

# T-Bulletin

The school's Temporary Bulletin

26 June 2020

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## 1. Update from Mr Shapland

This week, Ofcom released figures to show that UK adults spent a quarter of their waking hours online during lockdown with seven in 10 people making video calls at least once a week. It concluded that most people have 'sought new ways to keep connected, informed, entertained and fit' and the pandemic has 'radically changed our online behaviour.' I'm sure that, up and down the country, we will have all appreciated the irony that our children's deep understanding of online communication tools turned out to be a significant bonus!

This got me thinking about how much of our normal summer activity has changed - but also how much we have managed to maintain - during this period - through the power of virtual tours, meetings and activities ... and yet we know it is not 'quite the same'. Having filmed messages for new Year 7 and new Year 12 induction days, I gave the same message - I can't wait to see them in person ... and that is true for all students in all year groups.

On which note, it seems we have a date for this 'school reunion.' In last week's message, I mentioned that we had no prior warning of Government updates and heard it at exactly the same time as everyone else. As the T-Bulletin was landing in in-boxes last Friday, many of us were perhaps watching or listening to Gavin Williamson announce that schools will be open for all pupils in September.

This is good news. However, at this moment in time, we are all holding our collective breath - waiting for the guidance (due by the end of next week) to give us some ideas of the parameters and expectations of reopening for all students. The Prime Minister spoke of the country coming out of 'hibernation'. Of course, our students have not been hibernating, they have been working hard, engaging and participating at a distance - but care and careful planning will be needed to support this 'return.' We will keep you informed over the next few weeks.

Last Friday also brought news of a £1 billion 'catch up' fund. Any new funding in education is very welcome and, once we know what we may receive, we will work hard to target it for maximum impact; we need to make sure our children do not keep hearing the message that they are somehow deficient or lagging miles behind where they should be. This period has also allowed them to demonstrate so many skills and we owe it to them to be optimistic. As I completed my Yearbook message to our 2020 leavers, I expressed the hope that those students leaving us this year will hold onto the memories and successes of their entire 5 or 7 years at school - and not just the last few months.

And finally, being optimistic and positive - this week's mini heatwave has brought home to me that there are a few things I have not missed about 'normal school' in the summer months ... namely students complaining it is too hot, the slightly uncomfortable heat of the Hall at the summer concert (although the fabulous music makes up for it) or the concern about shade, dehydration and suncream on Sports day. It seems every cloud...

Wishing you all a good weekend

James Shapland

## 2. Face-to-face sessions

We are busy planning the next round of our Face to Face sessions for Year 12 students during the week beginning Monday 6 July. The sessions will focus on supporting students with their next-steps planning for university applications, careers and apprenticeships. Further information regarding the detailed arrangements will be sent out next week, alongside information for the Year 10 students we will be working with in school.

## Students of the Week

### BUSINESS STUDIES

Darshith B Y10

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

William B Y7, Dylan C Y7,

Emma G Y7, Libby M Y7

Edie A Y8, Finlay B Y8,

Ben C Y8, Neve C Y8

Curtis F Y8, Hermione H Y8,

Cam J Y8, Kate J Y8

Archie S Y8, Ellis S Y8

Bella W Y8, Harry B Y10

### DRAMA

Finn M Y10

### ENGLISH

Angelica P Y7, Robert M Y7

Dougs B Y8, Torryn R Y9

Beatrice-Alice B Y10

Matthew E Y10

### FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Hannah R Y7, Oliver H Y10

### GEOGRAPHY

Emma R Y7

### HISTORY

Phoebe G Y8, Martha F Y8

Anna H Y8, Olivia H Y8

Mark S Y9, Isabella M Y10

Beatrice-Alice B Y10

### MATHS

Adam H Y7, Nicola K Y7

Charlie D Y8

Lily H Y8, Amber P Y8

Holly SY10

### MUSIC

Evie P Y8

### PE

Isabel D Y7, Thomas D Y7

Lily G Y7, Max I Y7

Amy M Y7, Luca W Y7

Leon D Y8, Max E Y8

Harriet G Y8, Phoebe G Y8

Holly H Y8, Gracie L Y8

Stefan R Y8, Leyton B Y9

Leon B Y9, Lucy C, Y9

Harry T Y9, Indie F Y9

Marcus A Y10

Beatrice-Alice B Y10

Francisco E Y10, Abbie F Y10

Joseph P Y10, Robbie S Y10

### 3. Remote Learning

**A reminder about the opportunity to purchase a chromebook package** through Freedom Tech for Years 8, 9 and 10. We have arranged this offer for you as an extension to the offer we have made to our new Year 7 students. We are not expecting students in Years 8, 9 and 10 to have a chromebook but wanted to extend the offer to pay monthly if you were considering the purchase of a device for use at home. [You can see the devices and answers to FAQ on the school website - link here.](#) Please be reassured that there is no need to purchase a chromebook as students can access the google suite from any device.

### 4. House Update

[Please click here to watch the Virtual Sports Day Results Ceremony](#)

Bourne	1st
Coram	2nd
Raven	3rd
Handel	4th

	7	8	9	10	12	Staff
1st	B1	H1	H1	B1	H	CORAM
2nd	C1 + C2	C1 + R1	B2	B2		BOURNE
3rd			H2 + R1	H2		RAVEN
4th	R1	B1				HANDEL
5th	H2	C2	C1			
6th	R2	R2	R2			
7th	B2	B2	B1			
8th	H1	H2	C2			

As a result of Bourne's triumph, they have climbed above Raven and moved from 4th place to 3rd, just a few points behind Handel who are clinging on in 2nd! Coram's solid runner up performance keeps them well ahead of the pack and their victory this year appears to be within their grasp. However, we still have the Merits for the half term to be added, so nothing is yet secure!

