

S. Peter's Collegiate School

ISSUE 15 05/03/2021

-Parent Bulletin-

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



We're really pleased that we can start to see our brilliant students return to school next week.

We would like to thank all of them (and their parents/carers!) for all the hard work that they have been doing at home. The commitment shown to their studies has been awesome.

We understand that returning to school will be a really exciting time for many students and a worrying time for others. We want to assure everyone that it is ok to feel a little anxious, and that the Pastoral team alongside all the Heads of Year and Assistant Heads of Year will work with you and the teachers to help wherever we can.

We have been asked about our stance on facemasks and we are working alongside government guidelines. These strongly recommend that facemasks are worn all times in school. We have spare masks and will happily issue these if any students forgets to bring theirs.

After the first week of testing, timings for the school day revert back to how they were prior to Christmas and students should arrive to school ready to start at 08:45am. All students need to be in correct uniform and this includes no headphones or hoodies to be worn.

We are sure that the next week of testing will be challenging for all of us, but the staff at school have worked tirelessly to be ready and we will do all that we can to forge a smooth path back into normality.

I am confident that we will come through the next few weeks, confident that learning will start to return to normal again soon and confident that God is watching over us to ensure this happens.

Heavenly Father, you are more awesome than we realise. At this time of returning to school we pray that your way of doing things will be our way too. Give us each day, the strength to get through and enjoy being with other people. Help us to treat others as we would want to be treated - with compassion, respect and concern. Guide us away from fear and worry as we learn to trust in you now and in the coming days. Be present in our school. We ask this in your name. Amen

Parent Webinar Success

This week Elevate education delivered a parent webinar on **Preparing for Assessments**, the event was very well received by our parents and will help support your children with this element of their education. If any of your parents missed it or you would like to share the recording link with them, the recording is now available to be watched back on this link: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/replay>

You can also download a summary sheet of the main points [here](#).

CONTACTS

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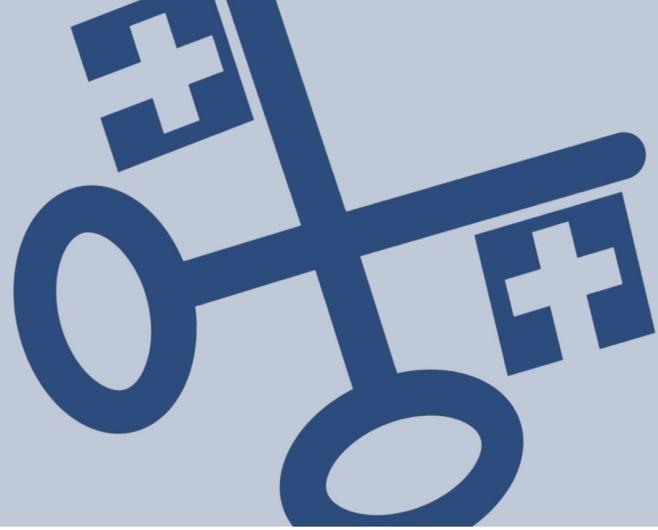
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RETURN TO CLASSROOM EDUCATION

Having come to the end of this period of remote learning and as we prepare to welcome all of our children back into classrooms, we would like to say a huge thanks. A thanks to the students for engaging so enthusiastically, a thanks to Parents and Carers who have supported us so positively and a thanks to our dedicated team of staff who have delivered a programme of virtual lessons that have enabled students to continue the curriculum whilst at home.

A big 'WELL DONE' to all those who participated in our 'World Book Day' activities on Wednesday. It was a super opportunity to celebrate books and share stories. Thanks to the English department for organising the event.

On Monday 8th March, our return to school begins. Please expect an increase in the amount of 'set work', as opposed to virtual lessons, as we prioritise safe and effective testing. You will already have received detailed information from Mr Arnold regarding the testing schedule. Please refer to this in the first instance.

Students will be returning to the same timetable. We will be on Week 1, rotation A. This means that Year 11s will be occupying B block, whilst Year 10s will be in A block. Other years will be in their usual buildings.

It is important that students ensure they are properly equipped for the school day and have stationary, exercise books and any support resources they need to engage fully in classroom learning. After this time at home, some children may need some support to organise themselves and prepare for the school day.

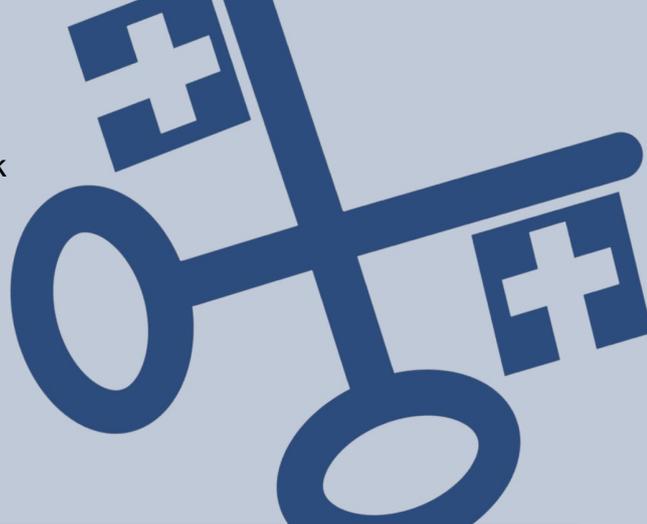
We recognise that whilst many of our children will be excited to return and 'get back to normal', others may be feeling a sense of worry and anxiety. This is quite understandable. Our staff are mindful of the need to nurture students so that they can feel safe and comfortable during this time. If you feel your child needs some extra support in their return to classroom learning, please do contact the Pastoral team.

