



Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Thank You

I would like to start by saying thank you for all the support and encouragement that you are providing in helping your children attend school and the words of encouragement you are sharing with staff who are also adapting to new ways of working.

The students have been an absolute joy to have in school over their first month. Behaviour is always good at the school but it has as ever been very good. They have been amazingly resilient and adaptable and got used to the new routines. We are so impressed with their handwashing, understanding of the need to keep with their year group bubbles, and keep 2m socially distanced from adults. They really are an absolute credit to you. Thank you for all the guidance, advice and care you have given them to make the most of the on-site education. We will continue to remind students of the safety guidance they need to follow.

Support

It is a challenging time for everyone and we realise that the new arrangements in terms of bubbles, whilst making us safer, maybe causing anxiety or stress to some in our community. If your child is struggling, please do not hesitate to contact us using the approaches previously shared as we would love to support.

Face Masks and Hand Sanitiser

We are currently following Government guidelines regarding use of face masks. Our plans in case of Tier 2 lockdown will require all students and staff to wear face coverings in communal indoor areas e.g. corridors. We hope that a lockdown scenario won't become reality but please ensure that you have enough supply of face masks and a specific storage bag for them in case we need to go to a Tier 2 lockdown at short notice.

Please also ensure that the students have their own personal hand sanitiser to use in school. This is an important part of their daily kit.

St Peter's CofE school, Exeter recognised for national excellence

During lockdown the Church of England Education Office developed a partnership with Oak National Academy to help students across the country access short films designed to help and equip young people to explore faith.

Faith at Home is a national campaign that seeks to support the faith development and pastoral care of children and young people.

Jonny Baker's (St. Peter's, Assistant Headteacher & Chaplain) excellent work has been recognised by Ofsted and SIAMS inspections. He was asked to produce resources for Secondary schools nationally and the videos were watched by thousands across the UK.



St Peter's Church of England Aided School

Following the success of series one, the Church of England have commissioned two further series and Jonny has been selected once again to write and develop resources for schools up and down the country.

faith at home



A Message from the PTA

We are really happy to let you know we are now able to receive donations and sell second hand uniform. If you require any items from us please email PTA@spexe.org with your requirements and sizes. We will then check our stock to see if we can help and reply with prices and collection arrangements. Likewise, if you have any uniform you no longer require and wish to donate it, please let us know.

Don't forget any money we make selling second hand uniform is directly helping with purchases of non curriculum items for the students, that the school could not afford to buy from their school budget...

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

After Risk Assessments for Extra-curricular opportunities have been created we are now able to recommence instrumental lessons and some sporting activities as well as some small group Drama and Music rehearsals. This is an incredibly generous offer from staff who are showing great adaptability with approaches to doing the best they can for students.



St Peter's Church of England Aided School

Year 6 Open Day and Evening

Our open evening video has been viewed many times with lots of positive feedback. We have followed Government and DCC guidelines in not holding our usual onsite events.

If any of your friends who may be considering sending their children here have any queries about the Governors' Admissions Policy, please suggest they view the video on our website along with the FAQ and contact our Admissions Team (openevening@spexe.org).

For those of you applying for siblings, it is very important that you complete the Local Authority application form in addition to the school supplementary information form (if you are applying for a faith place), which is available online via our website. Our closing date is matched with the Local Authority, i.e. 31st October 2020. It is best to sort out queries before Friday 23rd October as the School is closed for the holiday for a week.

The Local Authority would like parents/carers to apply on line, at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>

Lost Property

We have now received our order of new bins in order for us to be able to contain any lost items for 72 hours before it can be claimed. Any named items will be handed back to students via the tutor and any other items will be available for collection from the office at the end of the day.

Free School Meals

We know that the circumstances of many parents and carers change, and if you are not already registered for free school meals and think you may be entitled, please do register. This helps the school as some of our funding is allocated on the percentage of students on free school meals. This helps your family and the wider school community. Even if your child prefers to bring in a packed lunch, you can register for free school meals and have the occasional morning free from the chore of sandwich making! You could qualify if you receive:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit: if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get. This is also called the 'minimum income floor'.) If your child is eligible for free school meals they will be eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in on 31 March 2023.
- The Local Authority website, <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals> has all the information you need and you can apply 'on line'. Please contact Alison Green (Data Administrator) in School if you need more information (school@spexe.org or 01392 204764 and ask for Alison Green).



St Peter's Church of England Aided School

Resources to Support Sleep

We are picking up a number of issues regarding difficulty sleeping. I trust that the following will help.

<https://worldsleepday.org/usetoolkit/resources>

<https://www.nicolamorgan.com/wellbeing-and-stress-management/sleep-exams-and-holidays/>

<https://www.nicolamorgan.com/wellbeing-and-stress-management/27-52-ways-to-well-being-get-more-sleep/>

<https://www.choc.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Sleep-Hygiene-Teen-Handout.pdf>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sleep-and-tiredness/sleep-tips-for-teenagers/>

Positive Parent and Carer Feedback

Thank you for all of the lovely messages that we have received since the start of term. Here are just a few of them:

“Thank you very much for making these arrangements to run extra-curricular activities. Xxx is already looking forward to playing Frisbee.”

“We really appreciate all the efforts the school is making to provide a rich curriculum in these difficult circumstances.”

“Dear St Peters, this is really clear advice. Thank you for putting together.”

“The classchart is great, all clear in one place. xxx finds it easy to use and seems to like using it! One way of getting them to do homework.”

It is likely that you have moments when you feel worried for the future and concerned about what the winter holds, with the unpredictability of the pandemic. A headteacher colleague recently shared the following inspiring story with me. They attended the funeral of an elderly relative. She was an evacuee during the war. In her case, she was evacuated by boat and just as the boat left harbour, a storm blew up and the sea got very choppy and her friends started to be sick. Fortunately, her dad had been a sailor and had given her some tips. He told her to “suck on a lemon and keep your eye on the horizon”. She did this and managed to stay calm, focused and well! I feel that our country and our schools are going through choppy waters and that we can get through this if we focus on the horizon and do the bitter things that will keep us well and safe. Focusing on the horizon is keeping our eye on **HOPE**, on top quality learning and relationships. Sucking a lemon is not being afraid to do the bitter things that keep us safe.

Matthew 6:26-34 speaks of God's care for us in the practical things and his love for every living creature. Because of his love and care we do not have to worry about tomorrow, but focus on today. “Your heavenly father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Yours faithfully

Phil Randall
Headteacher



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