



Waddesdon C of E School | Coronavirus Newsletter 9 – 18/05/2020

# “The best way out is always through.” Robert Frost

The news, as you will know, has been full of talk of schools re-opening and what that might mean for children in Primary and Secondary School. In this newsletter, I thought it would be helpful to provide you with information in relation to Waddesdon.

Firstly, all of our planning and preparation for the eventual re-opening of the school will be focused on supporting children, families, and our staff in the best way we can.

It will reflect our belief in the value of each individual in our care – students and staff - and their wider families. People have already faced differing pressures and strains during this time and we are mindful of the many factors which have affected children, families and staff, amongst which are issues relating to bereavement, anxiety, work pressures and strained relationships.

It is clear that we will not be returning to “normal” when we re-open. We will not have a normal summer term, nor will the start of the new year in September, be normal. However, whatever we do, will reflect and uphold the Waddesdon Way.

A crucial part of our preparation will be consultation with you, with staff and Governors. Our scenario planning and risk assessments will be based on existing scientific evidence and the guidelines published by the DfE and Buckinghamshire Council.

In the meantime, it is hard to believe that we are starting the last week of the May half term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support. No work will be set on 1<sup>st</sup> June which is a calendared INSET Day. Teachers will devote the day to strategic planning and preparation for next year.

Mr Abbott





## School Re-opening

The Government has indicated that school re-opening will be determined by five tests which need to be met and sustained:

- Making sure the NHS can cope
- A 'sustained and consistent' fall in the daily death rate
- Rate of infection decreasing to 'manageable levels'
- Ensuring supply of tests and PPE can meet future demand
- Being confident any adjustments would not risk a second peak

Because there is no imminent instant resolution to COVID within the next 18 months (i.e. a mass vaccine), the phased expansion is likely to be gradual and dictated by the principles of effective protective measures to ensure infection control in schools. Considerations will need to be given to workforce availability, the practicalities of in-school social distancing, timings of the school day, staggered lunches and free time, transportation, cleaning and hygiene, as well as reassuring understandably nervous parents and staff.

### Year 10 and 12

In the DfE guidance published on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, secondary schools were asked to consider how they would offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, the DfE clarified that they did not intend for Year 10 and Year 12 to begin attending normal classes; instead there appears to be a growing consensus that schools, if they are able, could organise something akin to an Academic Review Day where those teachers who are not shielding, and able to attend school, would gauge progress made since the lockdown and establish how to support each young person further. Our commitment firmly remains to enable our young people to achieve well in their GCSEs and A Levels.

### Parental consultation

We will consult with you fully during this process. This will take place in three phases: identifying concerns and questions; publishing a risk assessment; and finally ascertaining which students are able to return to school. In the first instance, it would be helpful if you would direct your **concerns and questions** to [office@waddesdonschool.com](mailto:office@waddesdonschool.com). I will collate a summary of them for the next newsletter as well as using them to inform the work that is already taking place on the school risk assessment.



### Home Learning

In a few cases, there are persistent issues with Show My Homework. If you are in this situation, I can appreciate how frustrating this is for you, as you also juggle home learning with your other responsibilities. If you contact Mr Jones via [office@waddesdonschool.com](mailto:office@waddesdonschool.com) we will continue to work through possible solutions with you.

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## Push Notifications

Parents can choose to receive emails or push notifications for a range of features on SMHW. You can manage this in your 'Account Settings'.

For example:

- Every time your child's homework is recorded as 'Not Submitted'.
- After school task reminder (daily at 3pm) - "[Student name] has [number remaining] out of [number due] tasks still to be completed for tomorrow."
- Before school task reminder (daily at 7:30am) - "[Student name] has [subject 1], [subject 2], [subject 3] and [x] other homeworks to hand in today".

Parents can also subscribe to a weekly digest email. You will receive an email on Friday with details of your child's homework due in next week. This is only sent if your child has homework due next week.



PE department Instagram account



The PE department is pleased to announce the launch of a new Instagram account @WaddesdonPE.

This account will be used to communicate our sport news such as upcoming fixtures/events, extra-curricular clubs and the celebration of student success. It will also be used to guide pupils to useful and engaging online resources for those who take examination PE.

In addition, we also hope that it will be a great way to build a sense of community and connectedness during the current situation, as well as a way to engage more students in getting active, supporting both physical and mental health.

It is important to stress that the necessary steps have been taken to ensure the account remains safe and suitable for pupils and parents/carers to use. Please note that the account is private and accessible for Waddesdon students and parents/carers only, who will have to be approved access in order to view its content. There will also be no interaction with students via the account. Students who follow this account are politely reminded of the safe/responsible use of social media.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this account, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Smith. Equally, if you or your son/daughter have any ideas of content that you would like to be included please do get in touch.

