



SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

SECONDARY

NEWSLETTER



WEEKLY ROUND -UP



Ms. Joanne Billington

Assistant Head of
Secondary - Academics

Online Learning Update and Parental Support

We would like to thank all parents and pupils for their continued support and adaptability during this period of online learning. Following recent guidance, remote learning has now been extended until Friday 17th April.

Engagement in online lessons remains essential to ensure that pupils continue to make strong academic progress. We expect all pupils to complete assigned work, and actively participate in learning activities. Maintaining routine, focus, and communication with teachers will be key to success during this time.

We recognise that this can present challenges at home, and we are committed to supporting both pupils and families. Our teachers are providing structured lessons, clear resources, and regular feedback, and are available to respond to queries where needed. Should you require additional support, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

We would also like to remind parents that the **Year 7 Parents' Evening** will take place online on **Thursday 9th April**. Invitations have been sent out, and this will be a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and engagement.

Thank you once again for your ongoing partnership and support.

ACADEMIC UPDATES

Head of Academic UPDATE

Important Update: Summer Examination Arrangements

Please note that this update is relevant specifically to the Year 10 to 13 external examinations. Communication regarding our internal school assessments (Years 7 to 10) will follow at a later date, once we have more clarity on what the remainder of the academic year will look like.

As many of you are already aware, the external summer examination series will no longer go ahead as originally planned (please see letter from Thursday 2 April). Please see below a summary of the current update. The examination boards used by the school, Pearson and Cambridge, have confirmed that the summer examinations will not take place as originally scheduled. In their place, contingency arrangements will be implemented. Please be assured that under these contingency arrangements, students will still receive an official, recognised grade.

At present, we are awaiting further clarification regarding the specific requirements for this process. We have been assured that this additional guidance will be shared shortly. Once we have received this and fully processed what it means for our students and our curriculum, we will communicate fully with parents and students. This will include clear, detailed information about what these arrangements mean for each cohort and for each subject, including any submission requirements.

Following this, we will also provide opportunities for parents to submit any questions they may still have, and we will be running webinars to ensure that all information is clearly explained and fully understood.

We recognise that these changes may cause concern; however, we would like to reassure you that both Pearson and Cambridge have robust, tried and tested processes in place for the external cohorts. They have emphasised that no student will be disadvantaged by this approach, and that fairness remains central to all outcomes.

For those students awaiting results for university entry, we would also like to reassure you that universities are fully aware of the situation. Any grades awarded through contingency arrangements will be treated in exactly the same way as grades awarded through the standard examination process.

As a school, we are fully committed to supporting every student throughout this process. We will continue to provide guidance, structure, and academic support to ensure that each student is able to demonstrate their abilities and achieve the best possible results.

Student wellbeing and academic success remain our highest priorities, and we will ensure that all decisions and support systems reflect this.

If you have any questions, please email scarlett.whistlecroft@southview.ae (please start a new email chain).

Scarlett Whistlecroft
Head of Academic Operations

SPECIALIST UPDATES

PASTORAL UPDATE



Mr. Michael Macdonald
Assistant Head of
Secondary - Pastoral

Over this period of online learning, it has been impossible not to feel a strong sense of pride in our students. The resilience they are showing each day, in the face of change and uncertainty, has been exceptional. They continue to engage, support one another, and represent the values of our school with real integrity.

I also want to extend my sincere thanks to you as parents. Your support, patience, and trust in the school make a real difference. The strength of what we do relies on the partnership between home and school, and we see this reflected in the way students are approaching their learning.

At times like this, the importance of community is clear. A school is not just a place of learning, but a network of people who care for one another and offer support when it is needed most.

To end, I will be introducing a short weekly section sharing personal recommendations, from books and films to restaurants and local finds.

Please do let me know if you enjoy this addition.

