

# THE KEY STAGE 3 POST

Year  
8

**Dear Year 8s,**

I hope you are all safe and well, and I sincerely look forward to seeing every one of you on Monday 8th March. Throughout this year, I have always asked that you maintain the highest standards possible, and I must say you have delivered above and beyond this. On Monday 8<sup>th</sup>, I will be expecting the very same effort levels and conduct that you have demonstrated from the very outset of the year. I expect that you are ready to learn, meaning your learning kit is complete, and you are prepared for learning straight away. I expect you to be respectful, not only to each of your teachers, but to your fellow students; if this pandemic has taught us anything, it must be that in times of difficulty and hardship we must come together. Finally, last but by no means least, I expect you to be safe maintaining social distancing and remembering your collective responsibility to yourselves and our wider school community. Those are my expectations, and I am sure you will continue to raise that bar high and set an example to every student here at St John's.

However, the key purpose of my message in this newsletter was not to reaffirm my expectations. The real purpose of this newsletter is to say 'thank you'; as I have said, I asked for the highest standards, and you have not disappointed me. When I asked for a positive start to the year, each of you delivered above and beyond. When I asked for you to maintain this throughout the second term, you went above and beyond once again. When asked to transition to home learning once again, you have been impeccable. So I wanted to take this chance to show my appreciation to each and every one of you; you have been a credit to yourselves and to your family, and I am sure you will continue to set the standard.

I hope you all remain well and I look forward to you returning on the Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Stay safe & Best wishes,

**The Year 8 Team**

## Dale's Daily (Termly didn't have the same ring)

Hi all, I do hope you and your families are safe and well and you have managed to stay as active as possible during this lockdown. I have restarted running again after the snow halted me and I started to lose motivation, but I have persevered and continued. Unfortunately, it does mean that I have not completed at least 2 runs a week since January 1<sup>st</sup>, but I am back at it now. What have you been up to?

Well we have made it, another school closure "completed", and we move onto coming back to school and hopefully, given the Prime Ministers announcement last Monday, the beginning of the route back to "normality". I personally cannot wait for sport to start up and to be able to play again. Especially after watching the Cricket and Rugby at the end of the week and weekend, it was so frustrating and disappointing; for once the only saving grace to my weekend was that Tottenham won, and played well, which since the start of the year hasn't been happening too often! Hopefully, this is the turning point for us now.

What are you all looking forward to doing and starting again? I have had a few emails from some Year 8s asking about clubs and getting new clubs in different sports started, which I've loved receiving; it seems that you have missed sport and different activities as much as I have and cannot wait to get started again!

I hope you enjoy your weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday morning.

**Mr Dale**

## Student Voice

Come on, let's face reality. Lockdown is probably the most boring thing we have all experienced. Staying at home all day doing nothing, it can get extremely boring at times to be honest. But there's still loads of stuff to do, right? For example, video games. Video games are fun (especially if you're playing with your friends), different people like different games, for example loads of people might like League of Legends, Mario Kart or Fortnite. Or you might like an old classic game like Minecraft or Roblox.

If you don't like video games there's still plenty of things to do, go watch a movie by yourself or with your family. Watch an entertainment video on YouTube like commentary videos or gaming videos. You can go outside if you want and if you have any siblings, you can play with them. If you don't have any siblings but you have a pet, play with them instead, play fetch if it's a dog. If you have a cat get a toy mouse and play with them using that toy.

If you like cooking you can always try baking a cake or cookies. If you're really bored, then you can always try doing some extra homework in an attempt to get more good comments but I doubt anybody wants to do that right?

Even though it seems like a lot there's still not that much to do when you're stuck at home. However, you can always call your friends and keep in contact with them, or you can just listen to some music for a bit. I'm sure most of us miss being able to hang out with our friends but until then all we can do is take the opportunity to relax and take a break from school.

By anonymous.

Bringing the community back together...



## Bake-Off Results

The competition was fierce and there were a number of fantastic submissions in the Year 8 bake-off. Mrs Hodges had an incredibly difficult decision to make, however I am delighted to announce that we have a joint winner for the Bake-off!

A very big congratulations to Stephanie K and Zuzanna S! Both submitted fantastic pieces - Stephanie with her amazing cupcakes and Zuzanna with her delicious Strawberry and Blueberry Pavlova.

A sincere well done to the both of you!



## A Prayer for Lent

Loving God, we hear your call to all who thirst for a brighter future: Come to the water. Pour out your Spirit upon us and lead us to walk alongside one another. Let a desire for change well up within us. May we overflow with compassion and love. And as a stream wears away stone, may we Reshape our world together to reflect your Kingdom of hope for all.

Amen



## Don't forget!

*Parents please email any images to your child's Year Leader to have an opportunity of appearing in the next issue! For safeguarding reasons, this must come from the email address the school has on the system!*

## HOME — SCHOOL SUPPORT

Dear Parents/Guardians

As a school, we recognise that your experiences of lockdown, just like our own, would not all have been plain sailing. We also understand that, for some of you, there is a real danger of feeling isolated from your friends, family and community at this uniquely challenging time.

