

T-Bulletin

The school's new Temporary Bulletin

15 May 2020



1. Update from Mr Shapland

I am sure, like many households, you will have been keen to tune into the press conference from Downing Street last Sunday evening, particularly to see if there was to be any news about schools.

The government's announcement regarding the easing of lockdown restrictions did indeed include some important information regarding school return, which has been followed up with a raft of guidance and planning documentation from the DfE over the course of the week.

Perhaps the biggest news for the secondary sector was that there were no proposed changes to the current arrangements for the vast majority of students, this side of the Autumn term. For students in Years 10 and 12 the situation is slightly different. After the half term break, the government is asking schools to supplement their current remote learning programme with an opportunity for some face-to-face support. The government was clear, however, that they do not expect students in Years 10 and 12 to return to a normal timetable, for any part of the remaining Summer term. Even these arrangements will be subject to meeting the five tests the government has set out, which include a continued decrease in the rate of infection. New guidance from the government, outlining how this might operate, is being released on a daily basis. Secondary schools are due to receive further details from Hertfordshire County Council and Herts for Learning next week and we will update parents and carers of Year 10 and 12 students with more information as soon as well are able to.

I would like to reassure all our students, across every year group, that we will continue to provide remote learning and support - and listen to your feedback to help us shape this experience in the weeks ahead.

Thank you to many parents and carers who have written in to express thanks or just to let us know how things are going. Your encouragement and support is important to us. I'd particularly like to thank the students who responded to our IT survey this week in huge numbers. I was grateful, and impressed, by the rapid response rate and this feedback will help us refine our work and communications with them for the remainder of the summer term.

We know that this situation has challenged us all in many ways but perhaps it has changed us a little too. We regularly hear talk of 'a new normal' and I have often referred to the importance of establishing new routines in our communications with parents, staff and students. One of these is the weekly 'clap for carers' where communities come together and show their appreciation for those key, frontline workers. It is clear that dedication and selflessness are being widely recognised and it is heartening to see we are all finding ways to demonstrate new levels of thoughtfulness and compassion - even if the appearance of tambourines on a Thursday evening is a little disconcerting!

I wish you all a peaceful weekend.

James Shapland

2. Remote Learning

Exercise books: if students have run out of space in exercise books and need replacements, please would parents complete the form [here](#); school will be in contact to arrange distribution. It is absolutely acceptable to be working electronically or on other paper - please limit requests to essential ones.

Rewards: Once again lots of positive rewards have been allocated to students, including a fabulous total of 2037 merits. It is pleasing to note that one quarter of these are in the category 'for showing resilience with completing Remote Learning', a testament to how much students are persevering with their learning.

Students of the Week

ART

James G Y7, Angelica P Y7,
Jasmine H Y12

DRAMA

Gracie S Y10

ENGLISH

Gracie L Y8, Tyrell M Y8,
Corina E Y10

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Laura C Y10

GEOGRAPHY

Finn D Y7, Angelica E Y8

HISTORY

Megan B Y9, Jude M Y9

MATHS

Max I Y7, Evie M Y7,
William K Y8, Margot R Y9,
Holly Heck Y10, Harry L Y10,
Harry L Y10, Jamie P Y10,
Luke P Y10, Matthew St J Y10

MODERN FOREIGN

LANGUAGES

Leoni R Y8, Bella W Y8,
Melody F Y12

MUSIC

Beatrice B Y10

PE

Rachel C Y10, Abbie F Y10,
Daisy L Y10, Vincent M Y10,
Will S Y10, Matthew St J Y10,
Poppy W Y10

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Jonathan B Y9

SCIENCE

Charlie B Y7, Benedict H Y7,
Jamie K Y7, Freya L Y7, Hari
M Y7, Jenny R Y7, Sami H Y8,
Jacob T Y8, Megan A Y9,
Beatrice B Y10,
Isabella M Y10

YEAR 8

Luke JM, Emilia T

YEAR 9

Megan A, Leon B, Natalie C,
Luke M, Tiggy M, Jasmin R

YEAR 10

Annabel B, Matthew E,
Aleksa L, Ella-Louise M

3. Virtual Art Gallery

We are delighted to share with you a gallery of work created by students as part of their Art remote learning: [Please click here to view the Gallery](#)

4. Emptying Lockers

We are planning to enable students to clear lockers and retrieve equipment in a time-allocated, safe and socially-distancing manner with allocated appointments. Please complete the form [here](#) to inform us of the location of your locker; we will contact you to arrange a time-allocated slot after May half term.

5. Update from the LRC - Reading for Pleasure

A reminder that the LRC Book Cover competition closes on Monday 18 May. Each entry qualifies for house points and the overall winners will receive Amazon gift vouchers.

Next week sees the start of the annual Hay Literature Festival, one of the biggest and best literary festivals in the world. This year, their programme has gone digital and from 18-22 May there's a free events programme for children featuring talks from authors such as Cressida Cowell, Patrice Lawrence and Onjali Q Rauf. More information can be found at www.hayfestival.com.

You may be interested in a document which the LRC has put together about reading for pleasure with some resources that parents and students may find useful: [Reading for Pleasure](#)

6. SEND

One hallmark of ADHD is executive function difficulties — problems in planning, organising, or self-regulating. Children with ADHD can also become frustrated very quickly. There are 10 tips for parents to boost all seven executive functions which will help your child gain more independence. [Please click here for a link to the information.](#)

Did you know that your son or daughter could use voice typing in google docs? Many students with SEND are already using this google tool and really enjoy it. Voice typing is easy to do. You will find instructions here: <https://support.google.com/docs/answer/4492226?hl=en>

7. Student Well-being and Parent Support

In response to the wellbeing questionnaire that we conducted earlier this term, Dr Kathy Weston has produced a further [tip sheet](#) aimed at both parents and students, with suggestions of positive steps to take in areas where students may be struggling. She has also produced a [podcast](#) of advice and guidance in discussion with Mr McDonald and Mr Khalil - both are accessible by clicking on the links above.

The Schools Advisory Service (SAS) have a really useful leaflet which describes the support they offer for student well-being. You can [access this leaflet here](#).

8. Safeguarding

[Thinkuknow](#) is the online safety education programme from the National Crime Agency. You'll find lots of support and advice for teens. Once a fortnight, on Tuesdays, they produce an [activity sheet](#) to help you support your child while schools are partially closed. For more advice on keeping your child safe online visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/

9. Year 12 Work Experience update

Over the past few years Year 12 students have had the opportunity to complete work experience at the end of the summer term. This has been invaluable for their personal development, university applications and CVs. Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, most Year 12 students will not be able to complete work experience in the way they had planned; we are therefore encouraging students to look at ways they can undertake virtual work experience or voluntary work. Shortly there will be suggestions of the types of activities students can get involved in uploaded to Google Classroom. We also actively encourage students to begin to do their own research.

100k in May



Students are well underway with this House challenge - keep it up and keep your form tutor posted! Congratulations to Jim Collins Y9 who reached the 100k mark last weekend.

Supervision for children of critical, key workers and vulnerable children

We continue to provide supervision for vulnerable children and children of critical and key workers, during normal school hours (8.35am-3.20pm). If you are a key worker or the parent of an identified vulnerable child, and require care, please continue to book spaces in the usual way, emailing admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk. All spaces must be pre-booked to ensure we have adequate, safe levels of staff provision. Government direction remains that, if children can stay at home, they should.

Letters sent out this week

Y6 Interim Transition Information;
Option choices for Y10;
Y11 Prom