



St Peter's Church of England Aided School

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

23rd October 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Well done! You've made it to half term. This latest update shares with you some messages of thanks to you as parents, students as well as staff – please click here:

<https://vimeo.com/471317861>

Parents Comments of Encouragement

We recognise that there is always room for improvement and we have processes that promote honest and reflective practice to resolve issues and improve outcomes and experiences. It is always encouraging to receive positive comments, especially in these challenging times. Here is a small selection, thank you so much for taking the time to send these messages.

"You're all doing such an amazing job, with such care and compassion during a very difficult time for us all."

"I just wanted to say a massive thank you to you all!! I know it's a difficult time but I wanted to encourage you by saying that your hard work is paying off and has made my daughters start at secondary school a fantastic one despite all the restrictions. She is really enjoying it and I can only say that it's down to the professionalism and dedication of you all that she's had such a great start. Many thanks for the difference you are making in all these children's lives."

"Thank you thank you, you are doing such an excellent job in the most demanding and ever changing circumstances."

"Although I was dismayed about the need for isolation, I just felt I should say how impressed I have been with St Peter's throughout this year in, what, must be the most trying of circumstances."

"Wishing you and the rest of the staff the very best."

"Thank you for such an encouraging, supportive email, and thank you for managing the continuing challenges of Coronavirus. Your hard work is really appreciated."

"Thank you for your email. When I talk with my son, I like be clear about the message I give. Having said that, he responded in a very mature way to the changing circumstances. I do appreciate that the school staff team are doing their best in challenging circumstances – so thank you and keep going! I hope that all the staff get a much needed break at half term."

'Life to the full for everyone.'



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"A huge thank you to all the staff who have helped my son to settle in so well. He is happy and enjoying school. I've spoken to Mr Gratton, Mrs Hayes and Mrs England about a couple of issues which were dealt with promptly and was very impressed."

Remote Learning

We would rather of course have students in school but due to the current situation regarding Covid we have revised plans in place to provide remote learning with specialist staff if students need to learn from home. This planned remote learning is enhanced from our previous as software systems and our own learning has enabled improvements. Some parents comments are below:

"It worked really smoothly from day one."

"Really like the tutor time on zoom."

"Clear information and easy to use. It is working really well."

"Firstly I wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who put work for Year 9 onto google classroom last week and this. It was a relief when finding out Year 9 had to isolate, to see how immediate and smoothly the transition from school to home learning was, and although we regret that it has had to happen.... Many thanks".

Please do let subject staff know if there are any difficulties with remote learning so we can resolve them.

Year Group Bubbles Being Sent Home

You will already know that unfortunately Year 9 and Year 11 students have all needed to self-isolate this half term. As with all schools we follow Public Health England (PHE) and Department for Education (DfE) guidance on which and how many students and staff are required to self-isolate.

Each school and situation has its own nuances which we share with PHE and DfE and we then follow guidance. It may help to understand our approach to school in these times.

We have prioritised:

- A full broad and balanced curriculum
- All students having specialist teachers
- In appropriately performing groups
- Using specialist practical classrooms in the majority of cases
- Freedom for students to spend time with any one they wish to be with in their year group bubble at break and lunch time

The alternative approach would be to not provide a full broad and balanced curriculum, with fewer specialist teachers in less appropriate groups as well as also further reducing students freedoms at break and lunch times.

Our approach provides far better educational in school provision than alternative models but it does mean that PHE and DfE guidance is likely to advise on a whole year group being told to self-isolate. We continue to monitor and review our approaches with staff and Governors and will update you of any changes that may impact on our curriculum provision.

Canteen Ordering Update

Very soon after the half term break, we will be simplifying the procedure for ordering food from the canteen. This will give families greater control over how their money is spent, menu choice and we also believe it will better support those students entitled to free school meals. We are currently working with colleagues to provide an on-line solution which will replace the current system of food orders being taken during tutor time each day. Full guidance regarding this will be provided to all parents and carers in advance of the system going 'live'.



