

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to have welcomed students back into school this week. Attendance has been excellent and testing levels extremely high: the vast majority of students have adapted quickly to face-to-face learning once more. Thank you for your patience with our phased return.

### **Wellbeing**

Thank you also for the enthusiastic responses to our Parent Survey. We were delighted that 90% of respondents felt we had high expectations of students' behaviour, however although we were pleased that 76% of recipients strongly agreed or agreed with the statement 'the school supports my child with wellbeing', we would love to know what we can do to improve our provision for the other 24%.

Our current formal provision is as follows:

- The tutor period programme has a Wellbeing morning each week. This is built around the 'five ways to wellbeing' which were researched and developed by the New Economics Foundation and supported by the NHS and the charity Mind. The programme looks at ways we can take care of our own mental health through connect, be active, take notice, learn and give. More details of these themes can be found at [Mind 5 ways to wellbeing](#). The tutor programme will be strengthened from September as we are working with experts from Psychology Associates to look at the resources and activities around the programme.
- We acknowledge that for some young people they also need support to regulate their mental health. A number of our support staff are ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) Practitioners, providing Social and Emotion support. We have a counsellor on site three days a week and we regularly sign post the young people to online support (such as [kooth.com](#)). Access to this support is through our Pastoral Team and the Allocations Panel.
- There is also a 'Wellbeing and Mindfulness' area on the website under the 'Student Area' tab. This provides other resources and signposts to other support. The tutor programme resources can also be found here.

All members of staff have received in-house training around mental health and wellbeing support, and we are a Trauma Informed School ensuring that informal support is also available.

If you would like to share your ideas on how we could strengthen our provision to support your child with wellbeing, please email our Mental Health Lead Linda Griffin at [lgriffin@saltashcloud.net](mailto:lgriffin@saltashcloud.net). If you have direct concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact their Form Tutor, Pastoral Support Assistant or Head of Year.

### **Teacher Assessed Grades for Years 11 and 13**

Subject teams are working hard to gather a range of evidence for these grades. We will be writing to you before Easter to let you know more about the range of evidence we will be using for each subject, but it will be a mixture of classwork, homework, practice exam questions, coursework (where relevant), mock exam papers and practical performance (where relevant).

### **Work Experience (Year 10 and Year 12) and Speakers for School Virtual Work Experience**

Unfortunately, with the ongoing Pandemic we have made the very difficult decision that Work Experience will not go ahead in July. Although the actual week takes place after the Government Road plan for a return to 'normal' the organisation and planning around this week would need to happen during the current restrictions and, at the moment, employers are reluctant to commit to this enterprise. We are also mindful of the learning time that the students have missed and, although we value Work Experience as part of our Careers Provision, we do not want to cause another break in their academic learning.

To support our young people, we have signed up to Speakers for School. This is a charitable organisation that organises virtual work experiences for students to undertake during the holidays. They advertise placements in a wide range of areas with some large reputable national companies that the young people can apply for. They have currently released ones for Easter and will do the same for future holidays. Below you will find the link for a very simple help sheet explaining how to use the website. This is completely optional, but we wanted to be able to provide opportunities should the young people wish to undertake virtual work experience.

An embedded PDF on the Work Experience page: <https://saltash.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Speakers-for-Schools-Student-updated-Instructions.pdf>

A direct link to the PDF document: [Speakers-for-Schools-Student-updated-Instructions.pdf \(saltash.net\)](https://saltash.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Speakers-for-Schools-Student-updated-Instructions.pdf)

### **Dates**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 11 Parent Surgery. Invitation letters are being sent out today and this is a virtual event.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March** – Year 9 Options Evening. Invitation letters will go out by next Friday, and this is also a virtual event. We have had to shorten it as all students are now back in school. This is the chance for you and your child to talk to subject teachers about the options your child is considering – including teachers of 'new' subjects.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April** - Easter Break

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April** – INSET Day. The school is closed for all students.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** – Year 8 Virtual Parent Surgery

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 7 Virtual Parent Surgery

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 9 Virtual Parent Surgery – English, Maths, Science

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

TEAM Saltash