

St Robert of Newminster

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Friday 15th January 2021

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Important reminder

Year 12 Health & Social Care Exam

Tuesday 19th January 2021

Unit 7: Safeguarding

Exam starts at 9:00am. Please

arrive 15 minutes prior to the exam

and meet at student

reception. You

should wear full school

uniform.

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends of the School

I trust this newsletter finds you well and coping with what is again a difficult situation for everyone in many different ways. The hope provided by the current vaccination programme is most welcome, but does not immediately ease the challenges so many of us are facing at the moment, nor does it take away from our own collective responsibilities around Covid and the slowing of its spread.

As a school, we are trying to support you as best we can throughout this time. Many thanks for the kind messages we have received from so many of you already, praising the efforts of staff and commending the online learning provision for students. It is very pleasing to know that the online lessons have been so well received by students, and I thank staff for their ongoing work in making this happen. We are constantly checking on student engagement, but please let me reiterate the need for students to log on every day and follow their normal school timetable. Not only does this bring structure and purpose to their day, but it ensures that students are continuing to learn throughout their time at home, until they can (hopefully soon) return to school. Please do continue to encourage and ensure this engagement from your children, and if you are experiencing difficulties please do contact the school.

We also are seeking to support students and their families in many other ways in order to ensure their own welfare and well-being. If you do feel that as a family you or your children are struggling and do need some extra support of some kind, please do not be shy in approaching the school and we will do what we can. You will not be the only ones.

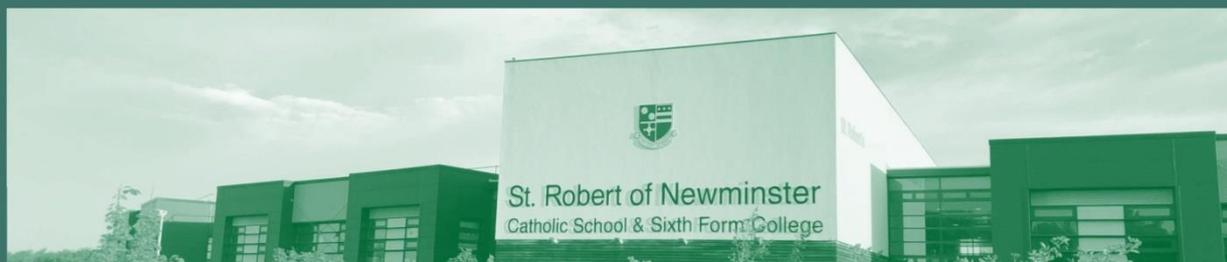
I realise that Year 11 and Year 13 students in particular will be concerned about the interruption to their learning, especially following the recent announcements regarding examinations this summer. The government is soon to launch a rapid consultation process on the detail of how grades will be assessed in the absence of GCSE and A Level examinations in their usual form. As soon as we have more information, which we can share with you, we will do so. However, as I said in one of my recent letters home, the best thing students can do in the meantime is to ensure they fully engage with their online learning, complete all work required of them, and still ensure that they are reviewing and revising work on an ongoing basis. It appears very likely that there will be some form of assessment this summer, even if it is not the usual GCSE or A Level examination. Students must still ensure they put themselves in the best position possible for the summer. We will update you further, when we have more news to share.

I hope you find the rest of this newsletter enjoyable and informative. Please continue to take care, stay safe, and let us all keep one another in our prayers.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Juric

Head Teacher



Thank you from Mr Clark

I would like to thank students for their participation in their live lessons so far. Students have adapted superbly to this new way of working. Student engagement has been excellent, and the quality of work submitted has been great. Student behaviour has been excellent. Students have been polite and respectful and have used the Teams platform in a professional and appropriate way. Whilst I am very pleased with the start we have made with live lessons, students must continue to join their lessons on time and participate fully throughout, which I am sure they will. I would also like to thank parents/carers for their ongoing support with remote learning. Information and guidance to support remote learning can be found in our Teams Learning Portal [here](#).

