

Thursday 7th May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

I hope this finds you all faring well? So much is still happening in and around school that I thought it would be useful to give you all a brief update.

Reporting to parents (Years 7 - 9)

At this stage of the year we usually provide parents with our second attitudinal report (where we report to parents on their child's attitude to learning in lessons; behaviour in lessons and homework record since the last report at the end of the autumn term). Given the very different educational provision currently in place, the relevance of providing that information at this time and the need for staff to focus on developing high quality teaching resources, we are not currently collecting this information from teachers.

We have set up a system such that if teachers have concerns about a student's level of work completion, we have asked them to log it with our pastoral team who will contact home to see how things are going and offer any advice or support to help overcome difficulties.

We are currently considering how to keep parents informed of the progress their children are making in our 'remote school'.

Students working from home

We know that varying home circumstances mean that students are accessing resources in different ways, at different times of the day with varying access to technology. As parents and carers you are in the best position to determine what is a reasonable amount of work for your child to complete in your context.



**TGS STAFF vs TGS STUDENTS
ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE??
WHICH TEAM CAN COVER THE MOST KM IN A WEEK?**

TASK: Between Monday 4th May - Monday 11th May **10 AM**, each time you go out for a run, walk or bike ride, track your distance (in KM) and email it to Mr Middleton - g.middleton@tgs.starmat.uk

Results will be announced on Monday 11th May.



We are aiming to provide resources that allow students to flexibly consolidate their prior learning and begin to explore new topics through a range of high quality resources that we have sourced externally or are developing internally. We are aiming to supplement these resources with opportunities for students to seek support from their teachers and through appropriate 'assessments' that allow teachers to structure upcoming resources to address any difficulties.

Staff will use the Google Classrooms to set essential key knowledge and skills learning tasks for each of their groups. In addition, our [remote learning website](#) supplements this by providing parents with a fortnightly overview sheet for each subject, in each year group. The website also provides links to wellbeing resources, a wide range of enrichment opportunities and some additional information that may be of use. We have also recently added some new advice and resources for students in year 11. (Mr Wren)

Parental survey concerning remote learning

We continually refine our provision as we gain a better understanding of what does, and what doesn't, work in this unique 'remote learning' context we find ourselves in. To help us deliver the very best education we can we would be grateful if you would complete [this](#) short survey by Wednesday 13th May 2020. (Mr Wren)

Year 11 applications to Sixth Form

Resources are now available for all students who have applied to our Sixth Form to help them prepare for their A Level and BTEC courses. They can do this by joining the Google Classroom code **3pqb7tv**

We have also re-opened the application process for Year 11 students to join us in September. We know that many of our students fully understand and value the support that remaining at TGS will bring them and we gladly welcome them back into our Sixth Form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTHDOd1h3ODEpbm1uonXWUn_1oQ9wBYPHLydlBiNJMLIAULQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0 (Ms Knapton)

Scamming and Phishing Warning

We are aware that nationally, some parents are in receipt of emails asking for their bank details in order to deposit payment for free school meals. This is a scam. If your child is eligible for free school meals you will receive communication from the voucher agency via your given email address and ultimately will receive emailed vouchers. At no point would this involve you needing to input bank details as the vouchers arrive via email/text.

Making Visors for the NHS

Read School in Drax and Holy Family School in Carlton recently approached TGS to help them with the manufacture of visors for NHS staff.

Mr Bell who leads our Technology area has been using a laser cutter to produce the headbands for this really valued project.

The child-friendly visors are then attached to these headbands.

We have also donated all of our available PPE to the NHS.

If you would like to contribute to the finance supporting this work, please access the link below. All work is done with voluntary staff.



<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/plastic>

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ENGINEERS
PRODUCT DESIGNERS
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KEY WORKERS
PROBLEM SOLVERS
CREATIVE INDUSTRY
TEAM PLAYERS
ASSEMBLY LINE

OVER 100,000
ITEMS OF PPE MANUFACTURED & DONATED
79,556 VISORS MANUFACTURED
5,596 GOGGLES DONATED
1,256 GLOVES MANUFACTURED
275 MASKS MANUFACTURED/DONATED
390 SCRUBS MANUFACTURED
1,256 HEADBANDS MANUFACTURED
80 SCRUBS MANUFACTURED

Supporting the **NHS**

527%
£1,055
raised of £200 target by 34 supporters

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New school signage

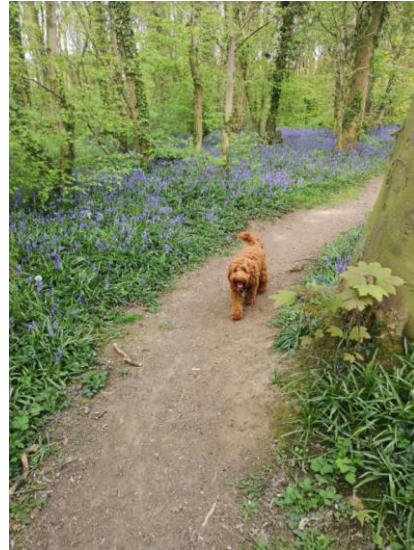
To reflect our revised school vision and values, some of the signage around school has been replaced.



An update about Bella the School Dog from Ms Ward, our recently appointed SENCo

Bella spends most of her day... sleeping! She usually begins to wake up properly around 2pm. She has been enjoying lots of lovely walks in the sunshine, watching all the colourful spring flowers begin

to grow and jumping through the long grass. She has even been joining in with our weekly street clap for key workers, reminding us it is time to clap by running to the door once she hears the noise start. Like many of us, she is really missing seeing familiar faces and can't wait to get back into the school routine once it's safe to do so.



Finally, I recently saw this on a briefing paper and it made me smile. I think it sums up one way to keep a sense of perspective and optimism at the current time:

"How do you do it?" said night

"How do you wake and shine?"

"I keep it simple." said light

"One day at a time"

Lemm Sissay MBE (English Author & Broadcaster)

Regards,

Mr A. Parkinson
Headteacher