

**1/5/20**

## **Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff and Friends of the School.**

As we end the 6<sup>th</sup> Week of lockdown and the 4<sup>th</sup> week of home education, we are beginning to hear from Gavin Williamson, the Education Secretary, about the potential for a 'phased re-opening' of schools. I have no doubt that the vast majority of parents and the majority of our students are keen for a safe return to some form of normality and educational routine within school. No return date has been set and there are many questions to be discussed and answered before students can safely return. We continue to watch this space for concrete plans from the government and the Department for Education. We will update you once we know more.

I would once again like to thank all parents and carers for their support of the school and their efforts in achieving continuity of education for our young people. I would also like to publically thank every member of staff for their commitment to our young people and their efforts in creating bespoke resources and quickly responding to the issues that inevitably arise from this new and hopefully acutely temporary way of working.

I hope you find some of the following links useful. As ever, please pick and choose that which is of interest or useful to you and your family.

- [May, the Month of Mary](#)
- [Latest Guidance for Households with Possible Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) Infection:](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Testing Eligibility Extended to Help Protect the Most Vulnerable](#)
- [Y13 Students in England Encouraged to Apply Now for Student Finance](#)
- [Four Tips for a Smooth Home Learning Routine](#)
- [7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home](#)
- [Finally, a Prayer for Key Workers](#)

Best Wishes,

Tom Pinnington

## **May, the Month of Mary**

I have attached a letter from his holiness Pope Francis that reminds us that May is the Month of devotion towards the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Francis encourages us to pray the rosary with our families. I have also attached a powerpoint that beautifully explains the rosary and how to pray it. This may be a useful resource to look at with your children and young people.

[\[RETURN TO THE TOP\]](#)

## **Latest Guidance for Households with Possible Coronavirus (Covid-19) Infection:**

Public Health England has published guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at risk or has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. The guidance can be found [here](#)

[\[RETURN TO THE TOP\]](#)

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Testing Eligibility Extended to Help Protect the Most Vulnerable**

The government has announced that anyone in England showing symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) who has to leave the home to go to work, or is aged 65 and over, is eligible for testing along with members of their households with symptoms. This is in addition to all essential workers with symptoms. Testing can be booked through a new online system.

Guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) testing, including who is eligible for a test, how to get tested and the different types of test available can be found [here](#)

[\[RETURN TO THE TOP\]](#)

## **Y13 Students in England Encouraged to Apply Now for Student Finance**

The Student Loans Company has confirmed that the application service will remain open to students as part of its response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and are encouraging students in England to apply for student finance as soon as possible to ensure their finances are in place for the new academic year.

New students are being asked to submit their applications before 22 May 2020. The Student Loans Company is contacting returning students to remind them to reapply for their next year's student finance. The deadline for these applications is 19 June.

Applications for student finance can be made by clicking [here](#)

[\[RETURN TO THE TOP\]](#)

## **Four Tips for a Smooth Home Learning Routine**

The Notre Dame Research School education partners, the Educational Endowment Foundation, have produced a very short [blog](#) providing four tips for a smooth home learning routine. It's an easy read that will hopefully affirm much of what you are already doing. It also contains a link to the NHS site '[Every Mind Matters](#)' that provides tips on looking after our own wellbeing and that of our children and young people.

[\[RETURN TO THE TOP\]](#)

## **7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home**

Reading is one thing we can all still enjoy and something the English Department are facilitating through the links on their google classrooms. Some young people are avid readers; others require a little more encouragement. Although this set of [tips](#) from the EEF may on the face of it suit younger children, it can easily be adapted to suit a conversation with any school-aged child.

For other supportive, evidence informed resources from the EEF click [here](#)

[\[RETURN TO THE TOP\]](#)

### **Finally, a Prayer for Key Workers**

**(Gratefully reproduced from the [St Georges Parish Website](#))**

Heavenly Father, we bring to you in prayer all those whose work is essential for our country in this time of crisis.

We pray for those who work in supermarkets and local shops and ensure we are provided with food and essential items; for those in our postal and delivery services and the men and women working in factories and warehouses.

We pray for those who collect our rubbish and keep our streets clean; for those who ensure our electricity and gas supplies, our television, radio, telephone, mobile and broadband services continue.

We pray for scientists, researchers, laboratory technicians and other staff, pharmacists, doctors, nurses, care workers, cleaners, managers, porters, medical technicians and all who keep our medical services going.

We remember those who work in funeral homes and at crematoriums, for those who manage our graveyards.

We hold in prayer and gratitude all these, and more, and ask your blessing upon them. Keep them safe, Lord, and grant them courage and patience, fortitude and perseverance. May their generosity, dedication, and service of our community count in their favour with you, O God, and may we hold on to a new found respect for them long after this crisis is ended.

Amen

[\[RETURN TO THE TOP\]](#)