

# T-Bulletin

The school's new Temporary Bulletin

24 April 2020

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## 1. Update from Mr Shapland

As we reach the end of the third week of school closure, it seems that we are all getting into some kind of routine with our 'lockdown lives.' Perhaps, inevitably, there has been lots of speculation recently about when schools may or may not be returning. Please rest assured that we are already planning how different models of school re-opening might work so that once the government announces that it is safe to return, we can respond to this quickly and efficiently - whenever this might be.

Despite the uncertainty, I remain very impressed by the way in which our school community has pulled together to operate this temporary 'new normal.' Our teachers are as busy as ever and our students are applying themselves well and making sure they stay in contact. In fact, we were recently contacted by one of our education platform providers to say our school usage was 'amazing.' At that point nearly 1000 video lessons had been created. We know many of our students are really valuing this delivery model.

There are a lot of resources being promoted in the media - from the new National Oak Academy lessons to BBC's Bitesize Daily - as well as the Joe Wicks workout! Many of these are really helpful, but please be reassured our teachers review each of these as they plan their digital lessons and will use them as and when appropriate. Today's news has brought Alexa into the lesson planning arena - "Alexa, can you home-school the kids?" I had a go at some of the science questions this morning and, while it might help you to learn the colour of lobster blood (it's blue), it is not quite up to the standard of our staff or their lessons!

Our support staff are also making sure the school still operates (both virtually and in real life for students of key workers) and our Governors remain a source of great support and encouragement whilst still ensuring our school continues to function effectively.

You may have seen in the press last weekend the story about the government providing additional support for identified Year 10 students through laptops/tablets. If your child is eligible under this scheme we will contact you directly when we know more.

And finally, it is important to me that students still feel 'connected' to the school. I know that many of our teachers are recording video lessons and we are beginning to pilot some 'live lessons', where students will work through lessons with the teacher in real time. Alongside this, I hope they have all had the opportunity to view my summer term welcome video which was shared with them at the start of the week. A link for this can be found on the school website by clicking on the scrolling ticker-line on the front page.

I wish you a safe and happy weekend.  
 James Shapland

## 2. Year 11 and Year 13

Information has gone out this week to parents and students regarding the grading process for Year 11 and Year 13, with some FAQs that we hope will help to address questions and concerns you may have. Accompanying this for Year 11 was information on 6th form entry and a list of activities that will support their preparation for A levels. We are liaising with West Herts College in order that we can provide a similar support programme for Year 11 students who are intending to move on to college.

In addition, some suggested activities have gone out to Year 13 students to support their preparation for University and future study.

## Students of the Week

### ART

Thibaud C Y12

### ENGLISH

Amber P Y8, Loli D Y10,

Biju D Y10

### FILM STUDIES

Paige L Y10

### MFL

Jacob T Y8, Lucy R Y12,

Issy R Y12

### PE

Luca W Y7, Sophie S Y7,

Verity B Y8, Rex C Y8,

Holly S Y10

### SCIENCE

Livie C Y7, Lily G Y9,

Jade G Y10

### YEAR 7

James G, Max I

### YEAR 8

Will H, Bobby P

### YEAR 9

Evan B, Georgina J

### YEAR 10

Ruby G, Harry L, Max N

## Guidance for Parents when a child is unwell or injured

The number of children attending Urgent Care and Emergency Departments has dropped. Families are understandably concerned about taking their children to health settings at this time but this has resulted in some children presenting late and as a result being very poorly. The East & North Herts and West Herts Trust have produced guidance for parents/carers when a child is unwell or injured: [click for guidance here](#)

### 3. Remote Learning

This week a pilot took place for streaming live lessons to some Year 10 and Year 12 classes. The aim of this is to trial supplementing the main focus of remote learning, which is taking place, and will continue to take place, through Google Classroom, supported by the recorded video lessons that many staff are providing. It is important to note that live lessons will not become the normal way of working for students, nor will they be used in all classes; it is important that our remote learning is accessible and manageable for all students and staff. If your child is due to take part in a live streamed lesson during 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.

Our **Learning Resource Centre** has put together a list of resources for students to assist with remote learning and online study. Our LRC App, which can be found on RM Unify, has daily changing content with links to ebook resources, author talks, book recommendations and reviews. Miss Lambert, our LRC Manager, can be contacted directly should students need any help finding resources or need assistance with book recommendations: [Support and resources from the LRC](#)

### 4. Keeping us informed / Safeguarding

Well done to all those students who have used the regular tutor-page check-in protocol to let us know they are safe and well, or to let us know when things are perhaps not great. It is important to us that we can continue to support our students and their families: so please would parents continue to update us (through [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)) about illness or, sadly, bereavement - even in these times, we can allocate bereavement and counselling resources where possible; the pastoral/safeguarding teams can advise and support where we are aware that families may require some additional help. Students can access wellbeing support and advice using the links on their RMuNify Wellbeing tile.

### 5. SEND

The fortnightly letter from the DSPL is accessible through this link: [Update from DSPL](#)

The DSPL letter includes:

- Learning resources and materials to help your child at home on the Hertfordshire Local Offer website
- SEND information for Herts Parents and Carers involvement
- Government Advice
- Ollie Foundation online training
- Emotional well-being webinars
- Families in Focus - online parent network support

The DfE have some suggested and approved resources to support you with home-learning which you will find through this link

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

The resource list includes resources for students who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This initial list of SEND resources has been developed with a focus on accessibility and inclusivity and is based on the recommendations of:

- Trusted organisations
- Charities
- Multi-academy trusts
- Special education headteachers

These resources might be useful to consider alongside the lessons set by your child's teachers.

### 6. Student well-being

You may recall from the last T-Bulletin that we are working with Dr Kathy Weston and a letter has gone out this week with further details. Please ensure that you follow the link at the end of her letter of introduction in order to register to access all of the resources on 'Tooled Up Education' by Thursday 30 April.

### Student Support in the Community

We are receiving lovely updates about our students helping others - from delivering meals to vulnerable people to making matching fabric hearts for patients and their loved ones to help them feel connected.



### Other Information:

**Year 8 student reports** went live today, 24 April

### 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](mailto: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.