



Headmaster's Update

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Dear Parents,

I hope you, your son and family are all keeping well and safe. This is without question the strangest end to a term that I can remember. As we have now completed two weeks of remote learning from home, you will know by now that the Government of Jersey has stated that all Jersey schools will now not open before 30 April. In this last Newsletter of the Spring Term, our Assistant Head Academic, Patrick Crossley, outlines our academic approach when term officially begins again on 20 April. These have been unprecedented times and your support in keeping your sons motivated with their learning is very much appreciated. I would like to share with you a message from our Head Boy, Sam Moore which I hope you will pass on to your son.

Dear all,

Hope you are all doing well and staying safe.

I'm sure we are all a little confused with the situation at hand and should simply take it day by day until things begin to become more certain.

Obviously you've all been set a range of work to get done and I expect it may not be the most enjoyable thing to be doing with the amount of uncertainty in the current environment, but I anticipate many of you so far will be doing great. However, if you do come across any trouble, whether that be academic or not, do not hesitate to get in contact with any of the staff, a prefect or even myself, because we are all here to help.

Try your best to stay positive during this time and make sure you keep in contact with your mates during this tricky period. Keep up the good work lads, it'll be worth it in the future whether you've got exams coming up or not.

Kind regards,

Sam Moore, Head Boy



This has been a difficult and uncertain time for our Year 11 and 13 students, however I am pleased to confirm that Ofqual released information this morning and our Assistant Head of Academic, Mr Crossley, expands on the awarding of summer exam grades in his message below. I feel it is important to offer some reassurance in these changing times and to reiterate our commitment, as a school, to our students and to you as families and the wider community. We have never faced a situation like this before and our response is evolving daily and we will be back in touch after the Easter break to communicate regularly as we move into uncharted waters. As ever, I am proud of our students, colleagues and community - we will face this together and emerge stronger from it.

HOME LEARNING PROTOCOL – Message from Dr Hughes, Deputy Headmaster

I am pleased to confirm, that as of today, we have made contact, or attempted to make contact, with the parents of every boy in the school at least once since school was closed.

If Victoria College remains closed through any part of next term, the Home Learning protocols will remain in place. Both staff and pupils have been engaging well over the last two weeks with the current guidance.

However, it is important that we take on board feedback and thank you to parents and boys who have contacted us with suggestions for improvements. Please be assured that we are working on ideas for how best to deliver lessons, and wellbeing advice, to our boys going forward, during these difficult and uncertain times. We will update parents on any changes to our Home Learning protocols in due course.

AWARDING PUBLIC EXAMINATION GRADES FOR YEAR 11 & YEAR 13 – Message from Mr Crossley, Assistant Head Academic

This morning, the UK Department for Education released information about how GCSE and A level grades will be awarded. Information for Parents & Carers can be found [here](#). Students have been sent a separate email to their @vcj.sch.je accounts from myself and Mr Falle to pass on the information to them, as well as a letter from the Chief Regulator of Ofqual.

For those subjects that follow the Cambridge International courses (IGCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Drama and Computer Studies and International A level Chemistry only), there is a separate update due on Tuesday 7th April that will outline what their process for submitting grades will be. N.B., this may be slightly different to the Ofqual process. Once that has been received, it too will be passed on to you and your sons.

I will write to parents of boys in Year 11 and Year 13 on Monday to update you in more depth about how we will be conducting this process, and again after we have received an update from Cambridge International.

What we are doing for Year 11 & Year 13 after Easter

In the meantime, please see below what academic provision is in place post Easter for Year 11 & Year 13;

Year 11 – Weekly tasks have been set in each of their A level subjects, prepared by Heads of Department, to help bridge the gap between GCSE and A level. A further introduction to the EPQ and research project, as well as more of a general day-to-day induction into the Sixth Form and important study skills will continue after the May half term break. Students will also receive the usual post GCSE results service, with regards advice on A level course selection.

Year 13 – University preparation tasks and reading lists will be shared with all students according to their plans for next year. A further course in preparing for life beyond school, as well as goal setting, will continue after May half term break. Students will also receive the usual post A level results service, with University entrance advice, and guidance through Adjustment and Clearing.

Academic Update for Years 7-10 & Year 12

Thank you all so much for your support and understanding over this last week as we continue to refine our delivery of remote lessons. The kind comments and feedback we have received have been extremely helpful as we look toward to the next half term.