Recommendation of the week

Podcast: Episode 572 – Jordan B. Peterson Podcast

Dr. Peterson discusses education challenges, exploring new learning models, and stressing critical thinking in a world dominated by low-attention span media environments. He also highlights the importance of teacher passion, character development, and guiding young adults toward responsibility and purpose.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

6th FORM – EXAM FAQ



Mr. Carl Burgess
Head of Sixth Form



AQ: IGCSE and A Level May/June 2026 Examinations – Contingency Arrangements

Dear Students General

We know the news that your May/June 2026 exams have been cancelled may feel surprising or even stressful. We've put together this FAQ to answer the most common questions you might have right now. Please read it carefully.

Q1: Are my exams really cancelled?

Yes. Pearson and Cambridge have officially confirmed that the May/June 2026 examination series will **not** take place. Instead, they will use contingency arrangements (sometimes called "alternative awarding" or "evidence-based grading") to give you your final grades.

Q2: How will I get my grades then?

Your final grades will be based on a strong portfolio of evidence. This includes a range of evidence. For example, evidence could be:

- Your recent mock exams
- Classwork, homework, and coursework (where applicable)
- Any internal assessments and tests you have already done or will do in the coming weeks
- Other work that clearly shows your ability in each subject

We are waiting on exact guidelines on what is applicable for each subject. The school is making sure we collect and organise all the right evidence according to Pearson and Cambridge rules.

Q3: Will I still need to do revision and assessments?

Yes — and this is important. Over the next few weeks we will continue with structured teaching, revision, and assessments. These will help build the strongest possible evidence of your current level. The better you perform now, the more accurately your grade will reflect what you know and can do.

Q4: When will the new schedule or plan be announced?

We are working hard over this weekend and Monday to decide the best way to structure everything.

This includes:

- Which subjects and papers we will assess internally
- The exact timetable for any remaining assessments
- What evidence can be used for each subject

We will share more detailed, subject-specific information **early next week**. We want to get this right, so please be patient for a couple more days.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

6th FORM and CAREERS UPDATE



Mr. Carl Burgess
Head of Sixth Form



Will all my exams happen in November instead?

Not necessarily. We are currently looking at the best options for our students. Some subjects or components may be spread out over the coming months rather than all being in the November series. We will explain the plan clearly once it is finalised next week.

Q6: What should I do now?

1. Keep attending all your lessons as normal.
2. Continue revising and putting in your best effort in every class and assessment.
3. Look after your wellbeing — talk to your teachers, tutors, or school counsellors if you feel anxious or unsure.
4. Avoid spreading rumours — wait for official updates from the school.

Q7: Can I still get the grade I was hoping for?

Yes. The exam boards have used these contingency arrangements before and are confident they produce fair grades that reflect students' true ability. We will make sure your evidence is as strong and complete as possible.

Q8: What if I'm not happy with my final grade?

There will be review and appeal processes available through Pearson and Cambridge, just as there are in a normal exam series. We will give you full details about this once grades are issued.

Q9: Who can I speak to if I have questions?

- Your subject teachers are the best first point of contact for questions about your specific subjects.
- For general exam questions, please email the Exams Officer (use a new email chain as mentioned in the parent letter). scarlett.whistlecroft@southview.ae
- For wellbeing support, speak to your form tutor or the school counselling team.

We know this change is big, and it's normal to feel a mix of emotions — relief, worry, confusion, or even excitement about having more time to prepare. Our whole team is here to support you and make sure you still get the grades you deserve.

We will keep communicating clearly and regularly over the coming days and weeks.

Thank you for your continued hard work and understanding.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

DATA AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE



Mr. Ryan Bladen

Assistant Head of Secondary
Data and Assessment

Assessment & Predicted Grades - Reassurance for Parents

We understand that this is an uncertain time, and many parents may have questions about how grades are determined, particularly for examination year groups.

Students at our school complete baseline assessments such as CAT4, which help generate target grades for future performance. These targets are designed to show a student's potential over time, with expectations increasing each year.

However, it is important to note that predicted grades are not based solely on these targets. Instead, they reflect a student's current performance, including classwork, assessments, mock exams, and teacher judgement.

