

15 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Lower School Remote Pastoral Support

As we come to the end of five weeks of remote learning for our students in the Lower School, we wanted to write to update you on some of the ways in which we have been supporting the students during this time and continuing pastoral care within a virtual environment. We are conscious that a prolonged period of social distancing is very difficult for everyone and wanted to remind both students and their families that the Lower School pastoral team are still here to assist, even though we are not in the same building. The College's coronavirus support page can be accessed at <https://www.stdunstans.org.uk/coronavirus-support> and is available to students and families to help with updates, information, resources and tips for coping during the current crisis.

We have been focusing on the impact of remote learning on wellbeing this week and would like to thank the students who have completed the wellbeing and workload surveys to help us gain a better understanding of how we might support students going forward. There is still time for students to complete these if they have not already done so.

Firefly remains an important resource that students can use to access a variety of activities and support whilst we are not in the school building and we would encourage students to use these pages.

#### *Lower School Firefly Pages*

The Lower School area can be found at <https://stdunstans.fireflycloud.net/lower-school> and has been regularly updated over the course of this half term. We would recommend that students check the PSHEE and Pastoral Resources page each week. Here they will find a range of activities linked to the theme of the week such as circle time questions, notices, enrichment activities and study skills activities. We have been delighted with the way that students have engaged with these activities and have enjoyed awarding Head of Year commendations for videos, book reviews, creative writing and a variety of projects. Each week the video messages and assemblies page is updated with messages from the Heads of Year and there have been virtual assemblies on the themes of *Exploration* and *Civilisations Old and New*. We have really enjoyed seeing all the different things that students have been getting up to and would encourage students to send pictures or videos of anything they would like to share to their Head of Year for inclusion in the weekly video. The pages on exams and enrichment will be updated ready for exam, to include further tips on study skills and enrichment activities. We will be having a focus on screen-free time over exam to allow students a break from the digital world and will write to you next week with further details.

#### *Virtual School Support Firefly Pages*

The virtual school pastoral support pages for students can be found at <https://stdunstans.fireflycloud.net/virtual-school-support> and are a hub of information on support that can be accessed whilst we are remote learning. There are pages that signpost services to support mental health both within and outside the College. There is a variety of

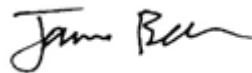
enrichment activities aimed at promoting a healthy body and mind, tips from staff and students, along with links to our wonderful Opening Minds lecture series and remote Forder activities.

The Lower School form tutors have really enjoyed having the opportunity to see the students each morning during tutor time. We have been so pleased to hear about the different ways the tutor groups have been interacting each day; sharing top tips for healthy eating and the next box set to watch, a quote of the day and even tutor group karaoke! We know that for students in the Lower School, time away from their friends and family has been, and will continue to be challenging. They might even miss school and their teachers! We are conscious that our Lower School students may not return to the school environment for some time yet and we are carefully considering how we might support their wellbeing over the coming months in this unprecedented and ever evolving landscape we find ourselves in. We would encourage the students to reach out to their form tutor or Head of Year if they have any questions or concerns, or to use the Firefly pages to access support if they need it. Although we are apart, we are still very much the same community we were within the school building and the students, and their families are very much in our thoughts.

Yours sincerely



Miss H Hughes  
**Head of Year 7**



Mr J Bell  
**Head of Year 8**



Miss A Karmock-Golds  
**Head of Year 9**



Mrs G Davies  
**Head of Lower School**