



St Peter's Church of England Aided School

Quarry Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AP www.spexe.org (01392) 204 764 school@spexe.org

Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say thank you for your support of staff in these challenging times.

In this letter you will find information on:

1. National recognition for St. Peter's
2. Communication Pathways
3. Changes to our Online Curriculum
4. Lockdown Life Skills



5. Praise and Recognition

National Recognition for St. Peter's

Following the successes of our approaches to bringing **HOPE** and developing Character our Assistant headteacher and School Chaplain, Jonny Baker will be working for some of each week with the Department for Education and Church of England on developing assembly resources that will be shared with all schools across the country during this time of COVID-19. The first of the biggest assemblies in the country can be found on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgdhOstV6il>

"May your choices reflect your hopes and not your fears"

Nelson Mandela

Communication Pathways

In these testing times we recognise that communication is more vital than ever. To that end, we are producing a weekly video update which will be posted each Friday on our website and social media. If you have missed the first 2 episodes, you can watch them here:

<https://www.spexe.org/covid-19/st-peters-weekly-update/>

<https://www.spexe.org/covid-19/st-peters-weekly-update-episode-2/>

'Life to the full for everyone.'



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We will continue to communicate to you via letters but we hope and pray that our weekly videos keep you up-to-date and well informed.

We are trying to communicate in clear and concise ways that don't bombard you. Below is a guide that we trust will help you and us share key information.

- **Subject Learning** – please email subject teachers if you have specific questions
- **Welfare needs** – please email tutors if you have specific questions
- **Text, Social Media, Website, Email and Letters** – we will try to keep these to a minimum with just key information so as not to overwhelm you

Changes to our Online Curriculum

Following feedback from students, parents, carers and staff we are adapting our approaches to help our students to engage with the new experience of learning from home. It is clear that five hours of on-line learning a day can take its toll. We are therefore making changes to our expectations of screen time and on-line learning from **Monday 4th May 2020**.

We know that each and every family has its own challenges so to make it easier to support your child with their home-schooling, we are introducing a more flexible model for learning from home.

Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 normally have 3 options spread over 4 option blocks. It is not easy to amalgamate this into a generic timetable. This is because every child has a slightly different combination of subjects and so it is very difficult to assign certain options into only 3 slots!

So we will be asking every child to assign each of their options a number between 1 and 3. It doesn't matter which order they assign these in as teachers will ensure work is set for each week. Please find attached google classroom codes for option subjects.

To offer guidance on what to study and for how long, we have produced an adapted timetable with a reduction in the allocated curriculum time (**see attached document that is a little different to the one shown on the video earlier today for more detail**). This is summarised below:

Year 7	3 hours of curriculum learning per day	+ Lockdown Life Skills
Year 8	3 hours of curriculum learning per day (Core Subjects + GCSE Options Subjects)	+ Lockdown Life Skills
Year 9	3 - 4 hours of curriculum learning per day with allocated 'consolidation or catch-up' time	+ Lockdown Life Skills
Year 10	4 hours of curriculum learning per day with allocated 'consolidation or catch-up' time	+ Lockdown Life Skills

Year 8, if you haven't already received your options letters, you should do so over the weekend. This will help you plan for the new Year 8 timetable.



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At home, learning tasks are often taking longer than they would in school. Therefore, where possible, we will set **core tasks (expected learning) with additional stretch and challenge opportunities**; this will help your child to do the right amount of learning for their ability and home situation and also enable students to do more than the three or four hours of daily learning if they wish to. We also understand that the feeling of being behind with learning can create anxiety; therefore, where possible, we have built in some time on the Timetable to consolidate or catch-up.

Work will be set at the start of each day but it is not possible to guarantee that teachers will be online at the time of the lesson. They will respond to questions at the earliest available opportunity.

As work is completed, it can be submitted via the Google Classroom or held in a portfolio at home, until it can be handed in to a teacher. Daily tasks will not routinely be marked but specific assessed tasks will be set by teachers in a timely way to give students the opportunity to show what they have learnt whilst studying at home. For the majority of subjects, these will be referred to as 'milestone tasks'; all subjects will be assessing where you are at with your learning and giving feedback in some way.

We are keen to reduce the time that students might spend at a screen on a daily basis. Nothing is more important to us than the well-being of our students and therefore we are creating greater balance in the range of learning activities on offer. On **Monday 4th May** we will be launching our....



At St Peter's, we have developed our own habit creating tool - The St Peter's Character Compass. You'll be familiar with it as we use it every day in school and copies are in your planner. It is designed to focus on specific habits that develop good character. The team that have created **LOCKDOWN** think that it's perfect for these new ways of learning.



For the rest of the time that school is not school as we know it, we will be sharing with you fortnightly opportunities to develop positive habits for living life to the full, using The St Peter's Character Compass.

We hope that these fortnightly challenges will give you fun, a better balance in learning and make memories for you and your family. Why not get your family from across the country or world involved? I'm sure grandparents, aunties, uncles and godparents will enjoy teaching you some of the challenges on video or phone calls or watching videos of you attempting them.



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You'll see on the attached document a copy of The Character Compass and more detail. Once you've got the skills, for some of the challenges your next challenge is to help pay the bills!

We'd love you to share photos and short videos that we can post on the website of you making these memories and developing habits for character. Please email them to us using the following email address: lockdownlifskills@spexe.org. We look forward to receiving and sharing them.

Praise and Recognition

Whilst school closure is in place, we are finding new ways to praise and recognise our students. Electronic Praise Postcards are being sent via email by individual teachers so that we can continue to recognise individual students for displaying Habits for Character, Personal Responsibility and Excellence. In addition, we are celebrating those students who are going 'above and beyond' at this time, by announcing on our Website all of the students who have received Subject nominations for Student of the Month.

Over the coming week I will be praying for our St. Peter's community – for good health, patience, spirits of generosity and thankfulness, so that we notice and are grateful for things that we do have.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Randall".

Phil Randall
Headteacher