
Principal's Newsletter

3 April 2020

Dear Parents, Colleagues, Pupils and Students,

I hope you and your family are well and “hanging in there” together. These extraordinary weeks have presented the entire world with unprecedented challenges. For some of our families this includes illness and the illness of relatives. For others it is simply the challenge of living in a socially isolated way. Mr Hammersley’s volunteer effort has enlisted more than 40 volunteers. He will be in touch directly with you as we begin to support some of our families with needs specific to them at this time.

A reminder that you can make known any needs that you, or others that you know, have by filling in a form [here](#). Alternatively, you can email chaplain@liverpoolcollege.org.uk or text/call 07783083701 stating your name, address, connection to Liverpool College, and request.

It has only been two weeks, but we have been able to reflect a little on the way learning is progressing at the school. Our staff have been amazing, both in their commitment to adapt quickly to these new circumstances, their willingness to volunteer in our school “hub” and the way they have kept teaching, assessing, and feeding back often while having to face some particular challenges in their own family situations.

Here is a tiny bit of good news amid the gloom. Our boarding Ofsted report arrived this week and has been published. We have added another three outstanding judgments to our trophy case. Congratulations to Ms Nolan, Mr Brady, the whole boarding team and of course our wonderful boarders who emerge so well from this report. You can read it all [here](#) when the news gets too awful.

It does not feel like the last day of term, but it is. From today we are on a two-week holiday. Staff will not be feeding back, live streaming sixth form lessons, marking or setting further work. They are on holiday.

We have been asked to forward the following communication from **Ofqual**, the exam regulator, regarding [how grades will be awarded this year for A level and GCSE](#). It is abundantly clear that we are not under any circumstances to discuss individual grades with any pupil or parent within the outlined process. There is a **letter from Ofqual to students** which you can read [here](#). There is also further guidance for teachers, students and

parents [here](#). We received this communication at about 11.45 today. As such, I ask you to read the communication which provides assurance that this process is as fair as it can be under the circumstances. After the Easter holidays, as we receive any further information or if we feel we need to explain something further beyond what is in the guidance or the letter to students, we will share it with you.

In collaboration with Lawrence Road School, Booker Avenue School and Greenbank Primary, the hub for key worker children will continue to operate. From April 20, the first day of summer term, this provision will operate from 07.00 to 19.00 Monday-Friday. I have previously thanked the exceptional volunteers and school leadership for making this hub such a success, but I want to do a special "shout out" to our Forest School volunteers, Ms Shackell, Ms Rogers, and Ms Webb who are volunteering over their Easter holiday and who have made the hub an even more magical place for the young people who need it. In the week of Monday 20 April, a small number of our own secondary pupils will also be asked to come to school to receive support and guidance. You will be contacted directly about this if your child is invited.

In analysing on-line learning, there is a clear pattern which shows how detrimental to learning it would be if we had to do this forever. Rates of engagement and participation in online learning vary enormously. We have not studied this scientifically but it seems that higher achieving pupils engage more and learn more online. In short, online learning does not work well if you are not particularly keen on school to begin with. Only school, as traditionally understood, motivates or captivates the reluctant learner, or so it would appear after two weeks.

On Monday April 20, summer term will begin. In the primary phase there is likely to be greater use of a platform called Seesaw to drive further learning. This has been piloted by Mr Devine with his Year 6 and with good results. It will be rolled out further.

In the secondary, we are focused on driving up the rate of participation in online learning and in simplifying our expectations for pupils and parents. You will receive more information about this before the 20th.

Pupils have been enjoying plenty of enrichment activities this week, including: Mrs Doran's ongoing weekly [Prep School challenges](#), an opportunity to participate in a [video conference talk about biomedicine and immunology](#) led by Dr Julio Furlong-Silva from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine for the Y10 Wilton Scholars, and [Y11 mock interviews](#) via video conferencing.

We have given our science goggles to the NHS, a tiny gesture of solidarity with the heroes of the hour.

We have been advised by Liverpool City Council that they have procured an additional 2 weeks' worth of vouchers to distribute from week commencing 6 April (from local children's centres) to families whose children are in receipt of Free School Meals. This will cover the

Easter holiday period. From the start of next term, the national scheme for FSM children will be implemented. Eligible families will receive further communication about the national scheme from the school.

