was made by email. The home-school partnership is integral to the ethos of our school, a family school that values and promotes collaboration. We would like to thank parents, carers and our fantastic teachers for their time this week. It is always of huge benefit to the students and the progress they make.

Thank you, too, to all students, parents and carers who responded to our online learning surveys. Your positive comments and constructive feedback are very welcome at this time. We strive to provide the very best learning experience for our pupils and are always here to offer support and guidance should you need us.

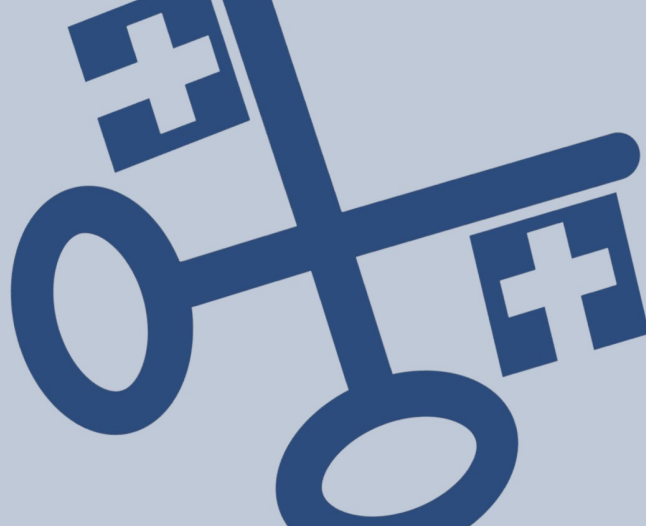
We would like to share some key headlines - see below:

- There were over 750 responses to our surveys.
- 84% of parents and 86% pupils feel their online learning experience improved since the previous lockdown (Spring 2020).
- Over 97% of pupils are accessing live lessons.
- 78% of parents and carers know where to find remote learning guidance on the school website.
- Pupils, parents and carers agree, overwhelmingly, that a balance of both live lessons and set work is the best way to deliver content.
- Pupils and parents feel that live lessons are more engaging, allow live feedback, and improve progress.
- Parents and carers feel strongly that the appropriate amount of work is delivered/set.

CONTINUED

NEWS IN BRIEF:

We are encouraging all staff and students to have 'mini breaks' away from their screens during live lessons.



COMMENTS FROM PARENTS

Thank you for working so hard to continue teaching our children despite the circumstances we find ourselves in. We are extremely grateful for the motivation and support.

'I think the provision of live lessons has been outstanding. It has really helped with engagement and understanding.'

'Remote learning has much improved since the first lockdown, please pass on our thanks to all the staff who are working so hard to teach well in these difficult circumstances. They are doing an incredible job.'

'Thank you all for the wonderful work you do. My child enjoys all the lessons and is always pleased to have live lessons.'

'Teachers have done a fantastic job in providing online learning. Children are more engaged and focussed. It's been better for their mental wellbeing.'

We look forward to some busy weeks of learning ahead. All the best to our Year 12 students who, next week, will be showing off their knowledge and skills in their second round of assessments. We are sure you will do your very best.

FREE ACCESS TO BOOKS ONLINE DURING LOCKDOWN

Children across the country will be able to access books online for free during school closures.

Oak National Academy, a Government-backed virtual school, is launching a virtual library so pupils can read books from popular children's authors digitally during the latest lockdown.

The library, formed with The National Literacy Trust, has been launched after measures were taken to close schools in England to the majority of pupils until February half-term. Children will be provided with a free-to-access book every week from the library's author of the week.

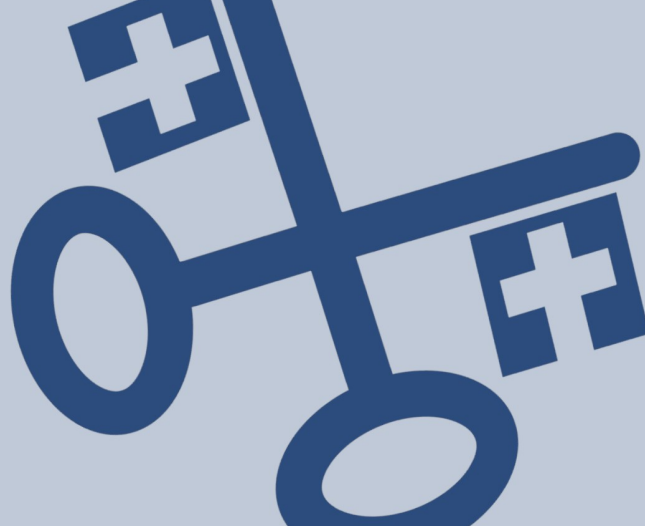
[FIND OUT MORE](#)

