



15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well and keeping safe. I am pleased to report that we have now issued over 150 laptops to those students who did not have a device for home learning. We are also sending packs of work home to some students who have difficulty with their internet connectivity.

Thank you for all your support in ensuring that your child logs on for all their timetabled lessons and fully engages with their online learning.

Please ensure that your child logs on to their lesson at the correct time and logs off at the end of their lesson. They should not be sharing lesson links with other students.

I appreciate how hard it must be for some families to juggle with their own work and oversee their children's learning too. Thank you for persevering and hopefully we should be able to open school as soon as the Government lifts the restrictions.

Please take the time to read the very important information below.

- Lunchtime arrangements and P4 lessons: As pupils on site have their lunch at 12:30pm, there may be a problem for online lessons during Period 4, with pupils and staff having lunch and some students missing out on their online lesson at 12:30pm. All teachers will now start lesson 4 at 11:40am regardless of the year group and finish at 12.30pm. That way all pupils and staff will be on lunch from 12:30pm to 1:20pm and lessons will start from 1:20pm.
- 2. Group changes: There has been a delay with group changes being reflected on Google Classroom. This has now been resolved through updates in house and software updates by our provider. Pupils should be able to work with their teachers based on the updated groups. Apologies for the delay and any inconvenience that this may have caused.
- **3.** Year 9 Options: Year 9 options process will continue as normal but virtually. We will be in contact in due course with details regarding next steps.
- **4.** Year 11 into Sixth Form: Further details of next steps will be forwarded to Year 11 students and parents in the coming weeks.
- 5. Online lessons: Please bear in mind that not all lessons in all subjects will be live streamed. Where lessons are not live streamed teachers will be providing online resources. Please ensure your child completes these and on time. Where lessons are live streamed, there have been a number of reports where parents / carers have interrupted live lessons to speak to teachers. Please do not do this as it disrupts the lesson. If you have an issue, please email the relevant teacher with your concerns / questions.
- 6. Lateral Flow testing consent forms: We will be rolling out lateral flow testing for staff and students on school site. If you have not already done so, then please complete the consent form no later than Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January.













7. Visitors on site: Please do not come on to the school site at any time, unless you have an appointment to do so. In the interests of safety for yourselves, students and staff onsite, the amount of people onsite needs to be kept to an absolute minimum.

I hope you have a good weekend and stay safe, healthy and positive.

Kindest regards.

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Aruna Sharma Head Teacher















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## Maintaining and developing your child's literacy during lockdown:

One of the greatest challenges children face when learning remotely is keeping themselves reading. It is crucial that we do what we can to maintain and develop their literacy while they are not attending school.

Please encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes per day. This will help to maintain and even improve their literacy while they cannot attend school in person.

Our librarian, Ms Cosmas, Ms Welsford and the English department have gathered together these resources to help you to support your child's literacy at this challenging time:

- Watch some great author talks from Cressida Cowell, Holly Bourne and Marcus Sedgwick for free on the Hay Festival Player. https://www.hayfestival.com/hayplayer/
- Document your daily living experience through starting your own historical Corona Diary or blog.
- Graphic Novels and Comics count as reading You can read the Beano or Alice Oseman's Heartstopper series (13+). https://www.beano.com/categories/comic-strips https://tapas.io/series/Heartstopper

Then try writing your own: <u>http://davidoconnell.uk/activities/comics-drawing/</u> <u>http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/children/kevin-comic-sheets.pdf</u>

- For any aspiring poets Michael Rosen's YouTube channel is an amazing resource, full of easy to follow writing advice. <u>https://www.michaelrosen.co.uk/videos/</u>
- Lots of videos of some great books being read aloud.
   <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrFMow5TKHosUmHtVIzuAwg</u>
- Read some fantastic e-books or online stories
   <u>https://largepdf.com/</u>
   <u>https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/</u>
   <u>https://www.booksfortopics.com/storytime-online</u>
   <u>http://www.magickeys.com/books/</u>
   <u>https://www.pdfbooksworld.com/Juvenile-Fiction-EBooks</u>
   <u>https://manybooks.net/</u>
- Project Gutenberg have so many free classics available to read online. Start with Alice in Wonderland or Treasure Island. https://www.gutenberg.org
- Complete 10 minute writing challenges. Authorfy have some great 10 minute challenges from authors and there is even more book fun on their website. You can sign up for a free account.













https://authorfy.com/10minutechallenges/

- Lots of links where you can read, watch, hear and explore children's poems. <a href="https://clpe.org.uk/poetryline">https://clpe.org.uk/poetryline</a> <a href="https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/">https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/</a> <a href="https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/children">https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/</a> <a href="https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/children">https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/</a> <a href="https://clidrens.poetryarchive.org/">https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/children</a> <a href="https://clidrens.poetryarchive.org/">https://clidrens.poetryarchive.org/</a></a>
- The Reading Realm: Learning from home resources, ideas and more. There is also an app you can get with lots of things to read and activities. <u>https://thereadingrealm.co.uk/category/resources/</u>
- Love Reading 4 Kids: Books, videos and competitions https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/kids-zone/
- The Book Trust: Lots more book fun, quizzes and videos here. <u>https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-</u> <u>fun/?q=&sortOption=AtoZ&pageNo=1</u>
- **Audible:** Lots of free audio books for children to explore. <u>https://stories.audible.com/discovery</u>
- Quizzes, quizzes and more quizzes:

https://www.mylondon.news/whats-on/family-kids-news/20-literature-quiz-questions-test-18153865 100 question children's book quiz for pupils aged 7-11 in KS2 QuizShed - Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone Secondary home learning resources | Tes Quizzes | BookTrust Easy Literature Quiz 2 (20 Questions) – Torgo Entertainment Very Easy Literature Questions Quiz | 15 Questions 100 Arts and Literature Quiz Questions and Answers | Trivia Quiz NightThe phizz-whizzing Roald Dahl quiz - BBC Bitesize The Ultimate Puffin Books Quiz | Children's Books Trivia The frabjously gallumphing Lewis Carroll quiz - BBC Bitesize Guess The Kids Book Quiz | Channel Mum Guess The Kids Book Quiz | Channel Mum (1)



The Award for MAKING A DIFFERENCE -CONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR







