

Dear Parents, guardians, students & friends of St John's

Welcome one and all to the May edition of our school Newsletter. Over this last Half Term, our Year Teams have been endeavouring to reach out to their cohorts through our Newsletters and various other means of communication, so that you continue to feel that the spirit of our St John's community is very much alive and well. This Newsletter, brings together just some of the articles that have been shared in various Year Group editions, alongside other news, information and reflections.

Like with all of you no doubt, these last two months have taken us through a range of challenging emotions, yet, I have to say, the regular stories, photos and updates that the school have received from our families, have really gone a long way to lift my spirits and the spirits of the various Year Teams. Through your regular communications with us, it is clear that you still very much feel a part of our school and you are eager to keep us updated with what you are getting up to; this is incredibly heartening. I, like all of your teachers, genuinely miss seeing you go about your daily lives in school and hearing about what you are getting up to; the staff of St John's can't wait for the time when it is safe for you to return.

Please read and enjoy this latest edition of our Newsletter and do keep sending in photos and descriptions of your activities, achievements, posters and culinary masterpieces. All of your messages mean a great deal to us and every single one of them is warmly received.

Let us pray that the time will soon come when life goes back to normal and we can enjoy each other's company once more in school. In the meantime, keep up with your studies at home and keep in contact with your teachers; they really do miss you!

Matt Barron *Headteacher*

## Home Learning Support

Please do not hesitate to contact your year teams to support you with any home learning concerns.

Here are some websites to support with home learning:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/secondary/zkqp47h> - This is an excellent website covering topics in every subject in a really engaging way.

<https://www.edplace.com/> - You can sign up and receive five free activities a month.

## Home Learning



### Year 7

Amelia B (7OMP) has been caring for her elderly, vulnerable neighbours by delivering them essential goods. She has also been holding reading sessions with her younger siblings, doing a spot of litter picking and, on the nation's Thursday night 'Clap for NHS Heroes', Amelia has taken it one step further by dancing the "Macarena" to keep people's morale as high as possible! Well done Amelia!

If you have not seen this yet, you must! The Marsh family, based in Kent, decided to film themselves singing the song 'One Day More' from Les Miserables. It is a parody where they have cleverly replaced the lyrics with their own rendition of the lock-down.

This video brought some laughter and fun in a time of anxiety and sadness. This has now gone viral and is cheering up many families across the globe. It might even give some ideas on how to fill your day!

You can view the video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdcSONbo7Ng>



Sacha G (7AMA) usually attends a boxing club outside of school. He has been training with his father in their back garden to keep fit and stay strong.

Well done Sacha for showing initiative and demonstrating that where there is a will there is a way!

Jacob H (7CHP) has focused his mind on many different things during the lock-down. He has been helping to cook his family's dinner.

Not only this, he has also been working extremely hard on his creative writing and his Music composition. Jacob has been helping his father stream online church services to their congregation and creating his own music scores on the computer.

Very impressive, well done Jacob!





Well done to Stephanie K who has sculptured this swan from an apple at home! A task set by her Food Technology teacher inspired Stephanie to put her cutting skills to the test!

Well done to Set 3 Maths who were challenged to 'Beat the Clock' by Mrs Fenton. Daisy M (21 Seconds), Harelina K (29 seconds), Caitlin O'B (29 Seconds) and Jake C (30 Seconds) all completed this within half a minute! Congratulations and keep up the good work!



Two excellent achievements in PE this week.

James R completed the 26 challenge by doing 26 seconds of skipping 6 times during the day.

Well done to Serenity O who shared a video of herself completing 200 sit ups!

A wonderfully creative piece of homework has been submitted by Grace E in Year 7 for Drama.

Grace produced her own radio advert in response to a task; her use of tone and sound is absolutely excellent!

Well done Grace!



The English Department would like to Congratulate the students below who have amazed us with their completion of the Reading Challenge!

All three students have impressed, not just with the amount they have read, but with what they are reading. Well done to:

Mya T  
Jake C  
Jacob H

## Year 8

Lily P (8SHP) went above and beyond this week when she was set the task of baking and decorating a cake. Lily took it a step further and made an afternoon tea for her family on Sunday. She baked a vanilla and raspberry cake with pink icing. It was decorated with crushed meringue and fresh raspberries. This was accompanied by homemade tuna mayonnaise and tuna cucumber sandwiches and washed down with a pot of tea! A really nice act of kindness Lily – well done! We hope your family thoroughly enjoyed their treat!