Please see below an overview of the academic plan for Year 7-10 and Year 12 up until May half term if the school continues to be closed;

Year 7 & Year 8 – Continue with planned curriculum, building towards an assessment week in w/c 18 May. These will be different to a formal exam week with each Department deciding on how best to assess your son's learning across the year.

Year 9 & Year 10 – Continue with planned curriculum. An assessment week is, at present, planned for after half term.

Year 12 – Continue with planned curriculum, building towards the Pre Public Examinations in w/c 18 May.

As ever, if you have any further comments with regards the academic provision for your son, please do contact Patrick Crossley (p.crossley@vcj.sch.je).

HOW ARE THE BOYS COPING IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES? – Message from Mr Gosling, Assistant Head Pastoral

“How do we support teenagers during the Corona Virus outbreak and the impact of isolation?”

Introduction

Many teenagers will struggle with isolation. Below are some tips / guidance on how to support your teenager during these difficult times and allow them to see the bigger picture.

Friends feel like everything for many teenagers which can make social isolation even more challenging. Losing contact with friends and not being able to 'hang out' can have a negative emotional impact. Many teenagers resent being treated like children. A key desire for many teenagers is to be more independent from their parents. Hence many teenagers will struggle to follow the new guidelines for social isolation which can lead to increased tensions with parents and stress within the home.

What can we do to encourage teens to comply with social-distancing measures and reduce tensions within the home? I'm sure many of you are already implementing the following advice.

Advice

Treating teenagers like competent young adults may produce benefits during these challenging times which can be encouraged by the following:

- **Expecting them to contribute to your household in meaningful ways.** They can help with meal preparations and household cleaning and keeping family spaces clear of their belongings. They can also help with cleaning by vacuuming and wiping down the counters. Displaying positive behaviours towards their siblings and reducing conflict is a meaningful contribution for the whole family. Planning fun activities for the family to do together will also help to promote harmony within the home environment.
- **Allowing them to manage themselves, their own schoolwork, and their other responsibilities without undue parental pressure.** Parents should set clear expectations and help establish a structure and support they need to operate under current conditions implemented by the government. Parents should also continue to engage with them. However, it does mean that we give them the space to operate freely within the limits agreed by the family.
- **Ask them to help us with our work.** One easy way of doing this is explaining the importance of meetings in the world of work. Many parents will be working from home and holding online meetings where constant interruptions with questions or issues which are not urgent can become increasingly frustrating and a

source of tension. This can be resolved if the importance of such meetings is explained to your teenage son and any issues can be dealt with after the meetings have been completed.

- **Using non-controlling, non-directive language.** A positive way to approach this is by asking questions phrased in the following ways: “Is there anything that I can do to help you get some exercise today?” “What’s your plan for getting your homework done?” This makes it clear that they are still in control of their own behaviour, and it helps them connect to their own motivations and intentions. Often teens simply need to make a plan, and sometimes if they aren’t asked to articulate it, they won’t do it—especially those who are used to being nagged because they know their parents will eventually get frustrated and do their planning for them.
- **Acknowledge that all of this is *so challenging*.** Many students coming home from school are experiencing great losses right now. Their feelings of grief, anxiety, stress, and isolation are hard to cope with. One of the great lessons of adulthood is that they can do challenging things.
- **Recognising the role of Social Media.** Ensure down time and allow them to maintain contact with their friends via Social Media etc. This will help to reduce their feelings of isolation. However, this does need to be monitored closely as Social Media can be misused and its overuse can have negative impacts such as interrupting sleep patterns. Teenagers should be encouraged not to use electronic equipment after 9pm as the research suggests this has a negative impact on sleeping.
- **The following are possible comments which can be said to a teenager who is resisting isolation:**
 1. We know that you want to see your friends. We know that you are bored and lonely.
 2. We hope you see clearly that you are not a passive actor here, along for the ride. Your actions are directly affecting the course of this crisis.
 3. We are wondering: What do you truly care most about in this crisis?
 4. Who can you help, and who are you concerned that you might harm? How can you use your skills to help the world right now?
 5. Your grandchildren are going to ask you about the role you played during this pandemic. What will you tell them?
 6. Show them news reports coming out of Italy and the USA which emphasise the need to stay at home.
 7. Help them see that this is not about what they want or expect from life. It’s about what life is expecting from them. We expect them to rise to the occasion; to be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem.
 8. Help them understand that the best outcome right now is that the virus is brought under control before our hospitals collapse.

