



T-Bulletin

The school's new Temporary Bulletin

01 May 2020

1. Update from Mr Shapland

Last week, I mentioned how we all seemed to be settling down to some kind of routine during this period of school closure. This week, I have been particularly impressed with our students who continue to work so hard with their remote learning tasks. Teachers have awarded an impressive 1330 merits this week (over 6000 in total since remote learning began!) to recognise these efforts. Special thanks also go to the many students who completed the wellbeing questionnaires to ensure we can tailor our tutor time resources to their needs: especially support on how to relax and manage routines.

We know the national lockdown has left few businesses unscathed and, sadly, some of our families will inevitably have found their personal circumstances changing. If you are in this situation, your children may be eligible for free school meals. More information can be found later in the T-Bulletin.

We understand that next week's review of restrictions by the government will also bring some details of the plans surrounding the eventual reopening of schools. Whilst we don't know the finer details of this yet, we do know that the Secretary of State for Education told the Education Select Committee that 'the reopening of schools is expected to take place in a phased manner' and 'schools will get as much notice as possible' adding that 'all schools returning on day 1 with a full complement of pupils would not be realistic.' Once we know more, we will, of course, ensure we keep you informed of the timelines we are working to and the details of how this will operate.

At the end of next week we will be launching the 'Lockdown Challenge' as part of our House competition. I'm looking forward to seeing the outcome of some fun and creative activities.

Finally, I would like to flag the rearranged date of the national early May bank holiday next week, which takes place on Friday 8 May 2020 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE day. Obviously, no remote learning tasks will be set for this date.

I wish you a safe and happy weekend.
James Shapland

2. Year 11 and Year 13

As a school, we are currently working our way through the process of providing centre assessed grades for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. We understand this is an anxious time for these students and their families and would like to reassure you all that this process is being carried out in a thorough and robust way to ensure that it is as fair and as accurate as possible. Year 11 and Year 13 students have been given guidance and suggested work to help them begin preparing for A levels or other further study and university. We would encourage students to create a routine to incorporate some of this work in order that they are as fully prepared as possible for future study.

3. Remote Learning

Our Learning Resource Centre continues to provide material to support remote learning and online study, and has put together some useful online research tips and shortcuts to help students find trusted sources of information for their remote learning. If any student needs help or guidance with research they can contact Miss Lambert directly who will be happy to help: [Research top tips from the LRC](#) and [Support and resources from the LRC](#)

We continue to trial live teaching with a selection of classes in Years 10 and 12. The students and teachers within the trial group are enjoying the experience, and we will continue this into next week. The aim of this is to trial supplementing the main focus of remote learning, which is taking

Students of the Week

ART

Gracie L Y8, Daniel S Y12

DRAMA

Evie P, Y8

ENGLISH

Rishka B Y7, Suri D Y7, Kyle B Y8, Anna H Y8, Agatha P Y8, Megan B Y9, Leila D Y9, Albert E Y9, James N Y9, Freddy W Y9, Oliver M Y12, Emma S Y12

GEOGRAPHY

Finley A Y7, Rebecca H Y7, Jamie K Y7, Flo L Y7, Beau M Y7, Emma R Y7, Agatha P Y8, Ollie F Y10, Cayla H Y10

MATHS

Suri D Y7, Jasper T Y7, Reuben P Y8, Jacob T Y8, Josh T Y8, Megan A Y9, Megan B Y9, Alice H Y9, Katie J Y9, Aaron K Y9, Lucas B Y10, Corina E Y10, Francisco E Y10, Harry L Y10, Jamie P Y10,

Will P Y10, Kai R Y10

MFL

Gabriella B Y9, Torryn R Y9, Holly H Y10, Max N Y10, Beth M Y12

PE

Olly M Y7, Livie C Y7, Harry L Y10, Millie H Y12, Carys L Y12

SCIENCE

Erin P Y9

YEAR 7 Libby M

YEAR 8 Kyle B, Erin M

YEAR 9

Jim C, Hamish M, Adam S

YEAR 10

Freya A, Theo B, Georgia G

YEAR 11 Rosie S

Thank you for keeping us updated with the many ways students are helping their families and communities. Amongst them: Evie P Y8 has created an online dance workout as a way to connect with her grandparents; Jim C Y9 completed the 2.6

place, and will continue to take place, through Google Classroom. It is important that remote learning is accessible and manageable for all students and staff. If your child is due to take part in a live lesson through the pilot, you will receive a code of conduct which forms the student protocol for live lessons. Please make sure you go through this with your child.

4. Safeguarding

Please continue to remind your child to 'check-in' online with their tutor each Monday morning - this is a simple but essential part of how we monitor students' wellbeing.

BBC Own It App updated for COVID-19

The BBC's Own It app helps young people new to social media manage their wellbeing, whilst empowering children to make smart choices, and helping them to lead a positive life online.

The Own It app and keyboard lets children:

- get advice whenever they type
- track their feelings
- win badges as they reflect
- find help when they need it
- taking quizzes to learn more about themselves

The app also includes a special keyboard to use which offers helpful tips and friendly advice to children when they need it. The app can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/own-it-app>

5. Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer

The Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer Team has created a brand new resource area. Their blog outlines more detail and explains what it can do for families who have a child with SEND in Hertfordshire. The blog contains really useful information and ideas and can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/feedback/local-offer-blog/resource-s-area-goes-live.aspx>

6. Student Wellbeing and Parent Support

We are delighted to be a Tooled-Up school with Dr Kathy Weston. A suite of evolving digital resources are available exclusively to our parents, covering areas such as wellbeing, learning, aspiration and behaviour. [Letter to parents available here](#) including a link to register with Tooled-Up if you have not already done so. There is also a new link to Tooled-Up on Insight.

The resources will respond to parent and student feedback. Students have already completed a wellbeing questionnaire and we are responding with Tutor Time resources to help with relaxation. Dr Weston will provide resources for parents to help their children with good sleep routines, including an interview this week with a world expert on teen sleep.

7. Free School Meals

As Mr Shapland mentioned above, your financial situation may have changed as a result of lockdown during the Coronavirus. There are further details on eligibility and how you can apply on the Hertfordshire County Council website. This can be accessed using the following link: [Free school meals](#).

Please contact the school if you would like support with your application or if you are currently in receipt of free school meals and are experiencing difficulties accessing the voucher system.

8. 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 opening 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.

Challenge for UK charities and completed 3 challenges in one day; Hamish M Y9 has been delivering prescriptions to those who cannot leave home. Keep it up!

VE Day Anniversary

Berkhamsted's British Legion commemorative event on the High Street has had to be cancelled. Children in the town have been asked to colour and display VE Day bunting to mark the occasion:

[Template to download](#)

Form Time Reading

Well done to students in 8C2 and 8R2 and their form tutors who have continued with their weekly form time reading session during our distance learning. Thank you to Miss Harris and Mr Bund for going to the extra effort of recording your lovely voices, chapter after chapter, for the benefit of your form groups.

Herts Music Service

Lessons Parents of students who receive music tuition from Herts Music teachers have been contacted regarding continuation of lessons online. Parents can register [here](#)

Dacorum Family Services

Dacorum Family Services is committed to supporting children, families and schools during these unprecedented times. Please see below links regarding their services, contacts and wider networks: [DFS Information](#) and [Helplines and Advice](#)

School Family Worker

Lisa MacGovern is still available to give support through surgeries. [Here](#) are details of how you can register to receive support.

Attendance Officer

We thank and give our very best wishes to Mrs Wise who left the school after Easter. We are delighted to announce that Mrs North is our new Attendance Officer and started in post at the start of term.