

Coronavirus update – 12/06/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you were able to read my letter at the beginning of this week, addressed to current and former pupils, relating to the Black Lives Matter movement. It can be found [HERE](#). I agree entirely with the momentum that is gathering for educational reform in this area, and, whilst I remain proud of the very great achievements of St Dunstan's in developing a genuinely diverse, ambitious and forward-thinking approach to our education, we must and will do more. Thank you to all those of you who have put yourselves forward to be a part of the working group which will meet in September.

We have spent a great deal of time this week planning for Phase 2 of the re-opening of College, and the reintroduction of further pupils from Monday next week. Students in Year 10 and Year 12 have received various documentation from Mrs Davies and the Heads of Section, relating to their imminent, albeit gradual, return. I hope that you are reassured by the considerable lengths we continue to go to in order to keep the site as safe as is practicable. If you have any concerns about the steps we are taking to mitigate risk on the College site, please do not hesitate to contact the Bursar, Mrs Wilkins, directly. Miss Whitwood will be communicating further with the Junior School next week regarding our plans for the return of other Junior School classes. I can give you some reassurance at this stage that it is currently our intention for all Junior School classes to have some contact time with their teachers, on the school site, before the summer holiday.

Next week is the last week of formal remote learning for Years 7–9, before they move onto the Festival of Curiosity enrichment fortnight. The purpose of this end to our school year is to tap into those skills of independent learning that have been forged so acutely, as well as to end the year doing something different and particularly engaging. I am very conscious of the wellbeing of our Lower School students, in particular, with no immediate prospect of return to the College site, and, as such, Miss Karmock-Golds has written to parents of all families in these year groups about our ongoing pastoral care and support throughout the rest of this term.

We have finally finished the herculean task of submitting grades to the examination boards for Year 11 and Year 13 students. Mr Holmes' letter on this matter can be found [HERE](#), and it also includes information on book return and how we intend to run exam results days this summer.

Any pupil who is leaving us at the end of this term will need to return books before they go, to avoid being charged for them. Details of this will be sent to you separately, but the main point for book drop-off will be College Reception, where you will be asked to sign-in the books. The same principle will apply to trophies, which we will also need to collect before the end of term.

It is particularly regrettable that we will be unable to host our annual Prize Giving ceremony, as part of the St Dunstan's Festival, this year. However, prizes will still be awarded virtually, and successful prize winners for this academic year will be contacted before the end of term. Sadly, trophies cannot be distributed in the normal way, but we will do so just as soon as it is possible.

As remote Forder continues, I would like to draw your attention to some of the creative projects that have been finalised by senior school students this week: the Phoenix Project gave students the chance to produce a film challenging public perceptions of the coronavirus pandemic; the SDC Virtual Concert gave our musicians the opportunity to work together and create a Trinity Term performance like no other! Highlights will be available on our YouTube channel in the coming days. The Forder Programme this year will culminate on Thursday 2 July with our Forder Challenge; I do hope parents will join our children as they complete a morning workout with Team PE, prepare a healthy lunch for their families and then take on three other projects of their choice...

There continues to be a great deal of energy in the Junior School, whether remote or on site. Nursery have been painting forests. Reception have been building and painting dens (including a mud café – using contactless cards only, of course), as well as creating and decorating an outdoor performance stage for singing. In Year 1, the disappearance of Traction Man has been the big event of the week – this has led to some incredibly descriptive writing for their 'missing' posters. We are delighted to announce that since the release of the poster, rumour has it that Traction Man has been spotted. Year 6 pupils have been reliving past memories and are busy preparing for their end of year celebration. Meanwhile, those Junior School classes learning remotely have enjoyed colourful circle art inspired by Kandinsky, models of lungs for IPC, using a bottle, balloons and straws, the Great Year 4 St Dunstan's Maths Murder Mystery, and Year 3 English lessons involving pupils selecting famous guests to a glamorous dinner party for their food-based theme. If that wasn't enough, Year 5 pupils were commissioned by Hollywood to create a trailer for a film version of their focus text.

We also launched our Junior School Sports Day for next week – you may want to watch the video:

<https://stdunstans.fireflycloud.net/house-competition>

Finally, it remains our intention to end this year with a detailed booklet for you, summarising all the College has done and continues to do in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and in preparation for what we hope will be a full return in September. It will be an evolving document but an important one for both current and in-coming families.

I do hope you are all remaining safe and well and I wish you a very good weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mr N P Hewlett
Headmaster