In situations where external examinations may be disrupted, grades would be awarded using a broad range of evidence, including assessment data, coursework (where applicable), and teacher assessment. These would go through rigorous internal and external quality assurance processes to ensure they are fair, accurate, and reflective of each student's ability.

Our priority remains to ensure that all students are assessed consistently and supported to achieve outcomes that reflect their hard work and progress.

ENTERPRISE AND TECHNOLOGY UPDATE



Miss Elizabeth Charlton

Head of Enterprise and
Technology

Well done to all Business, Economics, Travel and Computer Science students for engaging with online learning with enthusiasm, positivity and their best efforts.

Our BTEC students have displayed excellent independence when completing their coursework and proactivity in asking for feedback.

Our priority is ensuring high quality learning takes place in the digital classroom and students continue to study the subjects they are passionate about.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

LITERACY UPDATE



Mr. David Archibald
Head of English &
Literacy Coordinator

Our KS3 students have been developing their literacy skills through regular engagement with carefully selected set texts, alongside structured comprehension questions designed to strengthen their reading accuracy, vocabulary understanding, and ability to retrieve and interpret key information. This consistent practice aims to help students become more confident and independent readers across the curriculum.

Next week, we are excited to launch a Reading Bingo challenge, which will give students greater choice and ownership over what they read while encouraging them to explore a wider range of genres, authors, and text types. We hope this will further promote reading for enjoyment as well as support continued literacy development both inside and beyond the classroom.

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free” - Frederick Douglass

ENGLISH UPDATE

In English, students across KS3 and KS4 continue to engage with a broad and ambitious curriculum designed to strengthen both analytical and creative skills.

Year 7 students are currently exploring the theme of identity through their study of the autobiography of Roald Dahl. As part of this unit, students are examining how writers present personal experiences and are beginning work on crafting their own autobiographical writing, developing their ability to reflect on and shape their personal voice.

Year 8 students are studying poetry alongside pop music, exploring how language, imagery, and structure are used across different forms to express ideas and emotions. This comparison is helping students develop confidence in analysing unseen texts and recognising how literary techniques operate beyond traditional poetry.

Year 9 students are preparing for the demands of next year by honing their creative writing skills. This work is designed to build the precision, control, and originality required for success in their International GCSE coursework.

Year 10 students continue to engage with the International GCSE English curriculum, developing their analytical responses to a range of literary and non-fiction texts while strengthening the writing skills needed for examination success.

Year 11 students are now focusing on final preparation for the completion of their International GCSE course, consolidating key knowledge, refining examination technique, and ensuring they are fully prepared for their final assessments.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

MATHS UPDATE



Ms Jo Griffin
Head of Maths

Maths Department Update: A Fortnight of Digital Mathematics

Dear Parents,

As we conclude our second full week of remote learning, we wanted to share how impressed we are with how our students have transitioned their mathematical studies to the digital classroom. Moving from physical exercise books to online platforms is a significant shift, but the resilience and dedication shown by the majority of our mathematicians over the last **fortnight** has been excellent.

Supporting Maths Success at Home

Here are a few maths-specific tips to help your child stay on track:

- **The "Scrap Paper" Rule:** Even though the tasks are digital, maths is still a "doing" subject. We strongly encourage students to have a physical notepad to hand for those vital intermediate steps before entering a final answer online.
- **Focus on the Method:** If your child is stuck, ask them to talk you through their method. Explaining a process out loud is one of the best ways to solidify mathematical understanding.
- **Check the MyMaths (KS3 and KS4) or MathsWatch (KS4 only) platforms:** Both provide super helpful videos and lessons for extra support if needed. They also have teacher set tasks, and you can do a quick check of their "100% completion" status as a great way to monitor progress without needing to be a maths expert yourself.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child has their calculator, paper and pen/pencil, and a quiet space to work during these past two weeks. Your partnership is essential to their mathematical progress.

Keep Calculating!

The Mathematics Department

SPECIALIST UPDATES

SCIENCE UPDATE



Mr. Philip Mutton
Head of Science

We recognise that online learning presents challenges for many of our students and families, and we want to reassure you that we are here to support every pupil as much as possible during this time. Adapting to learning from home is not always easy, and we appreciate the effort that students are making to stay engaged and keep up with their studies.