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Uniform

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On a daily basis the majority of our students attend school looking very smart and in the correct uniform. As we head into the next half term we will continue with students being allowed to wear their PE kit on the days they have PE. We continue to expect all students to wear their uniform properly, in order to create a positive reputation for themselves and for St Peter's. Failure to do so will result in sanctions including exclusion. A reminder of the full uniform can be found in the letters home section on our website (Letter Two 03.09.20), but I wanted to highlight the following items that a small number of students seem to be struggling with:

- Hoodies and non-uniform jumpers are no substitution for a good coat especially in the rain and **may not be worn in school at any time.**
- Hair should be kept neat and tidy and of one reasonable length, style and must be of **one natural colour.** (Shaved heads, stencilled, or very short hair are not acceptable.)
- **Nail varnish or fake nails** should not be worn in school and make up should be subtle.
- No jewellery should be worn apart from a watch and not more than one plain gold or silver stud in each earlobe, **no other piercings are permitted** including nose studs of any sort.
- Shoes must be **plain, black (including any logos and laces) and low heeled.** Canvas shoes, boots, trainers and backless shoes are not permitted.
- Students wearing legging for PE **must wear shorts** above these throughout the school day not just the PE lesson.

In addition to our normal school uniform on those days when students are not wearing PE kit, they will be allowed to wear their PE fleece as an additional layer. So as we head towards winter with windows open to support our COVID policy dry layers of clothing are important. On any given day students will be able to wear Shirt/Blouse/PE t-shirt, School Jumper/Cardigan, PE Fleece and possibly their coat dependent on the lesson.

Class Charts

The majority of parents have now accessed their parental account and using this to support their children, we hope that you are finding the regular communication and feedback around positive and negative behaviours helpful. After the half term we will be using class charts to communicate home if a student has received a detention, this notification will go to the **email address** you used to set up your class charts account. This notification will contain the date and time of the detention as well as the teacher and subject who set the detention. If you are yet to set up your class charts account please do contact your child's tutor for support if required.

Daily Kit and Checklist - Please bring in:

- A warm waterproof coat
- Hand sanitiser
- Tissues
- pencil cases, pens, rulers etc
- sports equipment e.g. footballs, tennis balls, frisbees if you wish to as long as you don't use them beyond your Year Group 'Bubble'
- If using Chromebooks/computers please bring your own earphones
- Named lunchbox with food and snacks and named water bottles. We suggest 2 full bottles in the hot weather
- If cycling – bike helmet and bike lock

Safe Parking

Feedback is largely very positive regarding how our students are conducting themselves on entry and exit to school but following some concerns I am asking that if you do drop your child off by vehicle please ensure that you park safely following the highway code, adhere to the speed limit and ensure residents welfare is respected.



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Poems of Hope

At the start of the term, Years 7, 8 and 9 were encouraged to take part in our poetry competition. The poems had to address St Peter's core principle of **HOPE** which I'm sure you will agree, is entirely appropriate at this challenging time. The standard of entries was high which made the judging process very difficult but we have arrived at three winners for each year group. Each of the winning entries will receive a WH Smith voucher. Please take the time to visit our website www.spexe.org and read the poems which we hope you will find uplifting.

Year 7

1st prize – Meg C
2nd prize – George C
3rd prize – Henry C

Year 8

1st prize – Jude H
2nd prize – Steve T
3rd prize – Sophia H

Year 9

1st prize – Paul K
2nd prize – Archie B
3rd prize – Ellie S

Dealing with Change please use the link below which was recently shared by Mr Woolnough, Head of Year 11. It is a helpful video for those of us who are dealing with change and challenges.

<https://riseabove.org.uk/article/dealing-with-change/>

As we head into half term my hope and prayer is for you all to be safe and if possible to get some rest and enjoy some time with family. Traditionally my family enjoy the Narnia books by C.S. Lewis at this time of year as well as the films based on this series. C.S. Lewis is a favourite writer of mine and I commend his words to you as we enter half-term.

"Be just and merciful and brave."

Wise words I think to guide us in these times.

Yours faithfully

Phil Randall

Key Dates 2020

Half Term 26th October – 30th October

Training Day 2nd November 2020 – no students in school

Training Day 3rd November 2020 – no students in school

Students return to school after half term on the 4th November 2020

Friday 27th November 2020 – non-pupil day – school closed

Last day of term Friday 18th December 2020

Spring Term

Students return to school Monday 4th January 2021