I refer you to some important messages from Mrs Duffy (Assistant Principal: Safeguarding & Inclusion) and Major Ridley respectively.

Online Safety

There are a huge number of resources that parents can access to help them protect children online. Try the following link for advice and links to a range of resources:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/what-you-need-to-know-professionals-and-parents/>

If you become aware that your child is having a difficult time online, you may discover online bullying or other abuse, please do get in touch with us at school and we will work with you to help your child. You can contact Mrs Gannon, Mrs Pease, Mr Fox or Mrs Duffy by email at any time if you are concerned about your child and their online activity.

If you discover harmful content online, you (or anyone over the age of 13) can immediately report it via the following website:

www.reportharmfulcontent.com

Pupils at Liverpool College are given lots of advice about keeping themselves safe online and we discuss what they should do if there is anything they are worried about. Please reassure your children that they can continue to access support from staff in school – they can email their House Mentor, Head of House or other staff member if they need help or advice and we will do our best to support them.

The next document is designed for you to print out and put on your fridge – although it is aimed at Primary aged pupils the advice it contains is excellent for all families with children of all ages:

<https://static.lgfl.net/LgflNet/downloads/digisafe/Parent-Top-Tips-Safe-Online-Corona.pdf>

If you are stuck for ideas, there are some fun activities for primary aged children to help you discuss online safety with them – follow the link to the resources:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QNW6BVhopXbwlo9mQls6M-A49g5zAxFT>

We would like all pupils to communicate with their teachers using their school email address or through Show My Homework. Teachers will not be able to reply to pupils who email them from personal email addresses. This is a key part of our Safeguarding Policy and helps us to keep pupils and staff safe online. Staff will not be able to copy in parents

directly to emails sent to pupils so please ask your child to show you their school emails regularly.

Pupils can easily access their school email - all they need to do is go to www.office.com and click "Sign In" and then use their Liverpool College username and password just as they do in school. It is possible to download an app for use on Smart Phones too.

Please ask your child to check their school email everyday so that they don't miss out on important messages. Remember that as a parent you can access your child's Show My Homework account to check on any messages and work that has been sent.

Information for parents about Show My Homework, including logging in as a parent is available [here](#).

DofE

An update from Major Ridley about how pupils can still make progress on their DofE awards during this period of school closure:

With DofE expeditions on hold for now, I'd like to once again emphasise the other sections of the DofE award. The Volunteering, Skill, and Physical sections can all be completed while at home and you will find some information below to assist your child in doing so. I would suggest that now is the ideal time for them to have completed every part of the award bar the Expedition.

Firstly, it may be the case that the intended activity is no longer suitable in the current context. The good news is that the activity can be changed without needing to start the timescale over again. For example, if they needed to do two more weeks of a team sport for their physical, they could do two weeks of Joe Wicks to complete the section. All a participant needs to do on eDofE is revert a section back to draft -> change their chosen activity -> submit their new activity for approval. They do just need to make sure that the assessor is not a family member, though this is a great excuse for them to contact somebody outside of the home who can vouch for their progress over one of the many digital communication options available.

Lt Cdr Rigby will be in touch via e-mail and Show My Homework with further information and resources. Please encourage your child to keep an eye out for these messages and action what they suggest. We are always available on the end of an e-mail to answer any queries. I would also draw your attention to the DofE website that offers lots of information and resources <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference>

Finally, if you are stuck for ideas of what your child could work on at home, have a look at the suggestions below:

- **Saint John's Ambulance** has a great self-directed skill plan: <https://www.sja.org.uk/globalassets/documents/dofe/dofeselfteachworkbook.pdf>
- **iDEA** is a free award and platform centred around developing digital, enterprise and employability skills that many of our pupils have already started – This has a great skill section: <https://idea.org.uk/faqs/organisers/learner-management/173%7Cidea-and-the-duke-of-edinburghs-award>
- **The Rainfall Rescue Project** is seeking volunteers to transfer all the data into online spreadsheets: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-52040822>

We are entering the week when Christians remember and celebrate the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. In him we certainly see the perfect example of a sacrifice of love which is now also reflected in the sacrifices made by many for the ill and the vulnerable. We also see that suffering has meaning, and is not the end of the story or the end result of human love. We are full of hope, in part, because we believe that sacrificial love will ultimately overcome in every situation, including the one our world and each of us confronts today.

May I wish you and yours a peaceful, healthy, and restful Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal