

Headteacher's Blog 29th January 2021 School Update

I hope that you have all had a good week and are keeping safe and well. It has been a busy week both in school and for students working at home, so this blog will hopefully serve as an update for you. With the announcement that schools will not return until at least 8th March it is more important than ever for us all to work together to ensure the school community remains strong and positive for everyone.

Lateral Flow Testing

Lateral flow testing is now up and running in school for staff and the students. You may have seen examples of LFT tests on the news and, if your child is currently working at home, they can be reassured it is very simple process. So far we have tested almost all the staff and the students who are currently in school. We have had no positive cases, which is encouraging. All students who return to school will be given a letter and consent form to complete online as they return. I will update you further, before the wider reopening of school.



We have two testing booths set up in the school hall



Student staff test themselves using a swab and pass to processor



Processors mix the swab with solution and then droplets on the lateral flow device indicate the result within 30 minutes

Remote learning

I hope that your child is making the most of the live lessons and remote learning that is on offer. Teachers continue to experiment and find new ways of improving the live lessons. Students are being asked to complete mini quizzes and activities, so that their teachers can check on their progress. We are focusing on ensuring the live lessons your child receives are high quality, with teacher interaction and activities. The current of allocation of live lessons, combined with the remote activities, is enabling teachers to get the right balance to support students in their learning whilst ensuring high quality live lessons.

Year 11 Assessment Fortnight

We are very proud of our Year 11 students, who have completed the first week of their assessment fortnight. The attendance and focus of students during this week has been exceptional and demonstrates that our students continue to work hard to achieve their goals.

Year 11 students who are applying for Sixth Form

Pleasingly we have had over 130 applications from Year 11 to study in the 6th form next year and all students have been contacted personally by Mr Owen to arrange an interview to discuss subject choices and potential career options. This enthusiasm to plan for the future and desire to continue with education is testament to our Year 11 students' resilience and aspirations for future academic and vocational success and helps all involved to focus positively on the opportunities that will be available in the future at The Coleshill School Sixth Form.

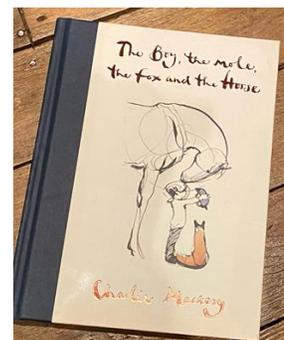
Sixth Form update

We are very proud of our Post 16 students and how they have adapted to the demands of online learning. Students have engaged enthusiastically under difficult circumstances and are demonstrating to their teachers their commitment and desire to continue to make progress in their chosen subjects. Year 13, in particular, are maintaining focus despite the uncertainty they face and Year 12 are showing that they are keen to develop the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful next year. The sixth form team are trying to ensure as much as possible that the normal features of Post 16 life continue; Year 13 students are still submitting UCAS applications and receiving offers as well as applying for, and getting apprenticeship interviews and employment offers. Information regarding all aspects of careers and further education support is provided by Mr Owen and Mrs Bishop via the pastoral MSTeams groups.

House competition 2 – Reading Review Competition

Miss Rawlins has thanked to everyone for getting involved in our reading competition! It has been so wonderful to see how many of our students are keen book lovers and are using their time in Lockdown to explore new worlds from the comfort and safety of their homes. Miss Rawlins wanted to pay particular thanks to those who wrote a review of the book that they are reading; these reviews have certainly inspired us to take a look at the books that you rate so highly. The winners of the review-writing competition are:

- Joint 3rd place – Oliver (year 8) and Poppy-May (year 7)
- 2nd place – Ella (year 9)
- 1st place – Wren (year 7) who reviewed this fabulous book



Well-being and mental health focus

There are a number of initiatives taking place to support the well-being and mental health of staff and students, during these challenging times.



'Time to talk Day' tutor session next Thursday

Next Thursday all students will have a special tutor session to support mental health and well-being, as part of the national 'Time to Talk' initiative. This will replace the normal Friday tutor session. All students, across all year groups, are asked to attend this session with their tutor please.

One to one well-being check in from tutors

As well as having contact with tutors during the twice weekly tutor times, we recognise the need for your child to have a one to one conversation with a member of staff. Many students will already have had a phone call over recent weeks, but those who have not will receive a call in the next two weeks so that all children have had a check in before half term.

Mental health and well-being support

For any members of our school community who need signposting to support, there are now a range of useful links on our website. You can also call school and ask for your child's Year Leader, who will be able to offer support and suggest any further support that may be needed. The information on the website will be available by clicking a banner on the main home page.

Wellbeing during lockdown 3.0

"Your body hears everything your mind says."

We all need to take care of our wellbeing both body and mind.

The links below are useful websites and links to expert advice on how to look after your wellbeing.

Please remember, we also have our pastoral team in school, who are more than willing to help you with any worries or questions you may have.

- www.camhs-resources.co.uk/websites
- www.nhs.uk/oneyou
- www.dimensions.covwarkpt.nhs.uk
- www.annafreud.org/coronavirus-support
- www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus
- www.charliewaller.org

I wish you all a restful weekend. We are here if you need us. Take care and stay safe.

Ian Smith-Childs

Headteacher