Mr S Clark

Assistant Head Teacher

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Sixth Form Online Open Event

Year 11 students will be able to explore the vast range of courses during our Online Open Event on Thursday 28th January. This is a great opportunity for students to discover more about the 35 A Level and Vocational courses on offer. The Online Open Event will showcase a series of subject area videos helping students with their A Level choices. Along with the online Sixth Form prospectus, it will provide students with all the information they need to help them make the right choices for Post-16 study. All Year 11 students are currently taking part in Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) interviews with Sixth Form and senior staff to discuss their plans for next year. This is an important decision for students and we are here to provide any support and guidance we can. Please email sixthform@str.bwcet.com if you would like any further information.

D Bayne
Head of 6th Form

A Prayer for Our School

Dear Father,

Thank you for all those women and men who have give their talents to educating our young people. Through the challenges they encounter each day, lead them to an ever deeper appreciation of the sacred duty to which you have called them.

We give thanks for the invaluable work of all those who contribute to the efficient running of our school; support staff, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, governors and our chaplain. We thank them for their hard work and dedication and we pray that they may continue to work in support of our school.

Thank you for all those who lead our school. May they be people of integrity so that they can be witnesses as well as teachers. We pray that our school will continue to be a place where our young people can experience God's love in their lives.

Thank you for our whole school. Help us to pray without ceasing, to work without wavering and to give without grudging in order to ensure the future of Catholic education for all of our pupils.

We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord,

Amen.

Rewarding Engagement & Effort

All teachers at St Robert's are keen to reward the excellent engagement and effort that our young people are demonstrating during these challenging times. From next week different pupils will be nominated across departments and will receive this postcard as recognition of their excellent effort.



How to support your child during lockdown

Five key factors that make a big contribution to the success of pupils in our school:

1. Punctuality

All pupils should be on time to registration and their online lessons. Lessons are now scheduled for 50 minutes to give pupils the necessary time to transition from one lesson to the next. It is incredibly important to arrive on time so that pupils do not miss any information.

2. Attendance

Pupils should attend all of their scheduled lessons each day. Parents/guardians should contact school as they usually would to explain if their child is unable to complete live lessons from home.

3. Uniform

We do not expect pupils to wear uniform at home; however, we do encourage our pupils to maintain good routines. Ensuring you are dressed and ready to learn with all the correct resources for that day.

4. Gold Standard

The poster below outlines the eight 'Gold Standard' criteria we expect from our pupils. These criteria apply as much to home learning as they do to school.

5. Engagement & Effort

The more engagement and effort that pupils give during their lessons the more progress they will make. Teachers will be providing lots of opportunities for pupils to engage and interact. Please encourage your child to take an active part in their home learning.



GOLD STANDARD WORK

- 1 All of your work must be completed using neat and legible handwriting.
- 2 All responses to feedback must be completed in green, including literacy and numeracy corrections.
- 3 All dates and titles must be underlined with a ruler.
- 4 Except for responses to feedback, all work must be completed in blue or black pen.
- 5 No incomplete work or gaps in books—any missed work must be caught up as soon as possible.
- 6 Diagrams, tables and graphs must be completed in pencil and using a ruler.
- 7 All sheets must be stuck in your book neatly.
- 8 Take pride in your work—your book will be a key revision resource.

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Made with by www.canva.com

What is GCSE pod?

GCSE pod is an online learning platform that gives students access to over 6,000 3-5 minute video clips known as “Pods”. All Pods are designed to deliver knowledge in short bursts, are mapped to an exam board and contain all the correct facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams students require for their GCSE examinations.

GCSE pod gives students access to a range of mini assessments, check and challenge activities, booster playlists, quick quizzes, study smart tips and more. It covers all GCSE subjects and exam boards taught in School and allows students to check their understanding and teachers to set students homework assignments to support this.

How do you log in?

All students in Years 9, 10 and 11 should have a GCSE pod account. Students should use GCSE pod to support their learning but also check their GCSE pod accounts regularly and make sure that all assignments set by teachers are completed and any feedback acted on.

