



THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

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

Peaks Hill
Purley
Surrey
CR8 3YP

12th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is our understanding that in the week commencing 22nd February, the Government will publish a plan for taking the country out of lockdown. They have said:

“Our aim will be to set out a gradual and phased approach towards easing the restrictions in a sustainable way, guided by the principles we have observed throughout the pandemic, beginning with the most important principle of all: that reopening schools must be our national priority. We have committed to providing schools, parents and young people with a minimum of two weeks’ notice for this return to on-site provision. Additional pupils and students will therefore return to on-site education on 8 March 2021 at the earliest.”

The school will therefore continue with the remote learning provision, with only children of key workers and vulnerable students attending school. Please be advised that from 22nd February 2021, the dismissal time for Key Stage 3 students who are attending school because they are the children of key workers or are deemed vulnerable will be changed from 12:05pm to 12:55pm. These students in Years 7 to 9 will therefore remain on school site until the end of lesson 4. The dismissal time for all other students on site, will remain unchanged.

As soon as we receive further information about the return to school, this will be communicated with you. When we return to school, safely and in a managed way, we will help the students and support them with learning. We will not be using negative language such as ‘the lost generation’ or ‘catch up’ or the impact around their future prospects for our students.

Workshops

Thank you to all of the parents/carers who attended the Wellbeing workshop last Wednesday night.

On Wednesday 24th February from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, we would like to invite you to a drug and alcohol awareness workshop webinar on drugs education by the charity, Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation. This will be led by the Director and Founder of the charity, Fiona Spargo-Mabbs, and Asha Fowells, a pharmacist and DSM Foundation drugs educator. The world for young people is a very different place than it was for their parents/carers, including in their vulnerability to risk from drugs and alcohol, and this workshop provides a great opportunity for you as a parent or carer to become more aware of what issues face your children, and what you can do to help them stay safe. The workshop will involve finding out about:

- levels of young people’s exposure to drugs and alcohol – what, where, when and how
- what young people, and their parents and carers, need to know about the risks of drugs and alcohol
- factors that affect young people’s decisions about drugs and alcohol, including teenage brain development
- how to have effective conversations with your child, and practical suggestions for what you can do to support them to stay safe
- where to go for more information and support.

The DSM Foundation was set up by Fiona and Tim Spargo-Mabbs in 2014 after the tragic death of their 16-year-old son Daniel as a result of taking ecstasy (www.dsmfoundation.org.uk). The aim of the charity is to

support young people to make safe choices about drugs, and they work with students, teachers, parents/carers and professionals in schools, colleges and community organisations across the UK. Fiona has become a leading UK expert on drug education, including how parents can best support their children. She has spoken to parents and carers across the UK and internationally. Please click the following link to register for the webinar: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ioRDlkxBQYa0ojAscFJISQ

If you have any further questions regarding the event please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Souici (Head of RSHE) at: j.souici@johnfisherschool.org

'Work books on Wheels'

196 students came out to see us with some of their parents/carers this week and it was fantastic to see them. Here are some messages which have been received by the school:

"I also wanted to say what a great idea Work books on Wheels is and to say thank you to everyone involved. I hope the weather doesn't make it too difficult this week. We're hoping to pop along on either Wednesday or Friday depending on Ryan's lessons at the time. Thanks again for your support at this challenging time."

"Thank you to all the staff at The John Fisher school for such an amazing and well organised first half term of the year. As a new family to the school it has been very reassuring to see such commitment and positivity. The Work books on Wheels was a great idea, my son was able to see familiar staff members from school who asked how he was and how home schooling was going. Your efforts are very much appreciated. Enjoy your half term and a well deserved break."

Happy half term break!

We continue to keep in our thoughts and prayers all of those who remain poorly as we approach the season of lent with Ash Wednesday taking place next week. Pope Francis has called for us to remember those who continue to suffer the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

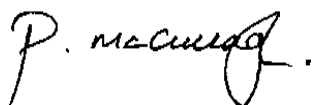
In his letter, Pope Francis said: *"Dear brothers and sisters, the commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with the sick. A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned."*

To Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Infirm, I entrust the sick, healthcare workers and all those who generously assist our suffering brothers and sisters. From the Grotto of Lourdes and her many other shrines throughout the world, may she sustain our faith and hope, and help us care for one another with fraternal love. To each and all, I cordially impart my blessing."

We have finally made it! In this half term we have held parents' evenings, our students have attended lots of lessons, we have delivered Collective Worship and Year Team Meetings, we have celebrated our 'Wellbeing Wednesdays' and managed to get into the community. We will be offering comments on the work of students in some year groups when we return in the next half term. These won't be reports, but "what went well/even better" if comments.

God Bless.

Yours sincerely,



P E McCullagh - Headteacher