USEFUL LINKS:

Some useful free Maths websites to support our students learning:

<https://corbettmaths.com/>
<https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/>
<https://www.math-drills.com/>

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>



SPOTLIGHT ON MATHEMATICS – Mrs. Pearce

Happy New Year to you all. The start of the year has been extremely busy for the Mathematics Department. We are currently delivering the majority of our lessons virtually and we were happy to welcome Year 7 to our virtual lessons, week beginning 11th January 2021. We advise the students to check their emails and log onto the Google Classroom for messages from their teachers. So far, we have had many positive responses from our students about their online learning experiences.

Due to the restrictions, we have had to adapt the way we teach and assess the students. It is amazing how many new IT skills you can learn in a very short space of time. This week our Year 11 have had their second assessment, which was set online. A very new experience for both staff and students alike. We are immensely proud of the way the students managed to adapt to this method of assessment.

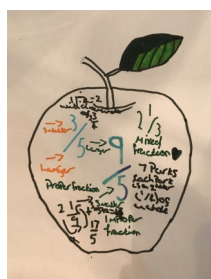
Next week our Year 12 students will be completing their assessments and the week after that is Year 13 assessment week. We wish them the best of luck.

One of the highlights of this term was receiving the news that one of our students, (who decided to sit his GCSE Mathematics in November 2020) achieved a grade 8. Congratulations on achieving this well-deserved result.

The school subscribes to MyMaths which provides online lessons and homework tasks. All our students have access to this. The advantage of setting work on this platform is that the students' work is marked as soon as they submit their answers. If necessary, they can go through the lesson before attempting a homework task. If they would like to complete more tasks they can choose these independently and their teacher will have a record of this. They can attempt a task more than once if they wish to improve their scores.

As well as My Maths Years 10 and 11 have access to Kerboodle (an online subscription service), which includes an online textbook. This covers the full GCSE Maths course and has a 'Summary', a 'Review' and 'Assessment' section at the end of each chapter.

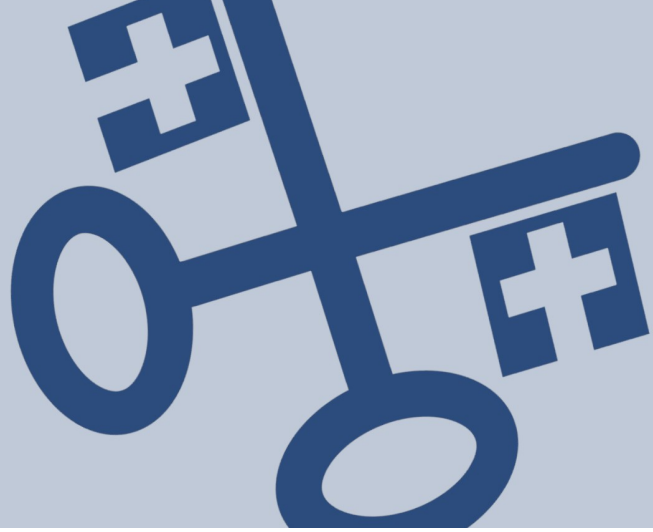
Our A level students have access to the A level textbook on Kerboodle as well as a having a hard copy of this textbook. This covers the full A Level Maths course and has a 'Summary', a 'Review' and 'Assessment' section at the end of each chapter. Each exercise has a 'reveal' function which shows a step by step solution and for extra support Kerboodle has included a 'Bridging Edition'.



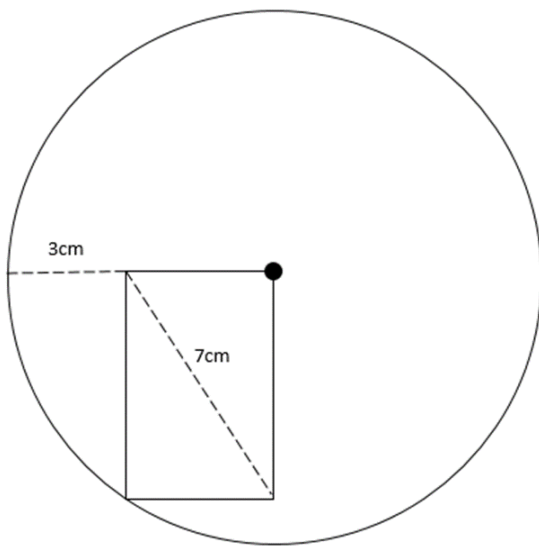
◀ We are receiving fantastic quality pieces of work from pupils, here are two pieces from Year 7 this week.