Joseph experimented with his culinary skills in the kitchen to serve up a traditional Spanish dish of paella and tortilla. Joseph was given a recipe to follow and the final product looks amazing - a top effort Joseph!

Jamie has been getting creative in the kitchen this week with his swan made from apple! It looks to be a very tricky and delicate task Jamie, but the final model looks great – very authentic!



Matas P (8SHP) has been hard at work this week on his poster for 'The Spirit of Normandy' VE Day Competition. where the very best posters will be entered! Judging by your art skills and the hard work you have clearly put in, we reckon you stand a pretty good chance of being nominated Matas! Well done.

## Spirited Arts

This is an exciting RE project that is conducted nationally by The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). The competition is open to all pupils aged 4–19, and, in recent years, over 350,000 young people have entered the competition to make a work of art in RE. There are £25 cash prizes for the winners, and winning pieces may appear on the NATRE'S prestigious web gallery.

At St John's we are delighted to take part in this competition for the first time. In the last 3 weeks all Year 7 and Year 8 pupils have been offered the opportunity to produce a piece of art based on their own ideas on a key religious or spiritual question. The RE Team will select the best 10 entries to be sent to NATRE and represent St John's in the competition. The RE team are very grateful for the time and effort you have put in and we all wish you the very best of luck should you be chosen as one of St. John's 10 entries for the competition.

## Year 9

Brianna's annotations in preparation for GCSE English highlight the importance of home learning and the positive impact it can have on GCSE subjects in the next couple of years. The whole Year 9 team were very impressed with the time and effort Brianna has invested in her English studies and we hope that she continues this effort for the rest of lock-down, as well as when she returns to St John's in the future.

Otilia (9LBE) has been an absolute star of home learning; her teachers have singled her out for special praise for the quality of work and her desire to make progress in her education. The art work that she has created is a visual representation of the amount of time and effort she is spending at home to improve; she is a real role model for all students at St John's. Her impressive attitude will put her in a very good position in the future as she completes her GCSEs.



### *The Great St John's Cook Off – Round 1 'Summer'*



*Aprons on, wooden spoons at the ready and COOK!*

The first theme for *The Great St John's Cook Off* is 'summer'. Your entry can be sweet or savoury, a dish you make regularly or something you have never made before – but it must fit the theme of 'summer'.



If you wish to take part, in this **optional competition**, you need to email your entry to Mrs Oatley ([hoatley@stj.kent.sch.uk](mailto:hoatley@stj.kent.sch.uk)), Miss Gosling ([sgosling130@stj.kent.sch.uk](mailto:sgosling130@stj.kent.sch.uk)) and Mrs Matthews ([smatthews537@stj.kent.sch.uk](mailto:smatthews537@stj.kent.sch.uk)) by **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June**. Title the email 'The Great StJ Cook Off' and within your email include your name, year group, name of dish, ingredients list, method, and photograph of your finished dish. A short explanation of how your chosen dish meets the brief would be brilliant too. This competition is open to **all students, from all year groups**, and winners will be chosen from each Key Stage.

We look forward to your entries!

Mrs Oatley, Miss Gosling & Mrs Matthews  
Food & Nutrition Department



## VE Day Celebrations



Ciara C created a fantastic bunting display for the VE Day celebrations. We are delighted that students are taking an active role in learning about the history of our country.

## Visors for the NHS - Update



We are continuing the production of visors. Below right, you will see the many visors that have been produced and will be deployed to institutions such as the Ellenor Hospice. Please do contact the school if you work or know anyone who works in any local care homes that are in need of this PPE, then please do contact the school and we will do our utmost to try and provide, subject to materials.



**Above left:** One of the visors Luke H (Year 9) designed and made being put to use in the NHS!

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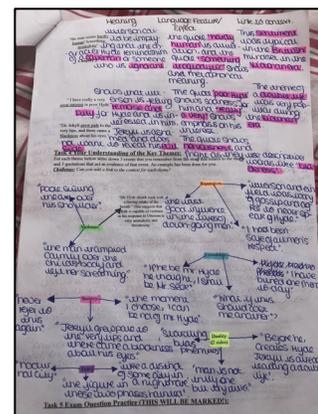
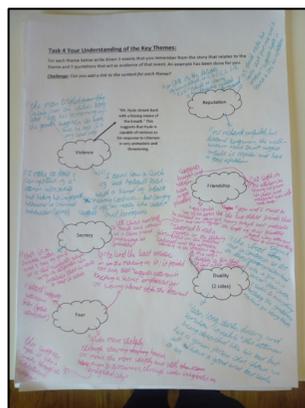
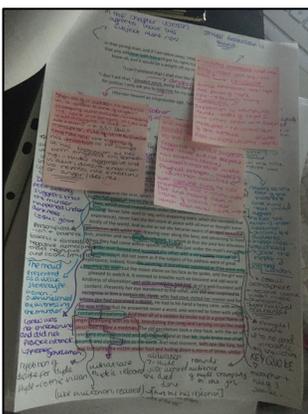
## Art Department Wall of Fame

