



# St Peter's Church of England Aided School

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

4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued support and kind words of encouragement for staff and support of your children's education in these testing times. I do understand the frustration, disruption and concern that self-isolation can cause for all of us whether we be students, parents or staff. Every day and weekend we don't have a positive case in our school community, feels a huge relief, even cause for celebration!

As a school we will continue to seek the best provision we can and this involves communications with DCC, PHE representatives, MPs and other partnerships in order to maximise student and staff attendance in school. The self-isolation of staff and students has been a significant challenge. So far this term we have had positive student cases and no positive staff cases. Our Risk Assessment has been approved and is monitored and reviewed on at least a weekly basis. We continue to work together implementing our risk assessment in order to do all we reasonably can to keep everyone as safe as possible. We have managed to keep the school open despite large numbers of Teaching Assistants and Teachers needing to self-isolate in accordance with PHE guidance.

If we do have a high number of staff self-isolating there is a possibility that we may not be able to have safe levels of staffing on site. In such scenarios we may need to provide remote learning to year groups off site. We really do not want this situation to occur and so in order to help us maximise student and staff attendance your continued support of the following is absolutely vital.

## Your responsibilities as a parent/carer

By taking on these responsibilities you are helping the school to stay open and to stay as safe as possible by not spreading infection to students or staff.

- If your child has symptoms of covid-19, do not send them into school
- If your child has been isolating, do not send them to school before the isolation period ends
- If your child has had a negative test result they should still self-isolate until this time ends
- If your child uses public transport, please ensure they wear a face covering
- Face coverings should be worn by adults and children aged 11 and above when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms or activity rooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This will include movement between lessons, to and from use of toilets and movement to and from break and lunchtime.

## What are the symptoms of Covid-19?

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

## Year 11 Exams Update

We will of course inform you as we learn more. I anticipate more detail and confirmation will be provided to us by the Department of Education (DfE). As of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 here is a summary of our understanding of how the Summer 2021 series of exams will be conducted.

*'Life to the full for everyone.'*



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The DfE says it has had "extensive engagement" with exams watchdog Ofqual, exam boards and senior leaders across the education sector.

The measures mean:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with results from summer 2020, so that this year's cohort is not disadvantaged
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in exams to focus revision
- exam aids - such as formula sheets - provided in some exams to cut down on the memorising required and to improve students confidence
- additional "backup" exams - to be held in July - to give students a second chance to sit a paper if they have to miss main exams or assessments due to illness or self-isolation
- and a new expert group, which will monitor variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

In extreme cases, where a student misses all their papers, a teacher-assessed grade will be given.

Those young people taking vocational and technical qualifications will also see adaptations to their exams to ensure fairness.

## **Covid Updates to Risk Assessment**

### **Ventilation**

We are aware that as the temperature drops at this time of year, there is a need to try to balance good ventilation against a comfortable teaching environment for all staff and students. We are currently working closely with the owners of the building to assess whether we are able to make the building warmer for us all while keeping appropriate safety measures in place. We hope to have further information on this shortly.

### **Wet Break**

We continue to monitor our year group bubbles very closely. As well as the separate entrances for the five year groups, there are also discrete areas outside (in fine weather) and inside (in wet weather) where the year groups are kept apart. When it is wet, year groups 7, 8, and 10 go to the Dance Studio, Canteen and Sports Hall respectively. As these are large communal areas, masks should be worn (if applicable) during the time that students occupy these spaces.

### **Face Masks**

Where applicable, please continue to help us by making sure your child has a mask available to them before they leave for school. Unless exempt, all staff and students use face coverings when moving around the site and in communal areas now. This is an important part of our risk assessment and your support in helping us implement this is appreciated.

### **Social Distancing at the School Gate**

Devon County Council have received requests, passed on from communities living near schools/working near schools, that school leaders continue to request that parents remain socially distanced, during drop-off or collection of their children, from each other and other members of the public they pass. If possible, parents and teenagers are also requested to wear masks.



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## Christmas Holidays and Travel Abroad

Devon County Council has strongly advised that all students and staff follow the latest government guidance in order to keep themselves and their communities safe. As would usually be the case staff will need to be available to work in school during term time. More information can be found in the schools guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

## School Budgets

There is no doubt that school budgets have been hit hard by Covid-19, with Governors and Headteachers across the country seeking further government support for costs created by Covid-19 such as cover costs for self-isolating staff, additional staffing, additional health and safety measures.

We hope that in some way if as many users of Amazon as possible can use the following opportunity to support St. Peter's our budget will be slightly healthier.