We hope that you and your child will find this account useful and support us in our efforts to increase communication, engagement and participation in physical activity and sport at Waddesdon and hopefully beyond.

Miss Smith

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## Year 11 Passport to the Post 16 World

We know that many of you have applied to Waddesdon Sixth Form and others are going to college, an apprenticeship or to another Sixth Form. Whatever your plans, this booklet is designed to enable you to make the next step with confidence, along with the skills you need for post 16 study, so you continue to flourish.

The activities in this booklet are designed to engage and challenge you and there will be an award for students completing the 'super-challenges'.

Miss McIver



## DofE with a difference

Even though we're not in school at the moment, DofE can, and should, continue! You might even find you have more time to upload all the things you're doing for your Skill, Physical and Volunteering.

If you have any questions, or think you might need to change an activity and are stuck for ideas, please check out the DofE website in the first instance: <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference>  
You can, of course, contact me via e-DofE if you're still unsure about anything.

Get inspired. Get active. Get uploading. Let's get your three independent sections finished!

Miss Caswell



## Interactive Careers Talks

The link below provides access to a wide range of talks from different job sectors and professionals.

<https://learn.springpod.co.uk/>



## [Learn Lounge by Springpod](https://learn.springpod.co.uk/)

Welcome to Learn Lounge Live and interactive careers talks, completely free to attend. Don't worry if you can't watch live - all talks will be available on-demand.

[learn.springpod.co.uk](https://learn.springpod.co.uk)





## Opportunities to Flourish



### THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2020



Share your ideas,  
celebrate your story and  
write for a better world

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition is the world's oldest international writing competition for schools, established in 1883. With thousands of young people taking part every year, it is an important way to recognise achievement, elevate youth voices and develop key skills through creative writing.

#### THEME

#### CLIMATE ACTION AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Drawing on the urgency of the ongoing climate crisis and increasing youth activism across the Commonwealth; young people are called upon to consider their position and power in bringing about change and how the Commonwealth can be used as a tool for positive action.

ENTER BY 30 JUNE 2020

#### AWARDS

One Winner and Runner-up will be chosen from each category. Winners and Runners-up will be brought to London for a week of educational and cultural events, culminating in a special Awards Ceremony. A number of Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards will be given in both the Senior and Junior categories, rewarding excellence in writing. All entrants will receive a Certificate of Participation.



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

## MOOMIN

Principal Sponsor 2020



## THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2020

The Commonwealth is a voluntary network of 53 countries, based on a shared English language and the key values of democracy, equality, tolerance, human rights and the rule of law.

### CATEGORIES

#### SENIOR CATEGORY

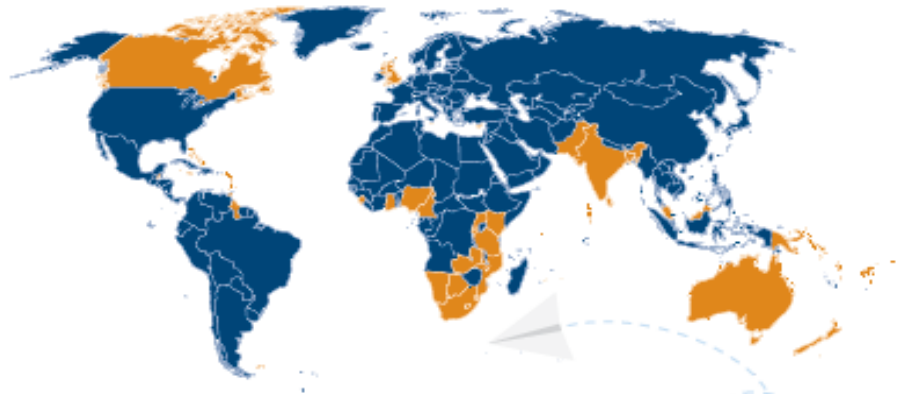
Born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2006 (14-18 years of age)

1. Imagine you are President of one of the Commonwealth's 31 Small States and you have been invited to give a speech on climate change to other Commonwealth leaders, what will you say?
2. There is no Planet B: How will climate change affect you and your community?
3. 'We will never stop fighting for this planet' - Greta Thunberg. How can young people make change happen?
4. The destruction of the oceans is everyone's concern.

