



St John Fisher News

15 January 2021

No. 450 (Lockdown Edition)

Newsletter

During this lockdown, we will be providing a weekly lockdown newsletter, which will be sent electronically and will be available on our website. Our website has useful information about remote learning and safeguarding, as you already know, so do please keep checking it during this time.

Lockdown

Thank you for all you are doing to support the national effort to reduce contacts by staying at home as much as possible. School closure means that both students and staff can reduce contact with other people and in turn other households significantly. It is essential that we all continue to keep to the Government COVID restrictions fully and stay at home to work and study so we can help to reduce transmission of the virus.

Learning Online

As you know, learning has moved online and students have generally responded to this very well indeed with many teachers expressing how pleased they have been with the majority of students. Mrs Wilmore is leading on this aspect of our schools' work and you will have received a letter from her last week along with an overview of where to find work and how it will be delivered across each year group. Students should be following their school timetable and accessing work in all subjects they study for the same amount of time they would normally have lessons for during a school day, with breaks of course. If a teacher has scheduled a live lesson or provided a recorded lesson or a link to a recorded online lesson, it is essential that your children participate in this so they do not miss key teaching. If you or your children have any issues about accessing learning online, please contact your Student Support Officer who will be happy to help.

Students on site

We have a small number of students on site who are accessing exactly the same learning as those at home who are classed as 'vulnerable' or are children of critical workers who cannot work at home safely. I have also included today a letter from Jonathan Lewis, the Director of Education for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. Please can I ask you to read this carefully. In the letter Mr Lewis stresses that children of critical workers should learn from home if at all possible and should only be booked in to school by parents if it is absolutely necessary and they cannot learn from home safely.

Free School Meals

We are continuing to provide vouchers for those who would normally receive Free School Meals at school during the lockdown. If you think your child is entitled to Free School Meals but you have not claimed them in the past please get in touch with school as soon as possible. The Local Authority have also said that the Government Winter Grant scheme will continue during the February Half term for eligible families.

Vocational Exams

Despite the inconsistent messages nationally regarding the January Vocational exams, we have still been running them and they will continue into next week. We appreciate the stress students are and have been under regarding this situation and continue to act in the best interests of all students. The exams are all COVID safe and have been risk assessed. Well done and thank you to all students who have taken exams so far for your mature conduct during this incredibly stressful time.

Pastoral Care

We very much appreciate the support you will be giving your children at this difficult time and our pastoral teams continue to provide extra support through phone calls and by monitoring student learning online. If you are worried about your child's wellbeing, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Cancellation of Exams in the Summer

There have been no further announcements made yet about how this is going to be organised. The Department for Education have said they are consulting about how this will work. In the absence of any detail, we are expecting all students in Years 11 & 13 to continue working hard to complete work and assessments.

Please remember to follow the Government guidelines to keep everybody safe.

Kate Pereira



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