MATHS PUZZLE:

Our fantastic Maths department have set both pupils and parents these puzzles. Have a go this week and send us your answers.



The below diagram shows a rectangle with one corner at the centre of a circle and the opposite corner at the circumference of the circle. Using the labelled lengths, work out the diameter of the circle.



Which of these shapes has the most sides?

- Hexagon
- Octagon
- Rhombus
- Trapezium

Billy wants to buy these tickets for a show. 4 adult tickets at £15 each and 2 child tickets at £10 each. A 10% booking fee is added to the ticket price. 3% is then added for paying by credit card. Work out the total charge for these tickets when paying by credit card.

- £88.64
- £90.64
- £94.64
- £98.64

CONTACTS

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

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

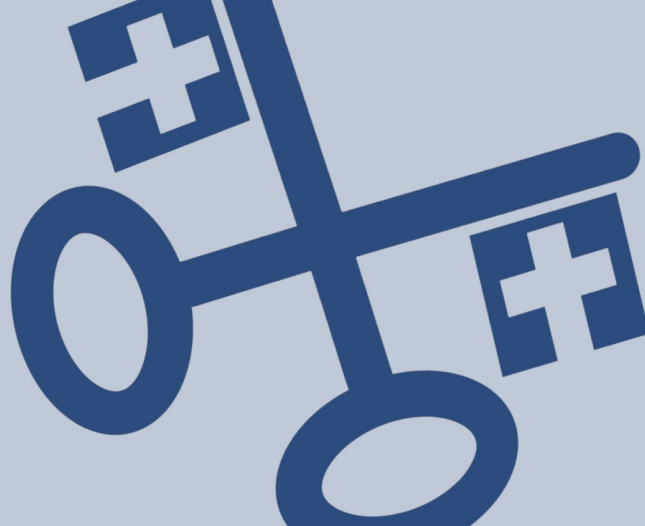
Head of Year 9 - ajohnson@speters.org.uk

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



Calling all musicians!

Mr Mclean, Mr Peacock, and Mrs Lacey are offering the opportunity to be a part of a socially distanced performance of an original arrangement of Bob Marley's One Love.

**Love to sing,
make music
or perform?**

Be part of the S. Peter's, socially distanced,
performance of an original arrangement
of Bob Marley's

One Love

Contact us by
Friday 22nd Jan.

For more information contact Mr Peacock,
Mr Mclean or Mrs Lacey or join the the Google
Classroom using code: gznhwqc.

S. Peter's Collegiate School
A Church of England Academy

Let's go viral!

WORCESTER LOCKDOWN LAW LECTURES

Last year the University of Worcester ran a series of Lockdown Law Lectures given by lecturers at their School of Law. These were designed to give prospective students a flavour of some of the legal issues that come up in the law degree. It was also designed to help Sixth Form Students with motivation during the Lockdown. Some of our current students also found these lectures helpful.

As we are all in the same boat now with another Lockdown, we have decided to run another series. The plan is to give an online lecture once a week every Wednesday at 4.15.

You will be able to access the lecture at the following link below which will become live just before 4.15 pm every Wednesday.



**University
of Worcester**

CONTACTS

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

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

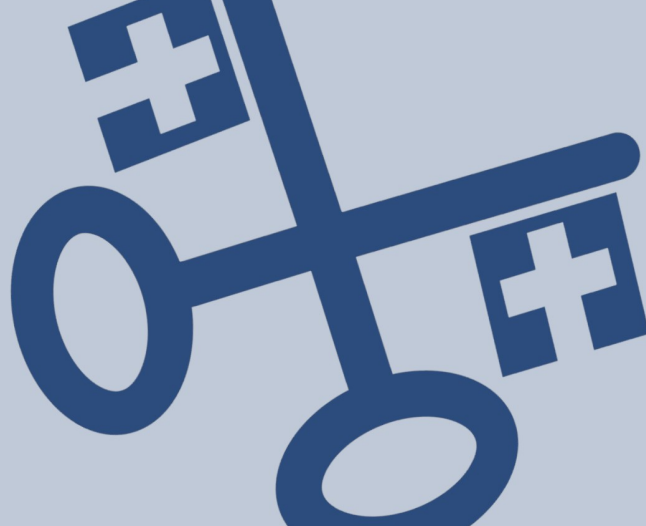
Head of Year 9 - ajohnson@speters.org.uk

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



S. PETER'S BAKE OFF STARTS WITH SWEET AND SAVOURY WEEK!

Mrs. Leek

Well the S. Peter's Lockdown bake off got underway last week and what a fabulous start it was!