The Wall of Fame is now complete as all the amazing artwork entered for the John Downton Awards have now been returned from the John Downton touring exhibition and are now displayed back home at St John's. The Art department is looking forward to welcoming back all of our talented artists and photographers to create new work as soon as the lock-down is over!



## Literary Legends

The English Department have been really impressed with the quality of Annotations from Year 9 with a 'Shout Out' to Nazim H, Katie D, and Brianna I who are placing themselves in the very best possible position for their exam next year.



As well as receiving these examples of fabulous work we have also been impressed with those creating their Short Stories with a 'Shout Out' to Anand N in Year 7 and Thomas L in Year 8 who are constantly challenging themselves to do their best.

Keep up the hard work St John's!

**ACTION CALENDAR: MEANINGFUL MAY 2020**

**"Start Where You Are. Use What You Have. Do What You Can" ~ Arthur Ashe**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
4 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do	5 Send friends a photo of a time you all enjoyed together	6 Take a step towards one of your life goals, however small	7 Let someone you love know how much they mean to you	1 Take a minute to remember what really matters to you and why	2 Do something meaningful for someone you really care about	3 Reconnect with nature today, even if you're stuck indoors
11 What are your most important values? Use them today	12 Be grateful for the little things, even in difficult times	13 Today do something to care for the natural world	14 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better	8 Set yourself a kindness mission. Give your time to help others	9 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today	10 Tell someone about why your favourite music means a lot to you
18 Hand-write a note to someone you love and send them a photo of it	19 Find a way to craft what you are doing to give it more meaning	20 Reflect on what makes you feel really valued and appreciated	21 Share photos of 3 things you find meaningful or memorable	15 Find out about the values and traditions of another culture	16 Look around you and notice five things you find meaningful	17 Take a positive action to help in your local community
25 Give your time to help a project or charity you care about	26 Recall three things you've done that you are really proud of	27 Today link your decisions and choices to your purpose in life	28 Tell someone about an event in your life that was really meaningful	22 Ask a loved one or colleague what matters most to them and why	23 Share an inspiring quote with others to give them a boost	24 Do something special today and revisit it in your memory tonight

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** [www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)

Dear parents/carers,

I do hope that you and your families are safe and well at this time.

Below are some resources that you and your children might find useful to look at; they range from apps that you can download to leaflets full of useful information.

Salus are also putting on virtual activities that young people can join if they so wish.

Take care and stay safe

Mrs Kelham

### Useful resources and support for young people

#### Websites and Helplines

[Mood Spark](#) a place where young people aged 10-16 can learn how to look after their emotional and mental health and find ways to help them bounce back when life gets tough.

[Kooth](#) online support and counselling for 10-16-year olds in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone and Hythe, Gravesham, Maidstone, Swale, Thanet and Tonbridge & Malling.

[Kent Resilience Hub](#) one place where you can increase your understanding and awareness, find approaches and tools to navigate your way to appropriate support and services relating to resilience and emotional wellbeing

Kent County Council are launching [Draw Your Own Solution](#), a new National Lottery funded campaign to help young people in Kent (aged 10-16) develop resilience, as part of Kent's wider HeadStart programme.

[Hope Again](#) is a website for young people going through a bereavement, where you can find information, read other people's experiences, and add your own. The Kent-based charity [Holding On Letting Go](#) helps children to cope with the death of someone close to them. [Winston's Wish](#) and [Child Bereavement Charity](#) websites also offer information and advice.

[Cruse Bereavement](#) young people's helpline on 0808 808 1677.

Calm – <https://www.calm.com/> or download the app

Childline – <https://www.childline.org.uk/> or call 0800 1111 or 1:1 online counsellor chat

Self-harm UK - <https://www.selfharm.co.uk/>

Mee Two – <https://www.meetwo.co.uk/> or download the app  
NHS NELFT – <https://www.nelft.nhs.uk/>  
We are with you (previously known as Addaction) – <https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk>  
Young Minds – <https://youngminds.org.uk> or text YM to 85258  
The Mix – <https://www.themix.org.uk> or call 0808 808 4994 or text THEMIX to 85258  
Samaritans – [www.Samaritans.org](http://www.Samaritans.org) or call 116 123 free  
Papyrus – <https://papyrus-uk.org> or call: 0800 068 4141 or text 07860039967

NHS Chathealth: [Chathealth](#) confidential texting service for young people aged 11-19 will operate as normal. Young people can text the school health team about any concerns or health issues on 07520 618850.

