

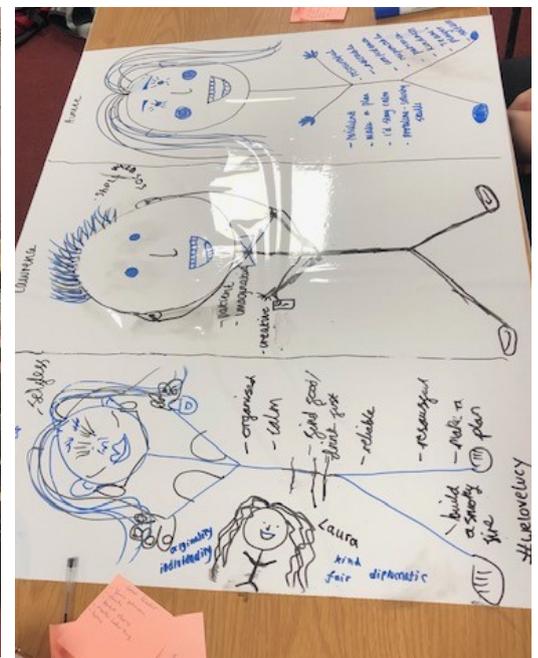


Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year!

We are very proud of our students who are coping brilliantly with our new in-school safety measures, and we remain very grateful to all the families in our community for their support with keeping everyone at St James safe.

Student Leadership Programme

On the 30th September we were pleased to offer our year 11 Student Leaders a bespoke Future Leaders training day to develop their skills. Faye Robertson, from Counting Beans Educational Consultancy, delivered a program of fun and engaging activities. The students involved enjoyed the day and found it informative and a great experience. They all have developed action plans to raise funds for the 3 Leadership Charities; Books4Africa, Dartmoor Rescue Team and Smiletrain. Faye reported back that the students were some of the politest and most engaged individuals that she has worked with. Joel Pugh (Head Boy) had this to say "It was a brilliant day, being guided by someone with so much life experience, I definitely feel that I will be able to complete better applications and interviews in the future". Well done to all involved!



Shakespeare Schools Festival

On Friday 20th November as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, 15 pupils in year 9 will be performing 'The Comedy of Errors'. This is a 30 minute abridged version of Shakespeare's play and rehearsals are well under way. The set is being built in house and one of our year 9 musicians has composed and arranged the music. We have included a few dances as well thanks to the drama department. Details will follow about whether the production is to be filmed or live streamed!

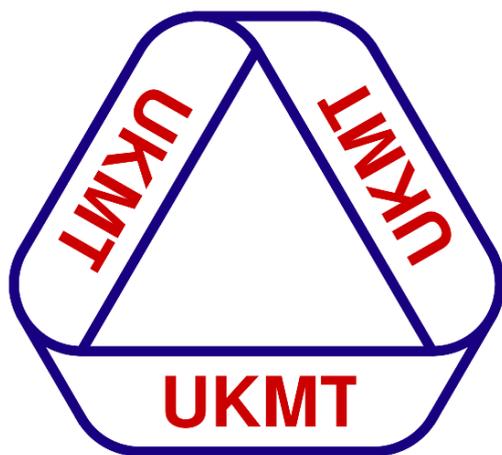
Sensory Room

We are creating a sensory room at St James which will bring huge benefits for many of our students. If you have any items suitable for a sensory room that you no longer need, such as a lava lamp or sensory toys, please email Katie Hindmarsh, KMH@stjamesexeter.co.uk



A message from the PE department

The PE department would like to thank everyone for starting the year so positively and for coming to school in kit and ready to learn. As the weather has changed we have evolved our curriculum to keep our students active whilst maintaining their safety. We have purchased lots of St James hoodies and navy jogging bottoms for students to have on a long term loan while they wait for their uniform to arrive from Thomas Moore. This year we are learning how sport and exercise can help us to develop life skills, such as communication, resilience, leadership and teamwork. This term we are focusing on resilience and developing the skills to live a healthy and happy life. We are looking forward to working with our students for the rest of the academic year.



Maths Challenge

During lockdown, 28 Year 8 students completed the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge. The competition was tricky, but our students were keen to take on the challenge. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our students who took part. A special mention must go to Ved Jan Kumar and Brechan Wilson, both of whom achieved a gold certificate! The Maths department looks forward to offering our pupils more competitions to enter in the near future. Congratulations to all for taking part!

Well done Mr Gibbs

On Sunday 4th October Mr Gibbs ran a marathon from Torquay to St James School to raise money for Smile Train. Despite the horrendous conditions, he finished the distance in well under four hours. What a hero! If you would like to donate, you can do so using this link: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/simon-gibbs11

And finally.....

Virtual Time Capsule - Competition

Over the summer, the Participation Team have been running a **competition for children and young people with SEND in Devon**, asking them to describe what they would put in a **time capsule**, to remind them of this unusual year. This could be in the form of any kind of art or written work.

We've had some great entries so far, so we are extending the competition so that schools can take part too. The closing date is now **FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER**. The best entry, chosen by the Participation Team at Devon County Council, will win a **£25 Amazon voucher**.

The competition could make a great activity for a variety of different subjects, such as **Art, Literacy, PSHE, History**, etc – or as a creative homework task.

All entries must be sent to sendlocaloffer@devon.gov.uk, and may be used by Devon County Council both internally and externally, for example on our Facebook page, but we will keep entries anonymous if requested.

We would be very grateful if you could do any (or all) of the following:

- Encourage your children and young people to enter the competition
- Print off the poster attached and put it up in your setting
- Put it in your school newsletter
- Forward this email to any colleagues who may be interested



The poster is a vibrant graphic with a dark blue background and colorful abstract shapes in red, yellow, and pink. A red diagonal banner in the top left corner reads "Now Extended!". The title "Virtual Time Capsule Competition" is written in large, bold, yellow, italicized font. Below the title, white text asks for entries to remember 2020, listing three prompts: "What have you enjoyed?", "What hasn't been so great?", and "What have you learned?". It states the winner will receive a £25 Amazon voucher. A pink box contains the text: "Send us your artwork, poems, stories... anything! Get creative - we want to hear YOUR voice!". The contact email "sendlocaloffer@devon.gov.uk" is provided. The closing date is highlighted as "CLOSING DATE EXTENDED: OCTOBER 23rd". At the bottom, it notes the competition is open to ages 0-25 with SEND, and that entries may be used in Devon County Council publicity, with a note that personal details will be kept private if requested. A small logo for "Participation for Change" is in the top right corner.

Now Extended!

Virtual Time Capsule Competition

Tell us what you'd put in a time capsule to remember 2020:

- What have you enjoyed?
- What hasn't been so great?
- What have you learned?

The best entry will win a **£25 Amazon voucher!**

Send us your artwork, poems, stories... anything! Get creative - we want to hear YOUR voice!

Entries to: sendlocaloffer@devon.gov.uk

**CLOSING DATE EXTENDED:
OCTOBER 23rd**

Open to anyone aged 0-25 with SEND
All entries may be used online and in Devon County Council publicity
Personal details will be kept private if requested