



# St. Richard's Catholic College



*A National Teaching School, a National Support School and a High Performing Specialist Science College*



Ashdown Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN40 1SE. Tel: 01424 731070  
Email: [admin@strichardsec.com](mailto:admin@strichardsec.com) Web address: [www.strichardsec.com](http://www.strichardsec.com)

Principal: D. Cronin, N.P.Q.H., M.A., B.Ed.

8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope you and your family are all well and settling back in to routines following the half-term holiday. We now enter the ninth week of remote learning (12<sup>th</sup> week of lockdown) so hopefully the pupils, particularly in Years 7-9 have realised that this is the 'new normal' for the remaining six and a half weeks of term six. Form Tutors will be organising Google Meets with members of their form this term so that pupils have an opportunity to feed back on their remote learning experience and raise any issues. A number of staff are also now using audio in their lesson slides to help with engagement.

As parents/carers, please continue to encourage your son/daughter with his/her learning getting them to make use of the resources on BBC Bitesize, Oak National Academy and Seneca, to name but three of the many online sites available to support home learning. Pupils completing work early each day should either focus on a Passion Project or make use of the 'Isolation' Booklet [here](#) to explore something new. Developing a hobby, baking, gardening or undertaking the Sussex Challenge activities are a good way to take time away from the computer. There are also the departmental quests that you can encourage your child to participate in or the daily challenge sent out by Mrs Wood. Several of these activities will result in vouchers for the most interesting and engaging activities Your child should know how to access these but if they are struggling, do get in touch with the Form Tutor.

From June 15<sup>th</sup> we are able to welcome Year 10 pupils back in small groups. The staff are all looking forward to seeing them again. Parents of Year 10 pupils will be sent a letter and a timetable mid-week so that you can decide how your son/daughter will travel to school on the days allocated to him/her. Please be aware that we are only able to have 25% of the pupils back at a time (a quarter of the year group) so your son/daughter will only attend up to twice a week. I know this will disappoint many parents and pupils but unfortunately we are tied by [DfE restrictions](#) and to break these restrictions might invalidate our Risk Assessment as well as compromise the health and safety of all in the school. A short video will be sent to the pupils explaining how the new arrangements will work so I hope you will watch it too.

Children of Key Workers, vulnerable pupils and pupils with an EHCP will still be expected to attend school between 9.00am and 3.00pm daily. They will be placed in a separate Block to Year 10 pupils and will have different break and lunch times to ensure social distancing can be maintained and the risk of any contamination minimised. Your son/daughter will bring home further information towards the end of the week.

Many parents/carers have indicated that they are frustrated with the current arrangements and just want to see their son/daughter returning to school. Rest assured that this is the feeling of the staff and I too. However, the health and safety of all has to be paramount and therefore we must adhere to Government guidance to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. On this subject, can I ask you to monitor the whereabouts of your children on sunny days as we have been made aware



that some pupils are not practising social distancing on the seafront or in parks and are therefore putting themselves and others at risk. My sincere hope is that every pupil can return in the autumn unscathed by this dreadful pandemic! For those families where there has been a bereavement or a hospitalisation for a period of time then our pastoral team will do all they can to support your son/daughter. Please keep the school staff informed of any issues.

On the subject of Well-Being, Andrew Wright webinars are all available to St Richard's families.

### **How to access recordings of Neuro-Ninja Tool-Kit Webinars**

The webinars look at a range of relevant issues such as; how to improve motivation, well-being, study tips and management of anxiety. You can access these recordings by following the details below. There is lots of great material here to help support all of our mental health so please do have a browse and see what works best for your family.

Andrew is also going to be holding a live web-workshop at 5pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> July to answer questions and offer advice and further support on how to improve well-being, learning and motivation. To sign up click [here](#).

### **Instructions on accessing the recordings**

1. Go to our website <https://www.actionyourpotential.org/>
2. Follow the instructions attached to this letter

You will need to become a member to see the webinars, (it's free). This is your school password **nnstr20** – which you will need.

Any questions about any of the content, do email Andrew at [andrewwright@aypuk.com](mailto:andrewwright@aypuk.com).

Please do not forget that I am running my Parental Focus Group meetings on Google Meet this week on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15am and Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June at 6.15pm. Each meeting will be an hour in length. Email my PA at [pa@strichardscc.com](mailto:pa@strichardscc.com) if you would like to be sent a Google Meet invite to one of these meetings. Please click [here](#) to see a copy of the agenda on our website. I look forward to having the opportunity to see some of you online.

Parents/Carers with pupils in Year 6 should have received a letter from me last week and a booklet of activities from Mr Bligh. See the website – Transition – if you did not. Key is that the New Intake Evening will be a videoed event sent to you on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June with the School Handbook and a Pupil Booklet arriving in the post days before that. You will be notified of uniform collection dates next week.

For parents of Year 11 pupils, I am pleased to report that East Sussex College has now gone 'live' on their website with their study packs to help Year 11 pupils get ready for the transition from secondary school. The college will be contacting pupils who have applied to study with them this week but the resources are available to all Year 11 pupils to help them prepare for sixth form studies.

The landing page is <https://escg.ac.uk/study/student-work>

Study packs are linked to programmes at each of the main campuses in:

Lewes – <https://www.escg.ac.uk/study/student-work-lewes>

Eastbourne – <https://www.escg.ac.uk/study/student-work-eastbourne>

Hastings – <https://www.escg.ac.uk/study/student-work-hastings>

I hope that Year 11 pupils find these resources useful, not only igniting their creativity and excitement for their new ventures but also easing any anxieties that they may have been experiencing about starting college in these unusual times.

East Sussex College is also in the process of creating virtual open events videos. These are a series of on demand videos, live streams and live Q&A sessions for Year 10 and 11 pupils to join from home. Pupils can start registering their interests and signing up to notifications at the following link (<https://www.esclive.co.uk/>). The college will be in touch with Mr Holloway and Mr Campbell with further details about how to join or watch each session.

This is a fantastic offer which I hope Year 11 will access and I hope Year 10 will access the virtual open events as the sixth form transition day planned for Block Day in July is unlikely to happen.

On Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, the funeral of Year 11 pupil, Bobbie-Jean Hammon took place at Hastings Crematorium. The service conducted by our Governor, Father Simon Dray, was a fitting tribute to Bobbie-Jean. Please continue to keep Bobbie-Jean's family in your prayers (Kelly-Ann, David, Skye, Charles (CJ) and Bethany Rose). We will fundraise for Bobbie-Jean's favourite charity 'Taylor-Made Dreams' in the new School Year.

Please do not forget to look on the website at <https://www.sophiespostcard.com/> to see the postcards ready to be auctioned from 17<sup>th</sup> June. Ms Pennington has now catalogued over 1,000 of the postcards with at least another 50 to be entered. This is wonderful news so I now appeal to your generosity to support the auction – our major fundraiser this term to support the work of the Royal Marsden Cancer Trust, who were not only a great help and support to Sophie and her family but to other members of our school community too. A great cause!

Finally, can I thank you as parents/carers for all you are doing to keep your child motivated and engaged. I do hope they will all take up the opportunity to Google Meet with members of their form over the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely



Miss D Cronin  
Principal