Despite the circumstances, we are continuing to deliver science lessons as closely as possible to how they would run in school. We are progressing through the curriculum to ensure that students do not miss out on key knowledge and skills, and it is therefore important that they engage with lessons and complete the work set to the best of their ability.

We are also working hard to maintain a variety of engaging and practical-style activities where possible. For example, some of our Year 7 pupils have been designing and testing parachutes at home, sharing videos of their investigations to demonstrate their understanding of forces. In another Year 7 class, students have been identifying examples of forces in their everyday environments and submitting photos to illustrate their learning. These activities help to bring science to life, even outside the classroom.

We will continue to focus on delivering the science curriculum to the highest standard possible and supporting all of our students throughout this period. If you have any concerns or require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me as Head of Science, or your child's science teacher, and we will be very happy to help.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ARABIC A UPDATE

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you regarding MOE subjects during the current online learning period.



Mr. Abdelhamed Kerba
Head of MOE Subjects.

At South View School, we remain fully committed to ensuring that students continue to receive meaningful, consistent, and high-quality learning in all MOE subjects, including Arabic, Islamic Studies, and Social Studies. Although the current situation has required us to move to online learning, our focus remains the same: to support every child's progress and maintain continuity in their education.

Our teachers are continuing to provide lessons, learning activities, and follow-up support in line with the school's online learning expectations. We are working hard to make sure that the learning provided is clear, appropriate, and accessible for students at home, while also taking into account the needs of families during this time.

We kindly ask for your continued support in encouraging your child to:

- Attend live lessons where applicable
- Complete Teams activities regularly
- Engage positively with the tasks set by their teachers
- Reach out when support is needed

We understand that online learning can bring challenges for families, and we truly appreciate your cooperation, patience, and partnership. Please be assured that we are here to support you. If you have any questions or if your child needs additional help in any MOE subject, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will always do our best to help.

Thank you for your ongoing trust and support. By working together, we can continue to ensure that our students remain connected, engaged, and successful in their learning.

SPECIALIST UPDATES


ARABIC UPDATE



Mrs. Fatima Banafea
Head of Arabic - Secondary.

مع استمرار التعلم عن بُعد، نؤكد على أهمية جاهزية الطالب للحصص من خلال توفر جهاز مناسب واتصال إنترنت مستقر، والانضباط في حضور الحصص الافتراضية وإنجاز المهام المطلوبة.
وفيما يلي أبرز مستجدات قسم اللغة العربية لهذا الأسبوع.

Exam Prep

- O-Level exam prep club every Wednesday 7:30 am
- Exam Time: 
- May 4th – Paper 1
- May 14th – Paper 2

Teaching & Learning: Arabic A

أولياء الأمور الأفاضل، تحية طيبة وبعد نشكر لكم دعمكم وتعاونكم المستمر خلال فترة التعلم عن بُعد، لما له من أثر مهم في نجاح أبنائنا هذا الأسبوع، ركّز الطلاب على فن الرواية، مما ساهم في تنمية مهارات التفكير النقدي وتحليل الأحداث وبناء الفهم العميق للنصوص، وقد أظهروا تفاعلاً إيجابياً في مناقشة عناصر الروايو وتوظيف معانيها في سياقات مختلفة نؤكد على أهمية الالتزام بحضور الحصص، والمشاركة الفعالة، وتسليم المهام في الوقت المحدد، لما في ذلك من أثر مباشر في تطوير مهاراتهم اللغوية وتعزيز تقدمهم الأكاديمي.
نقدّر شراكتكم المستمرة في متابعة أبنائنا وتحفيزهم على التميز مع خالص الشكر والتقدير،
المعلمة إلهام

Intervention

Weekly home practice supports intervention sessions.
During virtual learning, Students have a dedicated Teams channel led by our teaching assistant for support with their plan and Arabic tasks.
Please ensure all tasks are completed, as this is key to their progress.

