


Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 07 July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Here are the latest school messages and updates for your information.

MESSAGES		
School	Whole school	 <p>It is with great sadness we share that Mollie Young died peacefully on Tuesday night with her family at her side. Mollie was a long standing member of the St Katherine's community and a pillar of gold within the local community. Mrs Bean described Mollie as 'pure sunshine' - her warm and reassuring presence will be missed by staff and students alike. Our thoughts are with the family at this time.</p>
School	Whole school	<p>Changes for September 2023 Please find attached letter from Mr Humphreys</p>
School	Whole School	<p>Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility Last week we met with the parents and carers of our new Year 7 students and spoke to them about how we work together to keep children safe. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone in our community that we all have a part to play in safeguarding our students and the community. As a member of our school community, if you are worried about a child it is important that you share this concern with school. There are a number of ways that you can do this. You can email school@skdrive.org or contact Kat Crocker our Designated Safeguard Lead directly crockerk@skdrive.org. You can call the school on 01275 373737. Alternatively, you can complete our Tell Someone form that you can access from the home page of our school website. Please provide as much detail as possible when doing so in order for us to look into the concern and provide the necessary support.</p>
School	Whole school	<p>School Lockers Please remind your child to empty their lockers and return their key to reception before Thursday 20th July. After this date, all the lockers will be emptied and the contents will be held in reception until September.</p>
School	Whole school	<p>Elliott Jones and Tacie-Ann Francis win Young Engineer competition The Young Engineer competition runs each year and challenges students to think; If you were an Engineer, what would you do? Students are asked to research and design an innovative product that could change the world and present it along with a letter explaining their work and inspiration. This year marks the second running that St Katherine's Product Design students have not only submitted work but, out of the 50,000 contestants, has had their ideas selected for the regional finals and won the competition for their age</p>

		<p>group. The students and their parents were invited to an awards ceremony where they were presented with a certificate and trophy and had their work displayed as part of a finalist exhibition. It is a huge achievement and we are so proud of our students who demonstrated their creativity and innovation to design truly amazing products!</p>
School	Whole school	<p>Reporting Absence Years 7-11 For the remainder of term 6 we will be rolling out reporting of absences using this link. Whilst the absence line will remain live for now, we would encourage all parents/carers to use this rather than phoning in or emailing the school directly.</p> <p>It considerably reduces the administrative time for attendance. This will then enable us to account for (and therefore safeguard) all students much earlier in the day - something we know that parents/carers will appreciate. We do still need all absences reported on a daily basis.</p> <p>From September, this will become the sole method of reporting absences, so we would like to encourage parents/carers to move over to this method during this term. The link to the form is also on the homepage of the school website.</p>
School	Whole school	<p>Free School Meals If you think you are entitled to claim a free school meal benefit because of your income or circumstances it's essential you apply. For each eligible child, the school receives funding for the next six years, even if their parents go back to full-time paid work. You can apply to North Somerset here. If you have any queries or would like the school to support you with your application please contact reception.</p>
School	Whole school	<p>Free School Meals If your child is entitled to a free school meal they can receive breakfast in the canteen before 8.30. They will be able to choose from the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 pieces of toast with jam ● fresh fruit with a juice drink ● porridge with honey/syrup with a juice drink ● cereal with milk ● 1 crumpet with jam.
School	Whole school	<p>Online Safety The UK Safer Internet Centre published guidance for parents about how to keep their children safe online. These can be found here. Included in this advice is the recommended minimum age for many social media platforms. Most of the most popular social media platforms such as Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and YouTube have a minimum age limit of 13 years and therefore should not be installed on phones of students in Year 7 and many students in Year 8. WhatsApp is the exception to this and has a minimum age of 16 years. Before installing these apps parents can use the information from The UK Safer Internet Centre to check the security and privacy settings as well as reading the Guardians Guide for each platform. We would encourage all parents to regularly check their childrens' phones and have open and honest conversations about their online communications. Guidance about how to have these conversations can be found here. Sometimes children are exposed to content on these platforms that can be upsetting or inappropriate and frequently these issues present in school. It should therefore not be assumed that children over 13 are safe from harm and our school rules about mobile phones not being seen or heard in school are in place to keep everyone safe. The support of parents and carers on monitoring their</p>

		childrens' mobile phone use and reporting concerns to school is a critical part of keeping children safe.
School	Whole school	All bus places for 2023/24 have now been confirmed. We still have a few places on some routes and you can check availability here . To book a place please complete this form .
School	Whole school	Careers Bulletin
School	Whole school	A huge thank you to Brackenwood garden centre by Leigh court, who have generously and kindly supported the school's bereavement group's project of a memorial garden out the front of reception. They donated soil, plants, their invaluable knowledge and time. Please consider supporting them for any future garden needs.
Finance	Whole School	<p>Lunch accounts Following IT issues with our canteen tills on Thursday 29th June some student's lunch food was added to their accounts on Wednesday 5th July.</p> <p>We are experiencing a significant increase in the number of students having to visit the Finance Office as they do not have enough money on their lunch accounts. Parentpay allows you to set a reminder to top up when the balance falls below a certain amount.</p> <p>To set an alert go to 'Communication', 'Alert Settings', 'Balance Alerts'. Set a threshold amount (say £5) and tick the email box. You will then be emailed a low balance alert when your child's lunch account falls below £5.</p>
Miss Adams	Whole school	Bookings for instrumental lessons (NOT trailblazers) for next academic year are now open. Payments need to be made on parentpay in order to secure a space for your child from September. Please direct any questions to musicadmin@skdrive.org
Ms Maurier	Year 7	Food Preparation group will be designing their own bread rolls so students need to bring their own flavourings. 7L and 7R : 10/07
Ms Maurier	Year 8	Food Preparation group will be preparing a tea party dish and need to bring their own ingredients for their dishes. 8L and 8R: 13/07
Ms Maurier	Year 9	Food Preparation group will be preparing a street food dish and need to bring their own ingredients for their dishes. 9L: 12/07 and 9R: 11/07

LETTERS - click [here](#) to see all letters

SPORT - click [here](#) to see all updates via our Twitter page

UPCOMING EVENTS - click [here](#) to see all upcoming events

11 Jul	Sixth form Heplus Trip
14 Jul	Sports day
17 Jul	House Championship Celebration
20 Jul	End of Term 6, buses at 1230