



# THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill  
Purley  
Surrey  
CR8 3YP

8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

So, this has been a very long week in school, and for many of our families at home.

I have already written separately to families with children in Years 11 and 13, explaining that the government have announced that schools are likely to be playing a role in decisions about grades for the second year in a row. Although the details are currently unknown, it has been promised that there will be support and training that will see grades awarded 'fairly and consistently across the country'.

We do hope that this period of not having students in school is not going to be for very long. The Secretary of State for Education confirmed that testing is going to be at the centre of the government plans to help return children back to school. You will be pleased to know that this is something which we have already started planning at school. We have set up our test area, trained our first group of staff and started testing today. Lateral Flow Device Testing (LFD) enables the identification of asymptomatic positive cases of COVID-19, which is then confirmed with a PCR test. This will help to identify positive cases in the school and allow them to self-isolate, reducing the possibility of transmission to the rest of the community. Due to there only being a limited number of students currently in the school, we will initially be carrying out weekly testing of these students and staff, where we have consent. We will be looking to test all consenting staff and students, when they return to school after the National Lockdown. In addition, any staff member or student who has come into contact with a positive case/s, can be tested daily in school for seven days to allow them to remain in school provided they test negative each time.

CBBC, BBC Two, BBC iPlayer and BBC Red Button will all be offering different content for students from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, including daily lessons which will be made available online too. The CBBC channel will have a three-hour block of primary school programmes from 9am. This will include programmes from BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily as well as Our School, Celebrity Supply Teacher, Horrible Histories and Operation Ouch. BBC Two will run at least two hours worth of educational programming for secondary students every weekday, which will include adaptations of Shakespeare plays as well as science and history programmes.

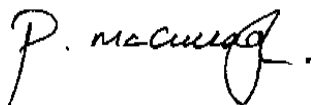
I end this letter with a prayer to St Joseph in this extraordinary year of devotion to this great Saint. *O Glorious Saint Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labour, obtain for me the grace to work in a spirit of generosity; to work conscientiously, putting the call of duty above my natural inclinations; to work with thankfulness and joy, considering it an honour to make use of my God given talents received from God; to work with order, peace, and patience. All for Jesus, all through*

*Mary, all after thy example, O Patriarch, Saint Joseph. Such shall be my watch-word in life and in death. Amen. (Composed by Pope St. Pius X)*

I pray that you and your family remain safe and well and I look forward to physically welcoming all students back as soon as we are able to.

Thank you for the kind words of support and appreciation the school has received this week. They are greatly appreciated during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. McCullagh' with a stylized flourish at the end.

P E McCullagh  
Headteacher