We look forward to seeing your children back in their classrooms, enjoying learning with friends. A school is not a school without the students - and we have certainly missed them!

Take care and stay safe,

REMINDER

- If you would like to write for the LIVE LIFE: LIVE FAITH section please email jmaggs@speters.org.uk
- The FROG BLOG can be found [here](#)



LIVE LIFE: LIVE FAITH

BRINGING THE RELEVANCE OF FAITH TO THE REALITY OF LIFE!

Walking through the shadows...

Psalm 23 is probably the most popular Psalm people turn to when facing challenges and uncertainty. David, the writer of the Psalm, himself a shepherd, knew the dangers and hardship of life and so uses this image of God as a shepherd, to remind himself of God's presence and protection of his soul even through the 'shadow of the valleys' that may lay ahead. Loyal Baggies fans will no doubt be holding onto its comfort too as they pass through the 'valley of relegation'!

As our student's return to school in the coming days, bringing more changes in the life and routine of all of us, students, parents and staff, it may be that the 'shadows of the valley' overwhelm us. So how do we live out life in faith in this moment?

Mrs. Walker, one of our school staff, sent me the following contemplative version of Psalm 23 which she wanted to share with others because, she explained "it just felt real, normal but beautiful and poetic. Very pertinent at the moment too".

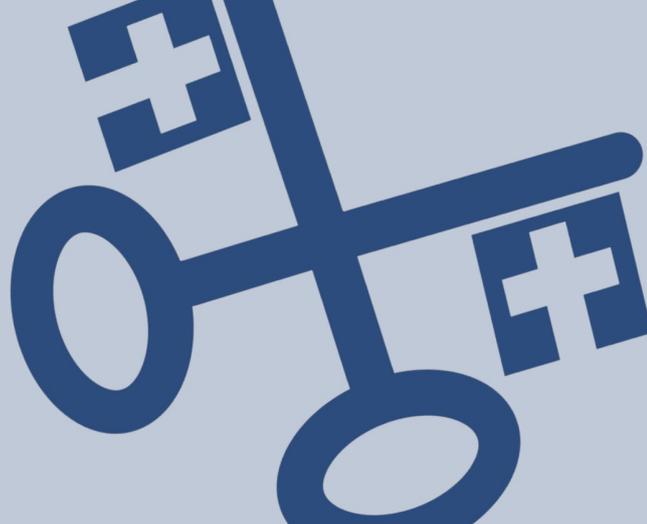
*The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush.
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind.
And His guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,
I will not fret, for His presence is here.
His timelessness, His all-importance will keep me in the balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity
By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility.
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruit of my hours,
For I shall walk in the place of my Lord and dwell in His house forever.*



As we continue in the season of Lent, let's intentionally find those moments to slow down, look upon green pastures and notice God's presence. **Be still and know that I am God.**(Psalm 46:10)

REMINDERS

- Masks are to be worn in all indoor spaces in school
- A full breakdown of the return to school schedule can be found on the school website



Would you rather eat an elephant sized burger or a burger sized elephant?

Whichever one you chose, eventually you would be hungry again! We know that what we eat has a big impact on our bodies. We know that our bodies need regular nourishment as we constantly have to deal with physical hunger and thirst. We all know where to get food and drink for our bodies but where do we find nourishment for our souls?

Would you rather... have free bread for life or bread that leads to eternal life? How can bread give eternal life?! This same question arose in the minds of many people after witnessing Jesus miraculously feed a crowd of thousands. The next day, as the crowd gathered again, perhaps eager for more free bread, he spoke these words, "I AM the Bread of Life. He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35)



At first you might assume Jesus was just talking about being able to provide actual bread. However, he wasn't referring to the ordinary burger bun, loaf or baguette that fills your stomach and satisfies physical hunger but rather 'bread' that promises to satisfy spiritual hunger and leads to eternal life. What's more, he said "I AM that bread". But before we dive into that, a quick

word about this 'I AM' In John's Gospel we see that Jesus made seven "I AM" statements, about himself, giving an insight into his mission and purpose, which were extremely controversial and challenging statements. Controversial because in the Old Testament, the two words "I AM" described God Almighty himself. In Exodus chapter 3, Moses asks God "whom shall I say has sent me to Pharaoh?" To which God replies tell him "I AM" has sent you. The religious authorities considered it blasphemy for anyone to use these words to describe themselves; in making the statement "I AM," Jesus was claiming to be God.

As if that wasn't enough, in this "I AM" statement, Jesus also claimed that anyone who truly followed him would never be hungry or thirsty again. How could that be true? The Bible teaches that God created humans with both body and soul and, just as our bodies need nourishment, so do our souls. Sadly, people spend a lot of time and money looking after their physical side of life but neglect their spiritual side. Where do you go for 'soul food'? There are plenty of experts to be found that talk about the need to 'feed the soul' to 'find purpose' or 'achieve life fulfilment' by looking to things such relationships, hobbies, careers, and possessions.

[Read More Here](#)