Do you shop at Amazon? Would you like to support St Peter's school as you shop online? If so, please visit [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk). It looks and works exactly the same as your normal Amazon page; However each time you complete a purchase, it donates 0.5% to St Peter's school's PTA.

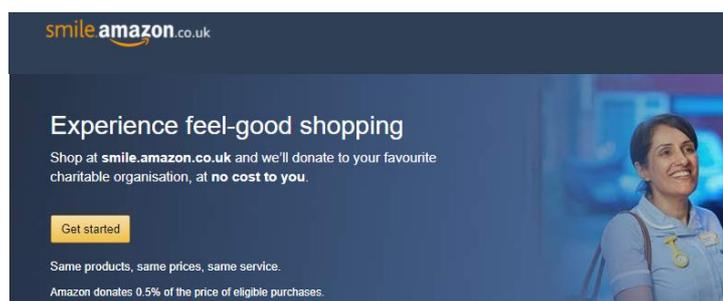
## What is Amazon Smile?

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favourite charitable organisation every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favourite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organisations to support. All you need to sign up for Amazon Smile is an Amazon account – you don't need to have a prime subscription.

## How do I shop at Amazon Smile

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On your first time visiting the site it will look like this. Select get started, it will then ask you to login (This is you Amazon Account details). It may automatically do this from your amazon account.





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It should then take you to this screen. Please type in St Peter's Association and select this from the drop down.

Start by picking your charity  
Search from thousands of local and national charities, like animal shelters, scout troops and religious organisations.

Enter charity name, location, or keyword

Welcome > Select your charity > Search results

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To advance the education of the pupils of the st. peter's church of england high school... ▾

Yes, I understand that I must always start at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) to support St Peter's Association.  
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## Year 8 Guided Options Launch Evening – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Year 8 Students, Parents and Carers will be informed next week of this important process, including opportunities to discuss options with staff.

## Spirited Arts National RE Competition – St. Peter's Winners!

Every year we enter our Year 7 students in a national RE competition which attracts about 2000 entries each year. 2020 attracted even more entries than usual as schools were encouraged to set this as a task for lockdown learning. The students were required to create their artwork within a particular theme and then write about their artwork.

I am very pleased to say that we have two winners and one highly commended entry in this year's competition. I am not sure many schools have ever managed to have so many finalists in one year!

The entries we received were incredible and it was hard to choose the limited number of ten entries we were allowed to enter.

This is a link to Archie's entry (Year 9) - a song he wrote, performed and played: <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-gallery/2020/where-is-god-song-2020a/>

This is a link to Lucy's (Year 9) piece called Plastic and the Prophets: <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-gallery/2020/plastic-and-the-prophets/>

This is a link to Ross and Leon's (Year 8) artwork called The Wonderful World We Live In: <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-gallery/2020/the-wonderful-world-we-live-in/>

## PTA - Second Hand Uniform Shop

Our loyal band of PTA members are kindly offering to sell high quality second-hand St. Peter's uniform and PE kit at much reduced prices. If you would like to take advantage of their offer please simply contact [PTA@spexe.org](mailto:PTA@spexe.org) saying which items and sizes you are interested in.



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## Stockdale Paradox

It is wonderful that vaccines appear to be on the way but it feels to me that there is still a long way to go before we are rid of Covid-19.

I have shared the following with staff to consider as a way of managing expectations around this awful situation. Whilst our situation with Covid is not the same as the suffering endured by Prisoners of War, it may also be of interest to you.

James Stockdale was held captive in Vietnam as a prisoner of war for over seven years. Many of his fellow POWs didn't make it out. Stockdale shared how he survived repeated tortures over a long period of time:

*"You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end – which you can never afford to lose – with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be."*

He survived because he didn't think he would be rescued soon – he settled his heart for the long haul, and in doing so set himself up for hope that could not be shattered by short term defeat.

Yours faithfully

Phil Randall  
Headteacher

### Key Dates

Last day of term Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – school closes at 1.00pm

### Spring Term

Students return to school Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Last day of half-term Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Students return to school after half-term on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Last day of spring term Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Students return to school 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021



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## How decisions are made when a positive Covid-19 case is reported in school, and which agencies are involved

Our starting point is always the safety of the students and our community, whilst also seeking to maximise educational opportunities for students. I hope that the following summary supports your understanding of these processes and highlights all of our responsibilities in trying to keep children in education.

### Step 1

School is told of positive Covid test

### Step 2

School gathers information from student(s), family and staff

### Step 3

School shares information with PHE, DfE, DCC, Transport Providers etc

### Step 4

Expert external agencies advise on actions school needs to take

### Step 5

School informs staff and families and advice implemented