#### JUNIOR CATEGORY

Born on or after 1 July 2006 (under 14 years of age)

1. Imagine you are Planet Earth, what would you say to humans?
2. A Blue Commonwealth: it is not too late to save our oceans. True or false?
3. In 2019, students in more than 100 countries walked out of school to protest climate change. How can young people get their voices heard and make a difference?
4. My planet, my place.



### STARTER ACTIVITIES

#### GIVE ME FIVE!

To help children plan stories and identify key plot points

1. Start with a closed hand. Pick a story the child knows well and explain it to them in 5 key points, open one finger each time you start a new point.
2. Help the child plan their story: What will happen? Who is in the story? How will it end?
3. Ask them to share their own story outline using the same method you did. Each time they start a new point, raise a finger.
4. Encourage them to use words like 'First.', 'Then.' and 'Finally...' to create a clear structure.

#### SPARK A STORY

To encourage imagination and consider different perspectives

1. Show the child before and after pictures of oceans/forests affected by climate change.
2. Ask the child to imagine they live in those places. What changes would they wish to see? How could children help?
3. Consider what future life might be like in that city and in your city – how will they both be affected by climate change?
4. Write a story based on these observations. It could be from both perspectives, maybe as witnessed by a bird flying over both countries...

### GUIDELINES

- Nationals and residents of all Commonwealth countries and territories aged 18 and under are eligible to enter the competition, including entrants from the Maldives and Zimbabwe.
- All entries must be written in English
- Entries are accepted from residents of non-Commonwealth countries who submit through their local RCS branch.
- Entrants can be presented in any form/ method of creative writing. Pictures/ Illustrations are particularly encouraged in the Junior Category.
- Full terms and conditions are available at <https://www.thercs.org/competition>.

- [competitions@thercs.org](https://www.thercs.org)
- [www.thercs.org/competition](https://www.thercs.org/competition)
- [Royal Commonwealth Society](#)
- [CWEssayComp](#)

The Moomins, created by Finnish artist Tove Jansson, are a family of friendly, brave trolls who live an adventurous life in the idyllic and peaceful Moominvalley in harmony with nature. The original Moomin books have been translated into more than 50 languages and are much loved across the Commonwealth and beyond.



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY



## Some messages from Action4Youth

### National Citizenship Service (NCS)

Sadly, Action4Youth's NCS programme has been cancelled for Summer 2020, but we are working hard to develop a re-purposed programme of opportunities for young people across Buckinghamshire. Be ready for an exciting timetable of FREE activities for young people aged 15-17 yrs that will include skills sessions and opportunities for young people to help their local communities. Expect these sessions to go live in June, starting with digital sessions first and then moving onto face to face activity as lockdown measures are lifted. Keep an eye on our website for more information!

### The Nine to Five

Do you know a teenager aged *16-18 years old* who is up for a challenge and feel that they could benefit from the work experience trip of a life time! If so, then please see the 'The Nine to Five' TV series with Stacey Dooley. Twenty Twenty TV production company are hoping to film the new series in the late summer (TBC) and will take five teenagers into a variety of industries that are crying out for young workers. It will be the ultimate work experience, offering those taking part the chance to learn some real life lessons.

You can see the first series on BBC IPlayer here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p06zhf9j/the-nine-to-five-with-stacey-dooley>

To apply to take part in the programme go to:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/take-part/nine-to-five>



### Safeguarding contacts/ guidance

Mr Sturla is our Designated Safeguarding Lead, supported by Miss McIver and Mrs Branton as Additional Safeguarding Leads.

- If there is immediate risk of harm to a child, call the Police on 999
- You can call Buckinghamshire County Council's First Response Team on 01296 383962 (out of hours: 0800 999 7677). They will listen to your concerns and decide on the appropriate course of action.

You can contact the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 (free service, lines open 24 hours a day). They will listen to your concerns, offer advice and support and can take action on your behalf if a child is in danger. You can also report concerns anonymously. For further information or to report your concerns online visit:  
[www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/)



# Farewell to Year 13



Thank you to the staff, the Sixth Form team, and Mr Scrivener for putting together a fitting tribute to our Year 13s. If you didn't see it, ask you son/daughter to show you Friday's virtual assembly...

"I just want to say that this brightened up my day – thank you, guys." Student

"I cried." Student

"Thank you for sending. Very emotional. What a lovely thing to do." Parent

"My daughter showed me the assembly video. I just wanted to say how amazing and lovely to see the staff doing that for your Year 13s. People don't think about how this lockdown has an effect on teachers too, so a little email to show I appreciate all that you are doing!" Parent



*"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits together that overwhelm the world." – Desmond Tutu*



Website:  
[www.waddesdonschool.com](http://www.waddesdonschool.com)



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