Teaching & Learning: Arabic B

Dear Parents,
This week, we focused on developing students' reading skills, particularly in comprehension and analysis. Students practiced identifying main ideas, extracting key details, and exploring new vocabulary and language structures.
In the coming week, students will complete a spelling quiz and work on listening comprehension, focusing on identifying main ideas and supporting details.
Please ensure your child joins lessons on time, comes prepared, participates actively, and completes all assigned tasks.

Thank you for your continued support. Teacher Mays

Enrichment

Students are encouraged to engage with online platforms to support reading and develop their Arabic language skills.

Arabic A Arabic B
I READ ARABIC I START ARABIC



SPECIALIST UPDATES

ISLAMIC



MR. Hossam Bekhit
Head of Islamic Studies

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well.

This week, students showed active participation in Islamic Studies live lessons and made clear progress in completing activities and participating during the lessons.

We will continue distance learning for the next two weeks, and live lessons will follow the normal schedule with the students.

Please ensure regular attendance and active participation.

This week, students completed the topic "Divine Revelation," covering different Quranic Surahs for each Year .

Next week, we will start a new lesson.

Please encourage your children to attend the lessons on time and participate actively with the teacher.

If you have any questions or face any challenges, please let me know.

Thank you very much for your continuous support.

SOCIAL STUDY



Ms Elham Bakry
Head of Social Studies

أولياء الأمور الأفاضل، تحية طيبة وبعد،

نأمل أن تكونوا بأمان وطمأنينة، في ظل استمرار التعلم عن بُعد، ونثمن ما لمسناه من تفاعل إيجابي والتزام من طلابنا خلال هذه الفترة

نؤكد على أهمية الالتزام بحضور الحصص في مواعيدها، والمتابعة المستمرة للمهام المرسلة، واستكمالها في الوقت المحدد، لما لذلك من أثر مباشر في دعم التحصيل الأكاديمي.

وخلال هذا الأسبوع، تناول الطلاب موضوعات ثرية شملت ، ومظاهر (بما في ذلك النباتات الطبيعية والجبلية وأهميتها البيئية)النباتات وأنواعها الحضارة في الأندلس، حيث تعرّف الطلاب على ما شهدته من ازدهار علمي وثقافي وعمراني، وقارنوا بينها وبين ما تشهده دولة الإمارات اليوم من نهضة حضارية قائمة على من حيث فكرته وأهميته، بالإضافة إلى 2020 العلم والابتكار والاستدامة، وإكسبو استدامته وتحوله إلى مدينة ذكية بعد انتهاء الحدث

نثمن دعمكم المستمر، ونعوّل على شراكتكم في تعزيز التزام أبنائنا ونجاحهم

مع خالص الشكر والتقدير،

SPECIALIST UPDATES

MFL UPDATE



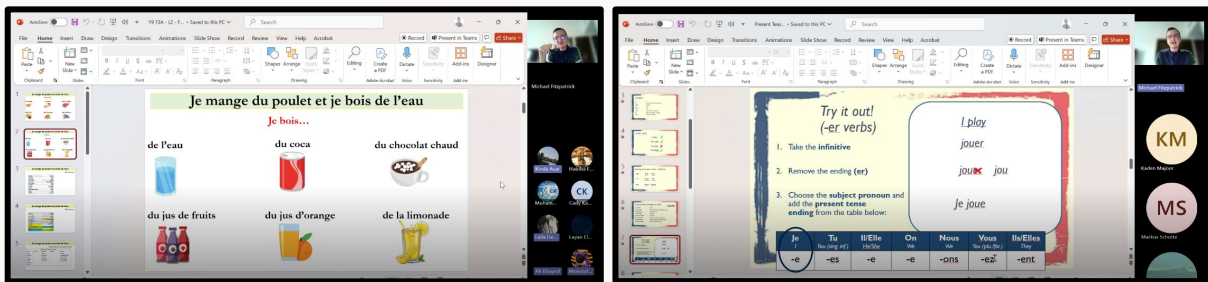
Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick
Head of MFL

Given the circumstances across the UAE and beyond, we are incredibly proud of the resilience and commitment shown by our students in French and Spanish classes. Despite the challenges, students have approached their online lessons with enthusiasm and a positive attitude, continuing to engage actively in their learning and striving to do their absolute best.