### **Youth Activities**

The Salus Youth Team are offering [virtual youth sessions](#) to young people aged between 8-19 years. The sessions include language lessons, make up tutorials, quizzes and fun games with new topics and suggestions being added each week. You will need to download the Zoom app on your device (e.g. phone or PC) in order to be added to the session. You will receive an email before the sessions with a code to join a meeting. On your app you will then click on join and type the number given in the email to access the session

Kent County Council are making all our youth services available [online](#), including opportunities for you to talk to youth workers and friends, as well as lots of new activities for you to try. Select your area to find out what's on and join in.

### **Advice leaflets**

An easy read advice leaflet about the corona virus is available through this link <https://www.easy-read-online.co.uk/media/53192/advice-on-the-coronavirus-v1.pdf>

A social story about the corona virus is available through this link <https://carolgraysocialstories.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Pandemics-and-the-Coronavirus.pdf>

A child friendly explanation of the corona virus is available through this link <http://www.millfields.hackney.sch.uk/uploads/2019/Corona%20Virus%20Info%20for%20Young%20Children.pdf.pdf>

## **New virtual cyber school gives teens chance to try out as cyber security agents from home**

Thousands of young people are being offered the chance to join a [virtual cyber security school](#) as part of plans to make sure the country develops the next generation of professional cyber defenders.

At a time when schools remain closed to most children, the online initiative aims to inspire future talent to work in the cyber security sector and give students a variety of extracurricular activities to do from the safety of their homes.

Teens can learn how to crack codes, fix security flaws and dissect criminals' digital trails while progressing through the game as a cyber agent. This will help them develop important skills needed for future jobs, particularly in cyber security.

The school provides free weekly webinars run by industry experts teaching fundamental security disciplines such as digital forensics, cryptography and operating systems.

Also the government has announced a number of other online training courses to give UK school pupils the opportunity to learn and develop cyber security skills, this includes the launch of the National Cyber Security Centre's (NCSC) hugely popular [CyberFirst summer courses](#). The courses are moving online this year to help more than a thousand 14 to 17-year-olds develop important cyber skills from home during the coronavirus pandemic.

The National Crime Agency and Cyber Security Challenge UK will also this week announce teenagers can access their online cyber skills platform [CyberLand](#) for free during the coming months. In the game designed to teach teenagers the fundamentals of cyber security, players protect the virtual city 'CyberLand' from cyber attacks while learning key skills.

## Chaplain's Corner

I don't know about you, but the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 when the Prime Minister told us the Nation was going into lockdown, now seems like a blur. Here we are now in the 8<sup>th</sup> week, living with this bizarre situation.

Our older pupils should have been sitting exams. I wonder what emotions they are feeling. Relief, confusion, anxiety? A last chance to prove themselves taken out of their hands.

Some of us may be experiencing poor health or are caring for vulnerable loved ones. The media constantly tells us the economy will take a generation to recover.

One thing is certain, life will change for us all.

Thinking of today's predicament, I feel myself contemplating on the situation the Apostles found themselves in leading to the Crucifixion, The Death of Christ, His Resurrection and Ascension to Heaven. To them, everything happened so quickly, despite Jesus telling them what was to unfold. They were subject to conflicting opinions on the character and mission of Christ. At times, they experienced hopelessness.

Does that sound familiar?

We are heading towards Pentecost, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Here we find The Twelve, hiding away, Jesus has ascended into Heaven. They are fearful of the future. The Holy Spirit then blasts through the room. The Spirit, ignites, refreshes, strengthens the Apostles' souls. They are given direction and mission to proclaim the Love and Hope of Christ.

During this time of 'hiding 'away, I pray we allow the Holy Spirit to blast into our lives. Let Him strengthen us with love. Allow the Spirit to guide us, maybe in a direction that contrasts with our old lives.

Can I ask, we pray for our young people? May they seek futures not driven by financial gain or status, but lives guided by love, service, vocation, and happiness.

May God's Love be with you all and your families. May the Holy Spirit burn within your hearts.

Susanne Gibbons, Assistant Chaplain.

