

## Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

When I signed off last weekend and referenced the forecast snow, I thought we might just get a few flakes. Last Sunday's snowfall - along with the obligatory snowmen, snowballs and sledging - seemed a welcome distraction from the bleaker news headlines.

Schools took centre stage once again mid week, when the PM announced we would not be returning straight after half term. The media has seized upon the 8th March date, but it is important to recognise this is the earliest date the Government is considering. Until we hear further, we will continue to plan, deliver lessons and assess work as we have since we returned in January. I remain impressed by the students' work ethic and engagement as well as being ever grateful to the staff who are working so hard to adapt their lessons for this mode of delivery. Much has been written about screen time and the necessity for screen breaks over recent weeks; this is as true for teachers as it is for students. We already have the 'breaks' at the end of each lesson but over the next few weeks, we will be considering other ways in which we can reduce the amount of time spent in front of devices.

This evening (11.45pm) marks the deadline for the consultation on the alternative arrangements for this year's GCSEs, A levels and vocational qualifications. The DfE has announced over 70,000 responses have been received, but they are still hoping for more responses before closing time. We have written to those directly affected by the change and the consultation response can be made [here](#).

It is important to note that the consultation only affects examinations planned for 2021.

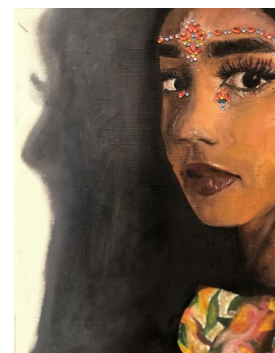
I am mindful that this week marks the end of January and, looking back in the archive, it has been almost a year since we started communicating about Coronavirus and schools. Such a lot has changed in that time but what hasn't changed is the strong relationships between staff, students and parents we see being demonstrated every day. As ever, I would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Wishing you all a good weekend  
James Shapland

## Hub Provision

If you are a key worker or have a vulnerable child and would like a place for them at school in our Hub please contact [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 provision.

## Virtual Art Gallery



[Please enjoy a selection of students' recent art work here](#)

## PE Weekly House Challenge

Students can upload their attempts at the PE weekly house challenge for house points [here](#). This week was the "legs through arms challenge"!

[Lockdown Challenge 3](#)  
[View the PE Team's efforts](#)

## Letters this week

- [Consultation on VTQs](#)
- [Y9 Options](#)
- [Y10 PTCE](#)

## Remote Learning

Our students' adaptation to this new way of working continues to be extremely impressive; we very much appreciate both their engagement, enthusiasm and hard work, and the support that parents are giving them, with remote learning. More than 5000 live lessons have been delivered in January, and more than 13,000 merits awarded. This week a total of 3635 merits have been awarded, with a third of these being for outstanding effort in remote learning.

A reminder to parents to check Insight daily to ensure that students are completing any tasks set by their teachers; the completion of these tasks is just as important as attendance to the live sections of lessons. In order to help students to organise their work and time, the deadline for submission of daily tasks is now 8pm. Work submitted after this deadline may result in an F1. If your child receives an F1 we would ask you to discuss the work that is late and support them to complete it.

We would appreciate your feedback on remote learning since the beginning of this term; you can give us your feedback [here](#).

## Bedrock Learning

Year 9 students have made an excellent start to the Bedrock programme since starting it at the beginning of the year. They are receiving the most amount of merits in achieving their quota of weekly lessons, with an amazing total of 195!

Year 8 has now overtaken Year 7 with total merits so far this year, especially with regards to their high attainment in weekly lessons, with 32 merits being awarded to the top achievers. Year 7 needs to now put in some real effort if they want to take back the crown and prove that they are the true Bedrock champions.

Thank you to students and parents alike for your continued efforts with Bedrock - it has been a great success so far.

## Student Wellbeing (from Dr Kathy Weston)

Don't forget to sign up for your ticket for the Tooled Up Webinar taking place Friday 29 January at 7.30pm: [Tooled Up Education and Ashlyns: Lockdown 3: Helping Teens Cope with the Coronacoaster](#).

Parents and staff in Tooled Up schools can also enjoy some interactive and supportive Q and A sessions with me this week, on 'Parenting Through a Pandemic'. Join Dr Kathy Weston on Sunday (31 Jan), when I will aim to answer any question related to parenting, family life or education. Register for either, or both, of the webinars, each lasting 40 minutes: [7pm for parents of teens](#) and [8pm for parents of primary age children](#).

Remaining purposeful in the face of uncertainty is a well established coping mechanism for people of all ages. For children and teens, setting small, achievable goals can sustain self-esteem, ward off mental distress and promote agency. Whether it is participating in household chores, testing themselves through physical challenges or learning a new skill in lockdown, let's nudge our children into experiences that can help them to feel better about themselves and what they are capable of.

## House Points

Current house points

Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
20842	20885	20269	20282
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>

29/01/2021

## ASA News

### BAG 2 SCHOOL

Drop-off from now until Thursday  
25th Feb - [see attached flyer](#)

Please remember to bag up your unwanted items and help raise some money for our ASA - bags available if you need them (just drop a line via email to the ASA) and drop off at: 30 Oakwood (off Shootersway), Berkhamsted, HP4 3NQ (in front of the garage)

### WINE TASTING ONLINE

Friday 19th February 7.30pm  
£15 / £25 (deadline to order by  
12th February)

Hosted by a great local company, Tring Winery, the tasting will be LIVE on Zoom with their Sommelier, Jamie. "An interactive, fun and maybe even educational event, with the chance to ask all the wine questions you ever wanted the answer to!" Wines are posted through your letterbox, and there is a non-alcoholic option too

[Click here to book.](#)

If this feels a bit daunting, Tooled Up resources are here to help! If your child complains of feeling bored, we've got a great list of [100 suggested activities](#) for young people of all ages to try. Download the list, and they can tick off the things that they've had a go at, or cut out the ideas to pop in a 'boredom jar,' ready to be pulled out at random, in a moment of need. If they need some encouragement to keep active, then take a look at our list of [50 fun ideas](#) for inspiration. It's packed full of games and challenges designed to keep young people moving. With so much time being spent at home, now is also the perfect time to get everyone into the routine of chipping in and doing some jobs around the house. Chores hone children's executive functions and boost self-esteem. Take a look at our [Chores List](#) for age-appropriate ideas.

## SEND

### SEND Parental Survey

If you are a parent/carer of a child with SEND on the SEND register, we would like to hear your thoughts and would ask you to complete this short survey about your experience. Please complete the form [here](#). Thank you to the parents who have already responded.

### Children with ADHD

The ADHD foundation (<https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/>) offers lots of tips and advice on supporting children with ADHD. Two articles that might be of interest to you are:

- [Ten top tips to support your teenager with ADHD](#)
- [Supporting executive functioning skills at KS4](#)

### How to use digital coloured overlays on Chrome

The nOverlay app tints web pages without the need for a physical or software overlay. It can be downloaded from the link here ([nOverlay](#)) and is useful for those students with access needs.

## Safeguarding

Please click below for our online safety advice sheet for parents:

### Online Safety Advice for Parents



With many of our children currently off school and staying home due to COVID 19, the potential for online exploitation will be at its highest.

Although rare, there is a risk that with increased online activity, feelings of stress and isolation may be exploited. An understanding of digital safety will help parents and carers safeguard loved ones from a range of harms, whether that's child sexual exploitation, fraud, or extremist influences seeking to radicalise vulnerable people.

Extremists may also use the current situation to promote hateful views, for example through conspiracy theories or through spreading misinformation.