If a student has not yet activated their GCSE pod account or cannot remember how to log in, they should follow the steps below:

1. Go to www.gcsepod.com and click “**Login**” in the top right-hand corner
2. If they have an account enter username or email address and password
3. If they have not registered an account, click on ‘**New here? Get started**’ select ‘**student**’ and enter their **name, date of birth** and **the school name**. This is linked to the school registers so the student must enter their name as it appears on the register.

If a student has forgotten their username or password or are struggling to activate their account, please email the school email address and we will be able to assist you with this.

If students wish, they can download GCSEPod to their mobile device so that they can use it at any time, in any place, with or without internet. To do so, they can find the GCSEPod app from the App Store (Apple and Android are supported).

A very well done to the large number of students who continue to use GCSE pod to complete additional revision, assignments, quizzes and research to support their online learning. Keep up the excellent work!

WEEKLY WINNERS

Each week the top GCSE pod users across Year 9, 10 and 11 will be announced in the newsletter, so look out for your name! For this week, congratulations go to following students for winning the Y11 competition for top usage in the last week of term and 11L1 for their consistently high use, in preparation for their mock examinations.

Tutor group:

- 11L1 (152 views)

Students:

- Marnie Curry - Evie Smith - Lily Williams

Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support children and families

The Department for Education is piloting a scheme to temporarily increase data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted.

Who can get help:

Schools can request mobile data increases for children and young people who meet all 3 of these criteria:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- EE
- O2
- Sky Mobile
- SMARTY
- Tesco Mobile
- Three
- Virgin Mobile
- Vodafone
- Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage.

When help is available

Schools can request mobile data increases when schools report a closure or have pupils self-isolating.

This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted. When the increase is successful you will get a text notifying you of this from your mobile network, not the school.

If you feel your child meets the 3 criteria outlined above, please click on the following link to take you to an application form where you will need to give information on the mobile phone number and mobile network for the school to apply on your child's behalf:

If you have any questions about this please contact Mrs Dunn, Assistant Headteacher.

[Request to increase mobile data allowance January 2020 \(office.com\)](#)



Mental Health Support

It's understandable that some of us may be feeling a bit overwhelmed and scared by everything that we are hearing about coronavirus disease (COVID-19) right now.

Children and young people react, in part, on what they see from the adults around them. When parents and caregivers deal with COVID-19 calmly and confidently, they can provide the best assurance possible for their loved one. In order to reassure other's, it is helpful if we, ourselves, understand what is happening.

Not all children and young people respond to stress in the same way.

Some common changes to watch for include;

- Excessive crying or irritation in younger children
- Returning to behaviours they have outgrown (for example, requiring more reassurance than normal)
- Excessive worry or sadness
- Unhealthy eating or sleeping habits
- Irritability and "acting out" behaviours in teens
- Poor school performance or avoiding school
- Difficulty with attention and concentration
- Avoidance of activities enjoyed in the past
- Unexplained headaches or body pain
- Use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs



There are many things you can do to support your child.

Don't avoid the 'scary topic' but engage in a way that is appropriate for them. Take time to talk with your child or teen about the COVID-19 outbreak.

Reassure your child or teen that they are safe. Let them know it is ok if they feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress so that they can learn how to cope from you.

Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand. We need to minimise this negative impact it has on our children and explain the facts to them. Discuss the news with them but try and avoid over-exposure to coverage of the virus. Be as truthful as possible.

Try to keep up with regular routines. If schools are closed, create a schedule for learning activities and relaxing or fun activities.

Be a role model. Take breaks, get plenty of sleep, exercise, and eat well. Connect with your friends and family members.

Involving our family and children in our plans for good health is essential. We need be alert to and ask children what they have heard about the outbreak and support them, without causing them alarm.

Support Available

If you are concerned about your child's mental health and you feel like your child needs further support please contact your sons Head of House. They will call to discuss the most appropriate help for them.

Remember that Kooth is always available if young people are feeling overwhelmed and needs counselling support during this time.

www.kooth.com

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>