### 5. SEND

I CAN is an organisation which helps children to improve their communication skills. There are many practical tips and resources on their website. Here is a link to FAQs for parents: [Parent FAQs](#) and a helpful factsheet here: [Verbal Dyspraxia Factsheet - NEW](#)

### 6. Student Well-being

Dr Kathy Weston would like to extend an invitation to Ashlyns families for complimentary registration for a special webinar she is doing next week as a follow up to Father's Day. This will be offered for free to Tooled Up Education subscribers.

The title of the webinar is **Dad Power: Tips for Boosting your Child's Self-esteem and Resilience**. It will take place on 29 June 2020 at 8.00pm. This one hour talk will be followed by a 20 minute Q&A. Dads can submit questions to Kathy ahead of the talk through Tooled Up.

A description of the content is as follows:

*This webinar is for loving fathers everywhere who want to stay up to date with the highest quality research evidence and who are willing to 'try and apply' the simple tips that can make a big difference to their children's lives and outcomes.*

*Fathers play a unique and powerful role when it comes to raising children. What are the things (as suggested by the research evidence) that dads can do to protect their children's mental health, wellbeing and resilience? What role can fathers play when it comes to children's*

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Isla S Y7, Mrudula K Y8  
Erin M Y8, Grace J Y9  
Ria K Y9, Maxwell P Y10

### SCIENCE

Annie B Y7, Chloe E Y7  
Adam H Y7, Teddy J Y7  
Nicola K Y7, Arthur P Y7  
Eleanor P Y7, Henry A Y10  
Ollie F Y10, Holly H Y10  
Harry L Y10, Gabi P Y10  
Ilya S Y10

### YEAR 9

Libby B, Conor F  
Llewellyn H, Georgina J

### YEAR 11

Georgie D

### YEAR 13

Elizabeth A, Jonny F  
Matthew L, Isabelle S

### Student Community Action

We are delighted to hear of the support our students are giving to those in need at this challenging time.

Congratulations to Beth M in Y12 who volunteers with One Vision to produce and deliver hot meals and to tackle mental health awareness.



Beth has received a certificate of appreciation from the MP for Watford, the Mayor of Watford and the Chairman of One Vision. The certificate was presented by the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire.

### ASA Quiz Night for Years 8 & 9

Please see details from the ASA below (no. 8)

learning, aspirations and levels of motivation? What benefits does a close and loving relationship with a father give children?

The webinar is limited to 100 attendees and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to register, please use the following [link](#). If you have not yet subscribed to Tooled Up Education and would like to do so, it takes less than a minute - simply click this [link](#)

## 7. Safeguarding

### **Train Track Trespassing Awareness**

Due to the very high level of trespassing on the tracks by young people in the area, Network Rail in partnership with Learn Live are working to help raise awareness to students across the UK educating them about the dangers of the train tracks through interactive digital delivery. Network Rail have asked us to share the following safety video with parents to show at home during this difficult time. As there have been **1,024 incidents** since lockdown began, we are keen to help keep students safe.

The secondary school student version can be [found here](#) (you will need to enter this email address to view the video: [railsafety@learnliveuk.com](mailto:railsafety@learnliveuk.com))

### **County Lines**

We are increasingly warned and are aware of so-called 'County Lines' groups operating within our local area. These are gangs and organised crime networks which groom and exploit children to sell drugs or be involved in their distribution; with children as young as 7 years old targeted. Please click here for a [link to the Children's Society's website](#), which includes signs for parents to watch out for, and [support for parents](#) who are concerned: parents should especially be alert for the following signs which may indicate increased risk of their child being exploited:

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing
- Being found in areas away from home
- Increasing drug use, or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them
- Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going
- Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery
- Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour
- Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know
- Coming home with injuries or looking particularly dishevelled
- Having hotel cards or keys to unknown places.

## 8. ASA News

**'Good as new' uniform drop off - please observe strict timings as below:**

- Monday 6 July 11am-1pm - Year 11s ONLY - students to drop off donations at the chapel, when collecting leavers' hoodies (details of arrival time slots have already been provided to Y11 students)
- Monday 6 July 2pm-3.30pm - any donations from other year groups to be dropped off at FRONT GATE
- Good as New Sale - Thursday 23 July - Ashlyns School (time and location to be confirmed)

Please make sure that all donations are WASHED and NAME LABELS REMOVED and if at all possible mended and on hangers. This will really help our volunteers turn around the clothes with minimal contact. We need VOLUNTEERS for the drop-off date (social distance measures will be in place), and sorting, washing and mending - please email [asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk). We are also in need of some extra clothes rails to help us 'socially distance' for sale day.

### **QUIZ NIGHT - Thursday 2 July 8pm - Years 8 & 9**

Thank you to everyone who took part in our first online quiz night last night! We hope you enjoyed it - please do share your photos on our closed group Facebook pages.

Next week's quiz for Years 8 & 9 via ZOOM.

LINK ID: 852 5156 6927

Suggested donation £3 to

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/112574636177901026/charity/3153935>

**NEXT ASA MEETING** - Monday 13 July - 8pm

## **Addams Family**

Although the school production could not take place as planned this term, the cast have put together a [medley for you to enjoy here](#).

We will update on the production as we are in a position to do so.

## **Supervision for children of critical workers and vulnerable children**

We continue to provide supervision for vulnerable children and children of critical 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 supervision of your child for remote learning during the school day, please email [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.

## **Letters sent out this Week**

- Y12 Assessment Week
- Virtual Sixth Form Induction Day
- Immunisation HPV2 catch up
- Y10 face to face session update