Summary

Teenagers are going to learn important life lessons. We are teaching our children both directly and through our own example how to take responsibility both for ourselves and our immediate family, and for our local and global community, as well. We are all being called to demonstrate our character and commitment to others and to the wider society. Our young people have a key role to play as well and now can reveal their full potential.

The above has been adapted from the work of: Christine Carter, Ph.D.

She is the author of [The New Adolescence: Raising Happy and Successful Teens in an Age of Anxiety and Distraction](#) (BenBella, 2020), [Raising Happiness: 10 Simple Steps for More Joyful Kids and Happier Parents](#) (Random House, 2010).

PSHE – YouMatter Video

YouMatter can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @YouMatterje. They are asking students through social media, in particular Instagram, to request any content that might be helpful for them. Their initial video

focuses on emotional wellbeing and coping skills and is well worth a watch for both students and parents alike. View here [YouMatter video](#).

VICTORIA COLLEGE PREFECTS 2020/21

I am pleased to inform you that the below listed boys have been appointed as Victoria College Prefects for the 2020/21 academic year. When back in school, we will hold an assembly to formally announce these and at the same time, will announce the senior posts. As per usual, there will be an opportunity for boys to apply for a second wave in September. Well done boys.

<p>Braithwaite Josh Brown Leo Olsson Jared Toudic</p> <p>Bruce Aidan Boyle Joshua Lawrenson</p> <p>Diarmid Dylan Kotedia Sammy Cooil</p>	<p>Dunlop Umar Hamid Joshua Stuart Aidan Stride Oliver Wilderspin</p> <p>Sartorius Patrick Gouge Robbie Forrest Ben Wiseman Oliver Cawley</p>
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PSHE – PPE – Message from Mr Batchford, Head of PSHE

Our 3D printer is running 24/7 at my house to support the island wide production of PPE for frontline workers. Over the Easter holiday we will be in school to produce a handmade version.



SIXTH FORM Pre-Public Exams – message from Mr Falle, Head of Sixth Form

Please be advised that Pre-Public Exams will not take place in April. Formal confirmation of this will be posted home and we will set a new date for the exams once we know when we can return to school. Keep up your current efforts in completing work set and don't forget to get some revision done when you can.

HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION – Mr Akers, Senior Teacher: Co-Curricular

Thank you for all the entries, these are being reviewed and the result will be announced over the Easter break. Should you need to, Mr Akers can be contacted here k.akers@vcj.sch.je.

ORDANCE SURVEY MAP PUZZLE – Mr O'Hare, Head of Geography, DofE Manager, Lt IC Navy

Just a heads-up that I will be issuing a quiz that boys and families can try, answers will be given the following day, along with another puzzle. This is great for boosting map skills and is suitable for all year groups.

CCF

Message for Year 12 Cadets – Re-posted from Twitter

The SNCO Application Forms have been emailed to all parents; a kind reminder that these can be completed electronically and must be returned by email no later than Sunday 19 April (end of the Easter Break).

Message to Cadets from Contingent Commander – Re-posted from Twitter

I would expect and demand you as responsible young adults to comply with the new Government measures to take the spread of Coronavirus. Stay safe and respect your family members.

PSHE – Message from Mr Batchford, Head of PSHE

I was very impressed by the standard of responses for the Dream Job activity set for Year 8. It shows how well boys are embracing and dealing with home learning. Thank you to Fin who gave his permission for us to showcase his work.



What will I do

BY FIN PERREE

i would love to work as a mechanical engineer at McLaren technology centre in Woking. To be a mechanical engineer i must at least have a bachelors degree in mechanical engineering and then if i would like i can pursue higher grades in mechanical engineering. Additionally i would have to have a basic idea on civil engineering, electrical engineering and chemical engineering. To be a professional engineer i will have to do a 4 year bachelors course credited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology and then have work experience under the supervision of a license engineer.



McLaren Automotive is an iconic British-based, globally revered manufacturer of luxury, high-performance sports cars.

Where

I would hopefully work at McLaren's Headquarters in Woking, London. The picture above shows you the office.



How?

I would love to have a small apartment near the office and work 5 days a week. The location is great as i am near Jersey but i can still catch a train to London's centre. If i wanted to i could start my own business such as a car making brand or i could stay at McLaren and work there which would be easier.

