



St. Richard's Catholic College



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



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

20th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family are well and are really looking forward to the school holidays.

To mark the last day of term on Wednesday, 22nd July, there will be a recorded Service at 10.30am followed by a recorded message at 11.30am from myself to the pupils, as well as the announcement of the Senior Team of Prefects and Head Boy/Head Girl and their Deputies for the new academic year.

As you are aware, a full return to school is expected for September, with Years 7 and 11 starting on Friday, 4th September and Years 8, 9 and 10 starting on Monday, 7th September. At the moment, we have a Plan A (which involves a normal timetable with strong health and safety measures in place) and a Plan B (which involves Year Group zones and restricted movement around the school except for practical subjects and, of course, strong health and safety measures in place). Full details will be emailed to you the week beginning 24th August, allowing you time to get in touch with regards to any queries. The week of 24/8/2020 is also available for a tour of the school, if needed. Please email me at misscronind@strichardscc.com to book an appointment or just to have a telephone conversation regarding the proposed arrangements. Rest assured that the health and safety of all will be our number one priority, as we return to the new 'normal'. We look forward to the opportunity to accelerate pupils in their learning and strengthen their well-being. Please be aware that I will need your 100% support with safe travel and also to insist that, outside of school, your son/daughter continues to social distance and to practise good hand hygiene. In bringing the whole school community together, it is going to be important that we all take care of each other with a determination to keep Covid-19 out of our school community.

Newsletter Number 7

This was published on Friday and is available [here](#) in case you did not receive it. Once again, it celebrates the positive work of pupils and staff over the lockdown period. It also contains important pastoral and welfare information, diary dates for the autumn term and notification of staff leaving or, in the case of Mrs Robertson, retiring. I hope to be able to invite Mrs Robertson in to school in the autumn term for a more formal farewell and thank you, involving the whole school community.

Dr Durkin's Funeral Arrangements

Following the sudden death of Dr Durkin on Sunday, 12th July, I would just like to inform you that we have had a small memorial service in school. Her funeral on Monday, 27th July can only be attended by immediate family and very close friends due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, to pay our respects, we plan to line Magdalene Road and Dorset Road (at a social distance) to when her hearse departs her home and passes St Richard's Catholic College at 2.20pm. Pupils and their families are welcome to join us; there is no need for uniform though a hint of purple or rainbow colours (Dr Durkin's favourite colours) would be nice. A well-loved teacher, colleague and friend, Dr



Durkin made a major contribution to the success of the school; it is fitting to mark her death in this way. May she now rest in peace.

Well-Being

As part of our recovery plan, we have a well-being strategy to support pupils' emotional health and resilience on return to school. Please continue to signpost your son/daughter to the Pupil Support booklet [here](#) if they are having difficulties, particularly in relation to anxiety.

Additionally, Anna Freud (National Centre for Children and Families) has produced a '[Selfcare Summer](#)' pack which offers some fun self-care activities and signposts additional support, if needed.

Barnado's 'See Hear Respond' Service

See Hear Respond is a service provided across England by Barnardo's and other national and local community-based organisations in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The programme has been created to help children and young people in England who are experiencing harm and increased adversity during this period by providing support to those who are not being seen by social care or other key agencies.

Working with its partners, Barnardo's aims to reduce the likelihood of harm and ensure other support and protective networks are in place.

See Hear Respond accept referrals from any source, either through the Freephone number 0800 151 7015 or via the [online referral hub](#).

Activities

Our 'Isolation Booklet' is now called the 'Activities Booklet' and is available [here](#). It contains updates on activities that may prove useful over the holidays, as pupils take a break from their studies.

I encourage all pupils to read or listen to books regularly, write regularly, exercise daily and spend as much time off screen as possible. A key message of lockdown has been to develop an interest or passion, so I hope many will use some of the time to develop their talents. I hope many pupils will also help you to ensure you have a rest too.

Additionally, listening to some of the experiences of Year 10, many pupils have admitted to sleeping a great deal! Whilst sleep has terrific benefits, particularly for strong emotional well-being and cognition, it will be important for pupils to get back in to a regular sleep pattern in preparation for the early starts in September. The NHS recommends that 11-year-olds get approximately 9½ hours sleep; 12 and 13-year-olds about 9 hours and 15 minutes, and 14 to 16-year-olds about 9 hours. A week to ten days before school starts should be used to reintroduce early mornings to all pupils.

Attendance

If you have any questions about school attendance from September 2020, ESBAS staff will be available to talk to you every Tuesday and Thursday in August, from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Their phone number is 01273 481967. Alternatively, email any questions to ESBAS (Education Support, Behaviour and Attendance Service): esbas@eastsussex.gov.uk.

Sussex Police Letter

Sussex Police have asked that all schools share this letter [here](#) with families. The letter contains useful resources to help keep parents/carers and children safe over the summer holidays.

A letter from Govia Thameslink Railway

For those using train transport to travel to school, can I encourage you to read the notice [here](#) from Southern Rail and the pupil leaflet [here](#). Please note there may be slightly revised timings to the beginning and end of the school day to support social distancing and safe entry to, and departure from, school.

Bishop Richard's Video

This is available to view [here](#). It wishes all pupils and families a really happy summer holiday and contains a blessing from Bishop Richard for us all.

Finally, I am sharing with you an open letter to the communities of East Sussex on behalf of all secondary schools, reassuring you of our collective desire to see all children return to school in September [here](#).

On behalf of all the staff, have a wonderful summer. We hope you keep happy, safe and well, and we look forward to seeing all pupils in early September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Cronin".

Miss D Cronin
Principal