Whilst we, at St John's, have been working hard to try to further enhance our communications with you through our Newsletters, we understand that isn't necessarily the same as speaking to a member of our community or hearing a familiar voice.

Therefore, we are continuing to offer you the opportunity to contact the school to request a 'call back' from a member of our Year Group Pastoral Team. Whether it is a concern you may have with Home Study, a particular problem that you or your child is going through or even an opportunity to have a general chat with someone from St John's, if you would like to speak to a member of our Pastoral Team, please email your request through for a 'call back' to the email address below and we will get in touch with you in due course.

We would love to hear from you, so please do make use of this opportunity.

**Year 8 – Mrs Hodges: [Lhodges@stj.kent.sch.uk](mailto:Lhodges@stj.kent.sch.uk)**

Bringing the community back together...





### Mr Murphy's History Corner

One of the areas of History that the Department is most proud of is the extra-curricular provision - in particular the many events that are organised every year. These vary from day trips, to overnight trips, to events in the school, as well as the annual History Day. All of these have been cancelled over the past year due to the Coronavirus restrictions. However, as we all head towards a return to some form of normality, it is time to consider and start planning events - even if we are only at the planning phase - there is still some time to go before we are completely free of all the restrictions.

Among those extra curricular events that the current Year 8 group have missed out on is the annual History Day. This is held in late June every year [cancelled last year, of course] with the Year Group focusing completely on history for the day. The History Day links in with the scheme of work as students in Year 8 will be studying World War 2 at this point of their studies. In recent times it has been a World War 1 focus, last year it would have been a World War 2 focus. The History day may well run this coming June - held at school with a nominal charge of £5. This fee covers the expenses incurred - we do have several historians and authorities coming into school to talk to the students bringing with them various artefacts for the students to handle. Veterans of World War 2 also come to the school and talk to the students of their experiences.

Prior to that, we hope to have day trips to the newly created World War 1 trench system in Elham near Canterbury. Here, the noted and celebrated historian and expert, Andrew Robertshaw, will be the guide. It is a truly marvellous experience and is only 40 or so miles from the school - we do not leave the country. Slightly further on - at Capel-le-Ferne is the Battle of Britain Memorial and Experience. This is a wonderful spot and the spitfire simulator is always a huge attraction for students - getting off the ground [never mind engaging the enemy] is always difficult but nonetheless great fun. Closer to home - at the school in fact - it will be time to inaugurate the memorial garden and create the memorial to the Holocaust. Students in Year 8 have created the stones that will be the centrepiece - and the stones, created as part of a homework project, are truly outstanding. This is an exciting project and will be part of a major overhaul of this section of the school grounds. The Woodland Trust has kindly donated over 100 shrubs and trees to get the garden up and running!!!

Back to school, end of the restrictions, light at the end of the tunnel, back to normality and back to extra-curricular activities - what more could one hope for!



### MY NHS HERO MUM

My mom works for the NHS. She trains students to be a doctors so that they can work on wards and she helps people. I'm really proud of my mum because she is really hard-working in the pandemic: looking after the family whilst helping others. I am so proud of what she does. She is my NHS hero!

Liam W



### COVID-19

#### A poem by Mark B

It was a horrible thing,  
The thought of it was chilling,  
It was worse than bad,  
It drove some people mad,  
Being alone, self-isolating,  
2 meters apart we were told,  
But there is a light it was getting less cold,  
There is a good side with us going back to school,  
Things are looking up with an end to  
COVID-19's rule,  
We are going back to normal with an end  
in sight,  
COVID-19 will soon go away with no more  
terror or fright.