Our GCSE and A-Level students have now completed the taught content of their courses and have moved into a focused revision phase. During this time, they are consolidating their knowledge and refining their exam skills to ensure they are fully prepared for their assessments, should they go ahead as planned.

We would like to thank both students and parents for their continued support, flexibility, and dedication during this period.

Mr. Fitzpatrick / Mrs. Gómez / Ms. Castro



PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE



Ms. Charlene Rock
Head of Performing Arts

We are so proud of the way all our students have engaged so far in online learning.

With the practical nature of our subjects, adjusting to online learning can be difficult but students have done themselves proud these last two weeks and have produced some fantastic work! I have lost count of the amount of merits that have been awarded.

Keep up the good work everyone!

don't forget to

FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM!

@ artsatsvs

PERFORMING ARTS UPDATES



Congratulations to our Junk Kouture 2026 entrants.

The students held a fantastic fashion show for KS3 students on the last Friday of term where they showcased their designs allowing KS3 students to vote for their favourites. Some students have now entered for a place in the regional finals. More information and photos to follow soon...



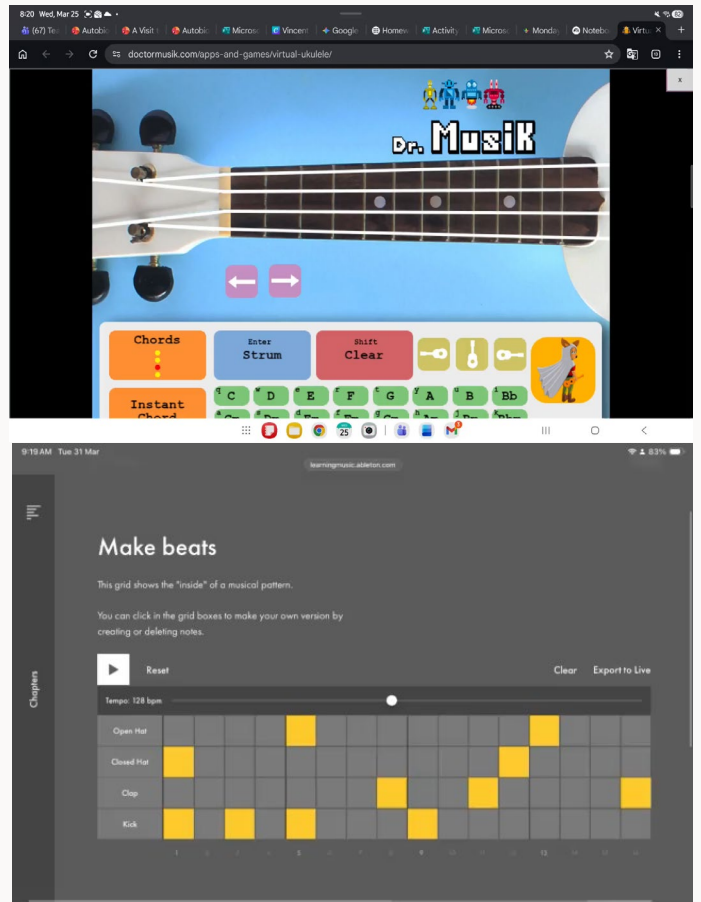
PERFORMING ARTS UPDATES

Music

In Music, Year 11 students have been working on their final compositions and these are looking great so far.

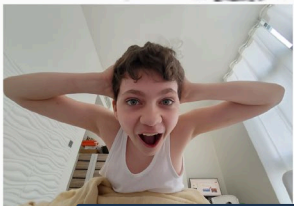
Year 7 have been learning how to play melodies and read tablature on the ukulele (Here is an example from Veer in 7E)

Year 8 have been learning about music technology and making their own beats and loops (Here is an example of Joel in 8C)



Drama

In Drama this week, Year 8 students have been working on their Mask unit. They have been learning about the history and difference types of mask and how to perform using mask. Here are some examples of some of the masks they designed themselves this week.



