



Waddesdon C of E School | Coronavirus Newsletter 8 – 04/05/2020

How do you do it?

'How do you do it?' said night
'How do you wake and shine?'
'I keep it simple,' said light
'One day at a time.'

Lemn Sissay

When I hear about families having to take turns with laptops, students using their phones to complete work, or parents continuing their day job while becoming home teachers, I catch myself wondering how you do it.

In our household, we've set up a childcare routine which *almost* works, with my wife and I sharing our roles as parents to a headstrong toddler, along with our professional obligations. This leaves little time for other things, but the satisfaction that comes from both is hugely rewarding.

I hope that simplicity of Lemn Sissay's poem and the enduring optimism of Col. Tom Moore help you carry on, if you need a boost at this time, and that you can take a sense of pride and satisfaction with what you are also achieving, however challenging some days.

This newsletter contains the usual information that you have come to expect, with a particular focus on Year 11, volunteering and careers-related opportunities. The next one is likely to arrive in your inbox on 18th May unless we receive some more concrete news about schools re-opening. Please continue to direct your enquiries to office@waddesdonschool.com. There will be no work set on Friday, 8th May.

Mr Abbott

"Tomorrow will be a good day." Colonel Tom Moore





School Re-opening Information

The Education Secretary has confirmed that the re-opening of schools will be phased once the coronavirus lockdown is lifted, although no date has been set.

Gavin Williamson has said that the Department for Education (DfE) will study closely how schools are re-opened in other countries such as Germany and Denmark, but he has ruled out asking schools in England to open over the summer holidays.

He referred to "a whole set of interventions to help children both catch-up in terms of their work", but was thin on the details. There is some indication that some extra money may be available to support children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

Year 7 Transition and Re-integration for students with SEN

For the children due to come to us in Year 7, we are putting together a virtual induction package as well as planning the logistics for a socially distanced taster day should this be viable.

Students with SEN will have their needs carefully considered for their re-integration back into school-based learning. Our new SENCo, Mrs Champness, working closely with Mr Sturla and our Enrichment Team, will consider individual needs in liaison with parents and students.



Home Learning

Thank you for your continued support for the Home Learning programme. Some teachers have been experimenting with using Teams with their Year 12 classes and others are including audio or video explanations with the work that is set. This remains largely dependent on a whole class's access to the right technology and also teachers being able to balance work setting with their own obligations at home.

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 we will continue to work through possible solutions with you.



Year 8 Options Update

Parents of students in Year 8 are reminded that options will be confirmed by Mr Jones around mid May. Despite the unexpected additional work caused by the lockdown, good progress is being made to meeting the deadline that he and Mrs Clark mentioned in the Year 8 Options Evening.



Year 11 Consultations

Thank you for your patience as we continue to contact the remaining Year 11 students by telephone for their Sixth Form consultations. Having completed about 100 meetings at school before closure, there is a small team of us working through about 150 calls. Most of the calls were being made from school, when we are in looking after the children of critical workers, so it is taking a little longer than anticipated. We are now making calls from home, so the number may come up as withheld on your phone. Your son/daughter should not worry at all if they miss the call. We will leave a message and phone back. Rest assured that in line with our Sixth Form Admissions Policy, we keep up to 100 places in Sixth Form for internal applicants, for those who meet the entry requirements.

As soon as the consultations are completed, we will write to each student with details of their offer and next steps. Subject Leaders are currently working on A level foundation work for each of our subjects, which we will e-mail home to you during the week of 7th May. In the meantime, please encourage your son/daughter to sign up for the Eton College 'Building Resilience' online course for which they receive a certificate from Eton. I will provide log on details if you e-mail me via office@waddesdonschool.com

The following websites might also be of help in challenging and supporting students to make their post 16 transition at Waddesdon or indeed another organisation:

Careers and employability activities: <https://barclayslifeskills.com/young-people/>

Projects in a range of subjects/careers: <https://www.myheplus.com/pre-16>

[I'm interested in... | HE+](#)

This website is for students who are taking part in the HE+ project across the UK. Use the subject resources here to discover new interests and develop your academic skills.

www.myheplus.com

or <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16>

Super-curricular activities: <https://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/study-here/outreach/challenge>

Ms McIver



Get the latest information about the Coronavirus

By using this link, you can get the latest information from the NHS:

<https://developer.api.nhs.uk/coronavirus>



Volunteering and Work Experience

We are pleased to share some volunteering opportunities and virtual internships with you:

Nature's Calendar Volunteering opportunities:

Help us track the effects of weather and climate change on wildlife near you. What effect has recent weather had on wildlife? Does climate change affect timings in nature? Join Nature's Calendar and help scientists discover answers to these questions.

From leaf buds bursting to blackberries ripening, let us know what's happening near you. You'll be contributing to a long biological record that dates back as far as 1736.

<https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>



Galaxy Zoo Volunteer opportunities

Help astronomers locate and identify supermassive black holes and star forming galaxies!