Last week we challenged students to produce both a savoury and a sweet option and the response we have had has been amazing. The savoury recipe (Sweet Potato and Chickpea Curry) which on paper looked the more complex of the two options certainly produced some fantastic responses.



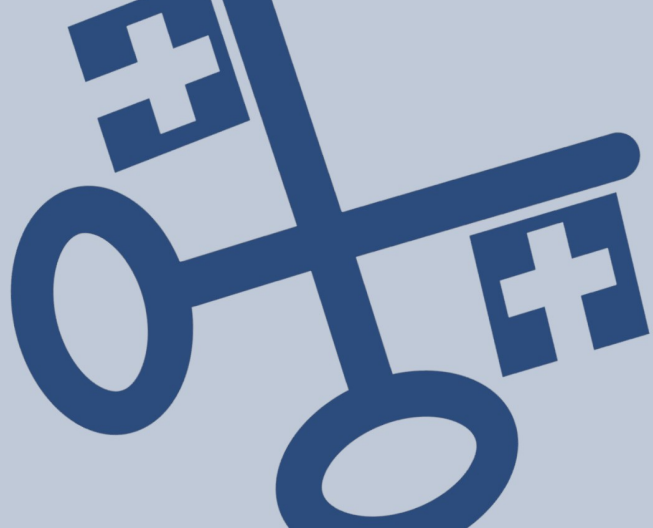
The sweet recipe (Chocolate Chip Cookies) proved to be very popular, with every student who entered deciding to bake them, and if they tasted half as good as they looked then I'm sure there will be some very pleased and full parents/carers.



This week in the Bake Off tent we have challenged our students to the 'Great Cook-Off'. Students have been given the option of Cheese Straws or Banana Bread and we cannot wait to see their creations.

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](#)



FAITH MATTERS

LORD, TEACH US to PRAY!



At six years old, sitting in an inflatable dinghy, amongst a bunch of my elder brother's friends, out on the sea, I felt quite grown up and safe. I waved to my Dad, watching us play, we exchanged a "thumbs up" and he smiled. Then, as some of the bigger lads began to rock the boat, one of them fell into the water, which everyone thought was hilarious... apart from me. I was terrified! Another boy leapt out and the dinghy tipped to such an angle that water began to swirl around me. Everyone began hollering and shouting in excitement as it capsized and we were launched into the cold, salty sea. Gasping in mouthfuls of water I desperately called out "Daddy! Daddy! Help me!" It is of course quite natural to call for help when trouble comes. It may surprise you to know, however, that for many people, praying is an instinctive response to a crisis: "Please, God! Help me! Whether through fear, a moment of panic, an outburst of anger, or a quiet moment of reflection in search of hope, people start to pray - but to whom? Henry, 64, explained to The Guardian (2017) that although he didn't believe in God, he prayed every night, kneeling by his bed to silently recite the Lord's Prayer. "Sometimes," he explained "I include other specific people or suffering groups. Then I have a fuzzy moment about me - not concrete thoughts" Praying didn't make him feel better he admitted nor had he any idea if God heard his prayers. "I wonder why I don't stop doing it" he said. "Sometimes I feel a hypocrite." Which was honest. So why do we pray? Unlike Harry, there was no doubt in Jesus' mind as to why he prayed - it was an important aspect of his life. He was constantly communicating with God. Everything he did, thought or said was wrapped up in his unity with God; sharing and living every moment of life, good, bad or ugly, with God. When Jesus prayed he wasn't just reciting words, he was living out a real relationship...with God! For Jesus, it was about connecting with God. Perhaps it was this intimate dynamic that prompted the disciples to ask Jesus "Lord, Teach us to pray." Which Jesus happily did saying...

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6:9-13)

Joe Maggs

Click for The Lord's
Prayer ►



[Read More Here](#)