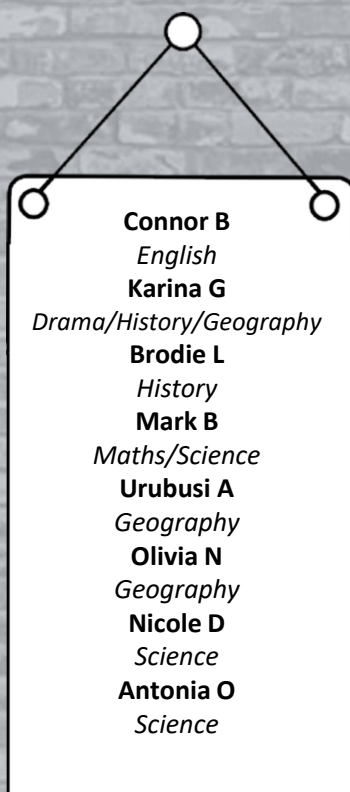
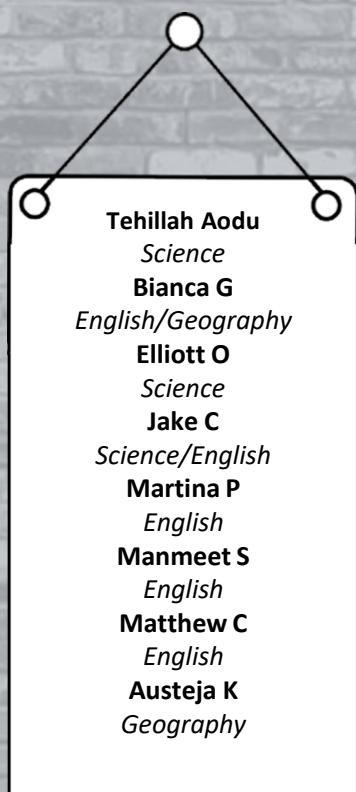
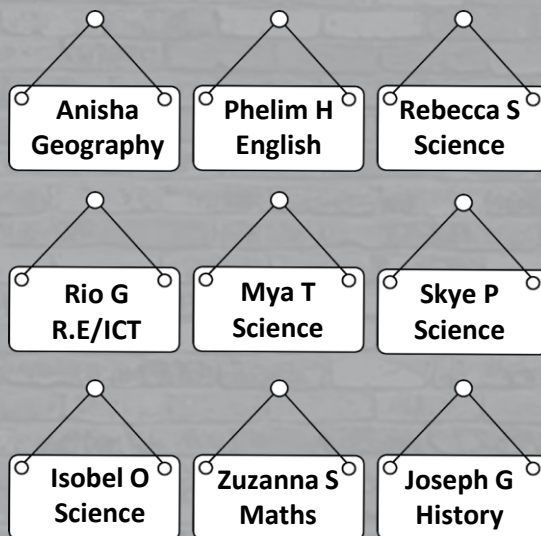
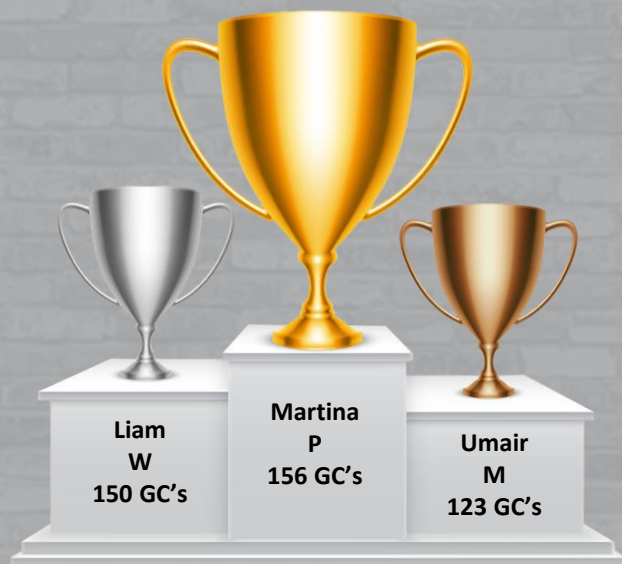
### What has happened during COVID?

#### A poem by Phelim H

We have kept apart two metres,  
Been in Lockdown after Lockdown,  
Our sweet tooth got a bit sweeter  
And gone to meetings in a gown.  
Working from home.  
Some of us got a dog,  
And might have named it Jerome.  
Others might have started a blog,  
But we all share one thing,  
We all hope COVID isn't returning.

Bringing the community back together...

# SHOUT OUTS!!!



Bringing the community back together...



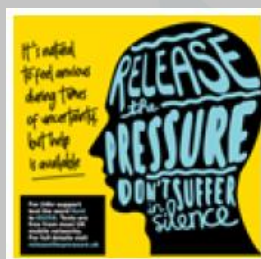
# Extra Support



## Kent Child Health

If your child is aged 4-19 and is struggling with their emotional health, you can access support from the Children and Young People's Counselling Service.

Go to [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/school-health](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/school-health) or ring 0300 123 4496 for more information. #KentTogether #HereForYou #MentalHealthAwarenessWeek



## Release the pressure

Life can get really tough sometimes, but talking can help. We have a highly trained and experienced team available 24/7 to provide expert support no matter what you are going through. <https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/release-the-pressure>

Don't suffer in silence: text the word Kent to 85258 or call 08001070160



## Kooth

Aged between 10-16 and need mental health support? Kooth is #HereForYou.

Please visit [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) to register for our supportive online community where we have lots of guided support courses and resources for you. #KentTogether



## ChatHealth

If you're aged 11-19 years old and struggling with your emotions, we are still #HereForYou.

Text Chathealth to 07520618850 for mental health support and find out a number of ways to help you, or visit [www.kentyouthhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.kentyouthhealth.nhs.uk) for more info #KentTogether.

## Single Point of Access (SPA)

If you are concerned about a young person's mental health and are not sure what extra help is needed, you can call the Single Point of Access (SPA) ON 0300 1234496. The SPA is there to help you explore the difficulties and find the most appropriate response. We are still #HereForYou.

If you are a parent or teacher you can also access useful resources and information at: [www.kentresiliencehub.org.uk](http://www.kentresiliencehub.org.uk)

Kent young people's mental health

Kent Resilience Hub

DRAW YOUR OWN SOLUTION.COM



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