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/chrismrp/radio-galaxy-zoo-lofar>

Free career-related opportunities

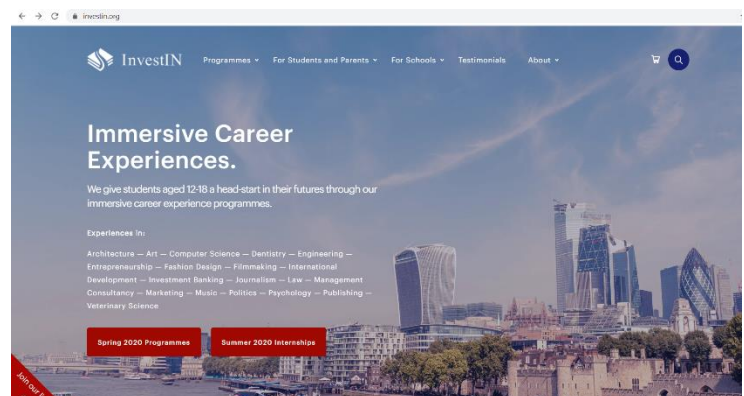
Medicine: <https://bsmsoutreach.thinkific.com/courses/VWE>

Law: [https://www.insidesherpa.com/virtual-internships/prototype/HECBn5zqCvBpAXitG/White-&-Case-UK-Programme?utm_source=social&utm_medium=\(organic\)&utm_term=&utm_content=&utm_campaign=](https://www.insidesherpa.com/virtual-internships/prototype/HECBn5zqCvBpAXitG/White-&-Case-UK-Programme?utm_source=social&utm_medium=(organic)&utm_term=&utm_content=&utm_campaign=)

Lots of opportunities: <https://www.speakersforschools.org/experience/vwex/> or <https://barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-virtual-work-experience/school>

Career-related opportunities

We have also received information from this company. Experiences appear expensive, but they are offering access opportunities into a range of careers (such as medicine, dentistry and the law) which may be of interest.

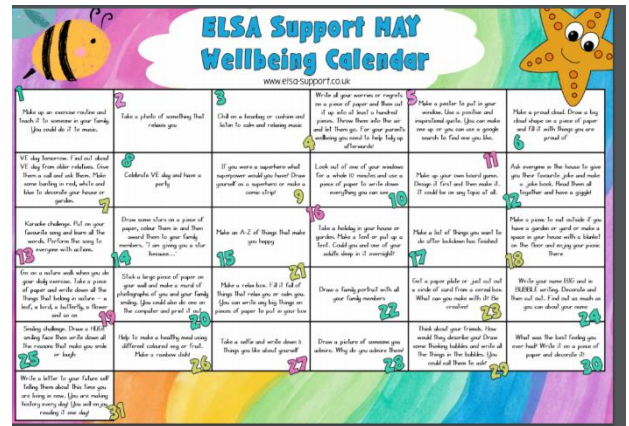




Support for Mental Health

If you feel like your mental health might need a boost, have a look at the calendar from ELSA Support for activities to do each day in May.

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/May-Calendar.pdf>



Also distributed with this newsletter are pdf versions of 'The Little Book of Mindfulness' and the most recent MIND newsletter.

You can find more information by clicking on the following links:

<https://www.medibank.com.au/livebetter/tag/the-little-book-of-mindfulness/>

<https://www.bucksmind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Secondary-Weekly-Wellbeing-Issue-4-Give1.pdf>

<https://www.bucksmind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ParentsStaff-Weekly-Wellbeing-2-Gratitude1.pdf>



Boost your sense of well-being by doing something good...and getting some exercise

[Information from Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity]

Here at Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity we are doing our best to raise much needed funds for our wonderful Hospice.

Our main event in May is our "Florence to Florence for Florence Walk", taking place on Tuesday May 12th. This is Florence Nightingale's 200th birthday and we're looking for 949 people to each walk a mile for FNHC. It's 949 miles from Florence in Italy to the Hospice, so we want to try and cover the whole distance in a virtual relay. People can sign up to take part for £2 online via this link: <https://fnhospice.digitickets.co.uk/category/27394>.

From Florence to Florence for Florence



Take part in a 949 mile virtual relay in honour of Florence Nightingale's 200th birthday on 12th May 2020

Inspiring images from the
Waddesdon Creative website

<https://waddesdoncreatives.co.uk/>



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/

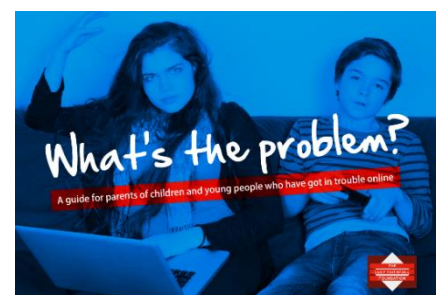
Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

The Parents Protect website
(<https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/>)

is worth viewing to help you talk to your son or daughter about some of the more difficult topics relating to online safety.

The booklet 'What's the problem?' gives advice about how to talk about:

- Sexting and sending or receiving sexual images
- Looking at pornography online



Cancer Research Fund-Raising During Coronavirus Lockdown



To raise money for Cancer Research, a cause close to my heart, **I hoped to raise £500** by shaving my head...

by Archie, Year 7

My Mum helped me set up a Just Giving page and I wrote some words to explain what I was doing and why. Mum helped me WhatsApp friends and family and I phoned my grandparents, aunt and uncles as well as some of my friends to explain what I was doing and ask for their help.

Mum shaved my head and I persuaded my Dad to have his done too, on Saturday 4th April. It is now 24th April and I have raised: *£760 Online, £50 offline + £162.50 in gift aid*
Total: £972.50

I am delighted and shocked to have achieved this amount, so I thought I would share this with school. https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/caroline-cooper30?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=caroline-cooper30&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=30eabe054646434c920e600fc08311fc

I am hopeful it will go over £1,000, fingers crossed. I am proud to have done something useful during the lockdown, although I am pleased my hair is growing back quite quickly!



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