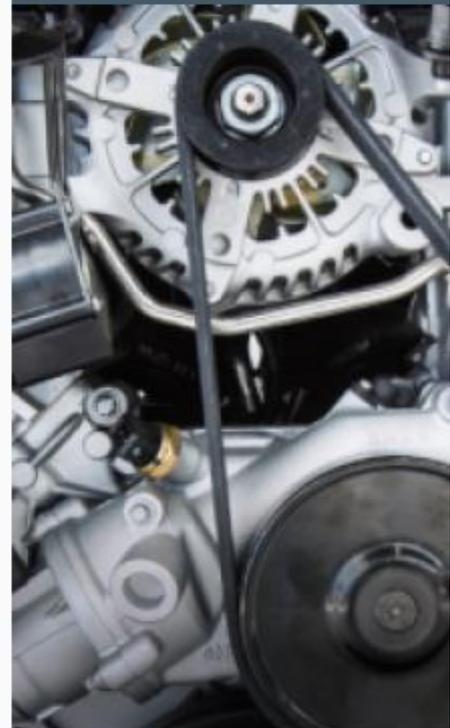


Head of Mechanical Engineering

The primary objectives are to lead and manage the Mechanical Engineering functional area of the business with a focus on vision, execution of strategy, career management and accountability for function performance and delivery. By the end of the first year, execute the plan to establish a performant function with a clear strategic roadmap.

"Life is measured in achievement, not in years alone."

BRUCE MCLAREN



SHOWMYHOMEWORK

There are a range of Academic Enrichment activities for all subjects and ages now on SMHW for boys and their families. We hope that this helps everyone stay motivated and happy during this difficult time.

CODE WITH KPMG



The image is a screenshot of a social media post for 'CODE WITH KPMG'. At the top, it says '@SMIRZAS ON TWITCH' and 'CODE WITH KPMG'. Below that, it says 'STREAMING EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY 2PM-3PM' and 'STARTING TUESDAY 7TH APRIL'. There is a small profile picture of a man in a suit. The text below the profile picture says 'Code with KPMG Streaming every Tuesday & Thursday' and 'In the current and slightly surreal time we now live in, with many families facing unusual circumstances due to the temporary closure of schools, KPMG is delighted to offer free virtual coding lessons. This course is open to anyone, from schoolchildren to adults, it would be fantastic if you could share news of this with your teachers and pupils, via goodnotes and email so that they may register if interested. The sessions begin next Tuesday 7th April and will run for 10 weeks, every Tuesday and Thursday at 2pm. It's a great way to learn about and gain in with coding, and something that families can enjoy completing together. Learning at home is a great way to stimulate boredom and stimulate the mind in these restrictive times. We apologise for this short notice, the Code with KPMG team have only recently announced that they are able to hold the course virtually. For an overview of the course, please view the [intro video](#).

Rob Kirby
Head of Digital Academy

Rob Kirby
Head of Digital Academy
KPMG Channel (Ipswich) Limited
robk@kpmg.com

KPMG is delighted to offer free live lessons in #Python coding, open to all ages. Sessions commence Tuesday 7 April.

Sessions will run for 10 weeks, every Tuesday and Thursday at 2pm.

An overview of the course is available here [intro video](#)

Our thanks to Mr Rob Kirkby for offering this course.

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER – MUSICALS

For musical lovers, starting from this Friday Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals can be viewed online in a new series for West End and Broadway fans. Entitled "The Shows Must Go On", the series will start with the 2000 adaptation of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat starring Donny Osmond, Maria Friedman, Richard Attenborough and Joan Collins. The show will be available for 48 hours from Friday 3 April at 7pm BST.

The following week the 2012 production of Jesus Christ Superstar will be aired and new musicals will be added weekly. While free, the channel does invite viewers to donate to a variety of charities.

Link for ["The Shows Must Go On"](#)

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE

For anyone who has considered learning British Sign Language, this online signing course is a comprehensive introduction for anybody interested in learning BSL. A flexible study-time course is valid for one year and is said to be ideal for beginners, level 1 revision, staff training and for DoE. There is a minimal fee of £3.00 for students.

[British Sign Language Course.](#)

I wish you all a safe and peaceful break.

With kind regards,
Alun Watkins
Headmaster