

As we begin the summer term we thought we would write with a number of updates which will help you make the most of your time at home in support of your child's education. There is still no timescale for the reopening of schools and so it is important that we continue to work together and do our best to support children with their learning in the best way we can.

Prior to the Easter break, we published a number of letters which contain guidance and advice about how best to support your child at home with their learning which you can still find in the letters section of our website or by clicking [here](#). We have been so pleased to receive so many positive messages from parents which have recognised that staff have gone to great lengths to provide learning opportunities for students of all ages. Our handy self study guide provides a useful overview for parents and students and is a very good place to start if you are not yet familiar with the school's use of Office 365 and, more specifically, SharePoint and Microsoft Teams. You can find an online copy of our self study guide by clicking the link [here](#).

As we return from the Easter break, your child's teachers will begin contacting their classes to ensure that they know where to find work and where to access the resources. It is important that we revisit our key message from before the Easter break; it is not possible to fully replicate the school experience at home and we would encourage all parents to achieve what you feel is a sensible balance of school work and other valuable learning experiences that will be equally important to the wider development of your child.

A Ray of Light

Declan Hevey lit up the school Facebook page recently with his story about using the school 3-D printer to print protective mask frames in support of the NHS. Declan contacted the school during the Easter break having found a request for the frames on Facebook and Mr Sharp was only too pleased to help Declan get set up with his own engineering workshop. Declan quickly got to work and he has already produced a number of frames which will be used by NHS staff in hospitals across the north-west of England.

As many have done so already on Facebook, I'm sure you will join me in thanking Declan for his thoughtfulness and consideration in support of those who are caring for people in our hospitals. Well done Declan, you're a star!



Thanks to all of our students who have been sending their teachers images of their work; it's great to see you thinking, designing and creating.



Joshua Crook:
Weather Station



Isobel Harrison:
Make-up Bag



Sam Osbourne:
Weather Station

Online resources

The Internet is full of very useful resources and free subscriptions to a number of online learning platforms and to help you navigate this the Department for Education and the Times Education Supplement have produced handy summaries which you may find helpful alongside the learning tasks and resources provided by your child’s teachers. Please find the links below ...

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-free-resources-home-learning>

Microsoft Teams: Setting and Tracking Assignments

This is a very useful program which is used by schools and the business community. If you have not already done so, now would be a good time to help your child familiarise themselves with Microsoft Teams as it provides a quick and easy way for teachers to communicate with children and to set assignments within a secure area which is approved by the school.

One particularly useful feature provides teachers with the ability to set assignments for their specific classes and to set a date by which the assignment should be submitted. Within Microsoft Teams, teachers are able to see which children in any class have submitted a response to the task that was set. The program also lets teachers know when the assignment was submitted by each child and provides an opportunity for teachers to give children individual feedback.

We recognise that some households may struggle with the strength of their broadband signal and we know that some of you are going to great lengths to ensure that you remain connected online with school work and with your extended families. Where possible, we would like to encourage parents and students to work together so that you are able to familiarise yourselves with Microsoft Teams which provides a great tool for teachers to support your child’s learning whilst school is closed.

Accelerated Reading

Your child is able to access the online Accelerated Reading (AR) resources by using their AR log in details and by following this link; simply click here. You will no doubt be aware of the importance of reading and the link to academic achievement and so please try to make time for your child to read. The Accelerated Reader website provides a range of things to read online and associated quizzes for your child to complete. We reward children regularly for their achievements in the AR programme and we will continue to do so, even during this period when the school is closed.

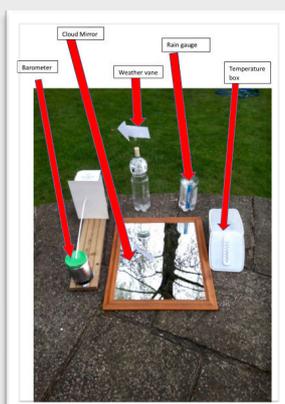
Merits

Our merit system is part of the fabric of the school and you will be pleased to know that your child’s teachers continue to log merits on our system. Mrs Fayers is currently processing the merits for the spring term and we look forward to awarding Amazon vouchers to students in the near future.

Assessment Point Reports and Remaining Parents Evenings

Unfortunately, given the challenges presented by the the current situation, we will not be able to provide the assessment point reports which were scheduled for 22nd April and 8th July. However, we are discussing ways that we could provide Year 8 and Year 7 parents with some information about your child’s progress this year in line with the parents evenings which were originally scheduled for 14th May and 11th June respectively. Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

Max Parkyn: Weather Station.



Annie Hodgson: Home Cooking.



John Birkett: Weather Station.

