



ST. CLARE'S SCHOOL

SUMMER'S STORY

what it's like having kidney dialysis in hospital during coronavirus crisis

Summer Kansiray, 12, from Bridgend, who has to self isolate as a vulnerable person, said it is "very scary" visiting hospital three times a week for treatment during the outbreak. The year eight schoolgirl, who is waiting for a kidney transplant after a first one failed, has four hours of life saving dialysis three times a week at the University Hospital of Wales Noah's Ark Children's Hospital in Cardiff. The transplant list has been closed during the pandemic.

One major benefit of the coronavirus outbreak for the 12 year-old is that she no longer misses lessons now, because they are live online and she can join in from her hospital bed instead of missing most of three days school every week.



Summer taking part in a class from school on her laptop while on kidney dialysis

"Having my lessons is a big distraction for me because I can focus on them instead of the dialysis. I'm up to date now instead of missing lessons"

When all schools were ordered to shut last month her school, St Clare's in Porthcawl, moved all year groups from nursery to sixth form onto a remote online learning programme.

"It's really fun because I can speak to my classmates and my teachers if I have a question."



“It has been so lovely for Summer to have something good to focus on especially with recent events. She even looks forward to dialysis now! I truly believe it has helped Summer mentally as well as she has been feeling low. Mrs Smart always make Summer smile. They are such a fantastic team at St Clare’s. They should be very proud of themselves. I can imagine it has been a difficult time for them all also but the results they have given are amazing.

It has gone in our favour as Summer gets to learn even more now as she has 5 full days of education. It’s so flexible and really convenient. It’s really quite sad to see the other patients just sitting there with no support from school. It makes us realise even more how lucky we are. It just makes me happy that Summer is happy and she is safe.”

Joanne, Summer’s mother

“It’s been a huge undertaking to make the move to online learning – our teachers and pupils have been throwing themselves into the process with amazing energy. Summer’s experience shows the power of keeping our children connected. It’s so inspiring to all of us to know this new way of learning is making such a positive difference to our pupils.”

Helen Hier, Head Teacher, St Clare’s School

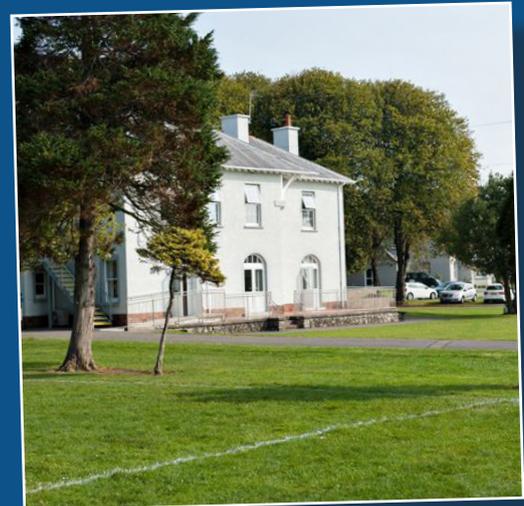
“On Monday 30th of March, we moved to online learning. I had Year 8 Spanish first lesson, Summer’s class, and burst into tears when I saw that she was in the hospital, having dialysis. Normally, her hospital sessions are in the afternoon, so seeing her in her bed at the Heath completely blindsided me.

The joy this new learning opportunity could bring Summer is something we all anticipated at St. Clare’s but to have seen her happiness, albeit via video, is something I will never forget. This is now a way of teaching we can always offer to Summer; a positive change in such challenging times.”

Rachel Smart, Deputy Head – Pastoral and Wellbeing. St Clare’s School



Summer Kansiray, 12, with mum Joanne and dad Ekrem at home in Bridgend



St Clares school , Porthcawl



Summer in hospital, talking to teacher Rachel Smart as she takes part in a lesson live streamed from St Clare’s School, Porthcawl.

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