



# Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 14 | April | Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Dear Parent/Carers ,

I hope this letter finds you and your wider family well. Thank you to those of you who have contacted the school, keeping us updated with how you and your children are getting on.

## Home learning

I am pleased to say that the majority of students have risen to the challenge of working from home. Our teachers have been calling home to speak to many parents and carers to try to provide support. If you would like to speak to a teacher or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us by phone or via [romard@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:romard@koinoniafederation.com), or contact your child's teachers through Satchel/Show My Homework. (More on this below)

Our teachers are doing their very best to continue to help your children progress, albeit under very different circumstances, and are balancing the need to move forward with the curriculum, whilst bearing in mind the limits of teaching remotely. It might be useful to reiterate to you some of our key principles for work set over the period of school closure:

- We expect your children to be working at home on school days, completing a maximum of five hours' work each day in line with their regular timetables. If your child is spending longer than an hour on work per lesson, or is struggling for some other reason, please remind them to let their teacher know.
- Most work should be completed in exercise books or on lined paper. The overwhelming majority of work set does not require the use of a laptop or specialist ICT.
- Students will usually be asked to submit their work in some format so their teachers can check their work and provide help where needed. This may, for instance, be in the form of uploading a photo of the work done (see <https://help.teamsatchel.com/en/articles/2912000-submitting-my-work-online>) or completing a quiz.

I would just like to say that I appreciate the demand of covering 5 lessons of daily work at home is a real challenge. Our aim with this is not to put any extra burden on parents, who during this unparalleled time clearly have many different priorities at home; but instead, to ensure that we are providing an adequate amount of work for our students so that the inevitable slowing of academic progress can be limited and our students do not suffer in the long run. If you have more than one child, I appreciate the strain on devices at your disposal. We will not be sanctioning any students who do not complete all of the work set, but hope that all aim to complete as much work as they possibly can.

## Laptop loans

We know that accessing online learning at home can be challenging at this time. If you require additional ICT for the period of school closure, we may be able to loan you a laptop, free of charge. Please get in contact if you would like to do this.

## Parent/carer access to Satchel/Show My Homework

I strongly encourage you to make sure that you create an account on Satchel/Show My Homework so that you can see the work your child is being set and whether they are completing it. To create your account, you need a parent code and if your child has access to their account, they can get the code for you. Open up their 'Account settings' on a web browser (<https://www.satchelone.com/account-settings>) and at the bottom right, you will see the parent code. If for any reason this doesn't work, or if your child is unable to access their account, please phone the school reception or email [romard@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:romard@koinoniafederation.com) for assistance.

### **Audio Books**

Our librarian has put together a fantastic new selection of recommended audiobooks. These have been added to our school E-Library and can be found at:

[https://koinoniafederation1-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/lmnatsakanyan\\_koinoniafederation\\_com/EuB6ZBixl9BEnuYbBqTar2cBQO1R2S9TOcGbkvK6QVOVOQ?e=lnaAej](https://koinoniafederation1-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/lmnatsakanyan_koinoniafederation_com/EuB6ZBixl9BEnuYbBqTar2cBQO1R2S9TOcGbkvK6QVOVOQ?e=lnaAej)

Audio books provide an opportunity to enjoy literature and build a wide and diverse knowledge base. Listening to literature and hearing new words are great ways to improve comprehension and vocabulary, and would be an enjoyable alternative way for students to spend their reading time at home during school closures.

### **Spring reports**

Please expect Spring term reports to be sent home next week. In some cases, where students missed a large proportion of their lessons (for instance certain project subjects in Spring 2), there may be missing data – but otherwise, these reports are much the same as ever.

Like most organisations, we are doing our best to secure the health and well-being of our employees and their families. Despite the many difficulties we face, I would like to re-assure you that we are fully committed to supporting you the best we can. If there is anything more we can do then please do call the school office or email the school on [info@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:info@koinoniafederation.com) or [romard@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:romard@koinoniafederation.com). Along with this newsletter, you will also find a student bulletin attached. Please do read this and share it with your child.

On behalf of our school, I wish you all well.

Sincerely,

Mr R.Hussain  
**Principal**