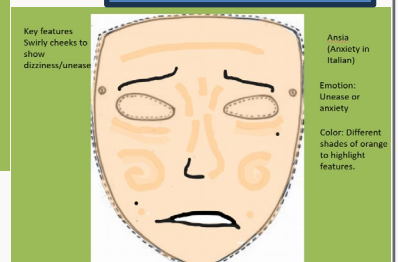
Martin 8C



- This mask presents a human who is covering up their sadness or depression and keeping it in, while they 'repaint' the surface into happiness (bright colours) for the public. We can see that the foundation is breaking, while the bright, happy colours on the right act as a distraction. It illustrates the exhausting effort of maintaining a fake exterior to hide from the reality.

Tara 8C

Kiarraah 8C



SPECIALIST UPDATES

INCLUSION UPDATE

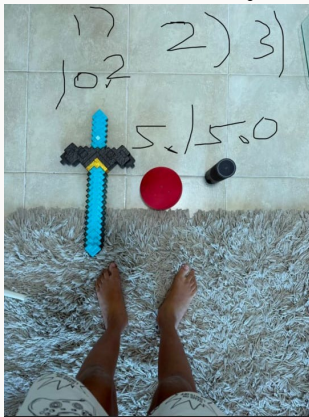


Ms. Nicola Quick
Head of Year 12 & Special
Education Needs
Coordinator- Secondary



Mrs Abigale Dunn
Head of Inclusion

As we continue to adapt to the current circumstances, we remain committed to ensuring all our student with SEND are supported in their online learning. Our students are doing fantastic at coping with this change, and we are very proud of them. They are continuing to have support with intervention lessons and have LSAs in live lessons, with breakout rooms set up to support them.



This week also marks Autism Awareness Day, in which I hope you have had the chance to see our video on SVS socials to celebrate neurodiversity and raise awareness within our community. We are proud to support and celebrate our students.

HUMANITIES UPDATE



Ms. Kirstin Scouller
Head of Humanities

Psychology and Sociology Remote Lessons

Despite the unprecedented challenges of recent times, psychology and sociology students have shown exceptional resilience and commitment to their learning. Adapting quickly to remote education, they have remained engaged in lessons, contributed thoughtfully to discussions, and continued to produce work of a high standard.

Their ability to stay focused, manage their time effectively, and persevere through uncertainty has been truly commendable. It is clear that they have not allowed these circumstances to limit their potential, but instead have risen to meet them with maturity and determination.

I am incredibly impressed by their efforts and immensely proud of the dedication they have shown. Their hard work and positive attitude during this period reflect not only their academic strengths, but also their character.

Mr. Sadiq.

PE UPDATES



Ms. Michelle Rowcliffe
Head of Department -
Secondary

Despite the ongoing shift to online learning, the pupils have been continuing to engage in PE lessons and have been embracing the activities on offer. This week, KS3 and KS4 Core PE lessons have focused on developing speed, building on last week's work around cardiovascular endurance. Students selected from a range of activities, including interval training, circuits, fartlek runs, HIIT sessions, and yoga/pilates. Our GCSE PE groups have been working hard too. With Mr Burgess, students explored the mechanics of levers in sport, understanding how the body generates movement efficiently. Meanwhile, Mrs Rowcliffe has guided students through the topic of mental rehearsal, helping them understand how psychological preparation can enhance performance. For our BTEC Sport students, this week marks the start of an exciting new unit on Nutrition. Learners have begun investigating how food fuels the body and influences performance. During this period of online learning, we also want to highlight the importance of staying active for mental health. Regular movement, whether it's a structured workout, stretching, or generally getting active helps reduce stress, improve mood, and maintain a positive sense of routine. We are proud of how well our students continue to adapt and engage.





SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

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