

# LGS Headlines

## 15 January 2021



Dear Parents

So, nearly two weeks of lockdown have passed, and we are at the end of our first full week of remote learning.

Overall, we believe it has gone well. Teachers have worked hard to try and make lessons varied and interesting within the limitations imposed by both working and learning at home. Feedback from students has been positive, and they particularly like the structured approach following the school day.

There are certainly issues with remote learning. Students are telling us they are inevitably spending a long time looking at screens, and miss the normal opportunities to get up and walk around between lessons. That makes it all the more important for you as parents to encourage your sons and daughters to take proper breaks and to keep active. As you will see later in this newsletter, our PE department has been organising challenges and trying to motivate students to keep active in lockdown - please do what you can to support them.

Members of staff have provided some examples to illustrate some of the things going on in lessons, so please take time to look at these. We continue to experiment with new online techniques. For example, a number of teachers have been experimenting with a simple whiteboard app which enables them to quickly gather feedback from the whole class on students' understanding.

We realise that remote learning can be hard and that students have fewer opportunities to meet with their friends and fewer outlets for their energy. We remain impressed with the overall behaviour and maturity of students in their approach to live lessons, although there have been just a few examples this week of students choosing to behave in a way which doesn't meet our standards. Although this is arguably not surprising given everything they are facing, we are unashamedly expecting more of your sons and daughters during the challenge of school closure and value your support in helping them to do so.

Although we know there are still difficult times to get through, I hope that by next week we might just begin to see the situation starting to improve.... In the meantime, please let's do all we can to stay positive, safe and well.

With my best wishes to you and your families.

*Mr J Constable - Headteacher*

**The best way to contact us during the school closure period is to email [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk).**

**Your query will be passed on to the most appropriate member of staff.**

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Berkshire SL3 7QS  
01753 598300  
[school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk)

*Please visit our website at*

**[www.lgs.slough.sch.uk](http://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk)**

***Follow us on Twitter @lgs\_news***



# Updates

## Free school meals

We will continue to support those families whose children are entitled to free school meals by issuing food vouchers. We will not be using the Government's national scheme but will continue to use our own voucher scheme which families involved will be familiar with.

Mrs Dobbs, Assistant Headteacher, will contact any families entitled to free school meals with further details. Parents with any questions or concerns should contact her via [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk).

## GCSE and A Level update

Despite lots of speculation in the media, there is no more news as yet on how students in Years 11, 12 and 13 will be awarded GCSE and A Level grades this summer.

We are expecting details of the Ofqual consultation next week, which may give us a clearer idea of the likely process. We will update parents and students when there is more detail.

## Form time

Our form tutors are engaging with their forms every day to check in with the students and to try and keep some sense of community even though everyone is at home. Some tutors have been experimenting with MS Teams new 'together mode' which feels a bit more friendly than a sea of squares on screen....

*Here's an example from Mrs Dhillon with 8S this week....*



## Reporting student illness

Just a reminder to follow the normal procedures to report your son or daughter as unwell - call the school on 01753 598300 and follow the appropriate option to report an absence, or email Student Support via [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk).

We will be monitoring student absence from online lessons, and will follow this up with parents to check that all is well with the student or their family.

## Critical worker provision

Critical workers are parents whose work is vital to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors.

**DfE guidance is that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.**

However, if any parent requires critical worker supervision for their son or daughter during the school closure period they should contact us via [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk).

## Online behaviour

The vast majority of our students demonstrate excellent behaviour online. Unfortunately, a (very small) number of students have just started this week to behave in an immature and disappointing way in some of their lessons. We realise that the boundaries between home and school are very blurred now and some students might find this difficult. However, such behaviour will not be tolerated. **Students who choose to misbehave will be removed from online lessons and will have sanctions applied including contacting parents.**



# Opportunities



The Computing Department are entering into the national year 8 Girls Cyber Security competition.

If you have a daughter in year 8, get them to get a team of 1-3 friends together and register with Mr Oakley.

We already have 3 teams!



Despite the obvious near-impossible challenge, our Young Enterprise company **Aquero** are determined not to let the global Pandemic get them down. In an emergency board meeting they have decided to go ahead and trade online.

So coming soon....

***Biodegradable, recycled water bottles delivered to your home!***

Information will be coming out via Instagram and email.

Check out the Speakers for Schools website at [schools@speakersforschools.org](mailto:schools@speakersforschools.org)







# Keeping fit and active

Everyone is probably moving a little less than usual at the moment, so the **PE department** have been busy reminding students of the importance to be physically active. During live lessons, we have set classes a range of challenges designed to engage and to get students moving. This week, we have seen scavenger hunts, juggling challenges, plank off's and student-led HIIT workouts.

As always our social media pages are updated daily with various challenges, activities and resources to encourage students to be active. This week, Mr Podbury presented the 60 second t-shirt challenge. How many t-shirts can you put on within 60 seconds? He managed 12 (and a half!). How many can you manage?




**We're always aiming to keep spirits high and are encouraging students in being proactive at looking after their overall health and wellbeing.**








**Make sure you're following us on Twitter (@lgspe) and on Instagram (@lgspe1).**



Remote learning can involve long periods spent sitting in front of a screen which can affect our mental and physical health. The PE department have put together a few ideas for how students (and parents) can keep active during lockdown.

We always stress the **power of exercise** and how much of a **positive impact** physical activity can have upon our overall health and wellbeing. That is truer than ever now, so make sure you are trying to get out once a day to enjoy some fresh air which will really help relieve stress and tension. Where possible, try to move around before, in between and after lessons. It's not good to be sat down all day staring at a screen, so really aim to make the most of your break times and lunchtimes and get up walk around a little bit.

## How to keep active during remote learning



- 1. AVOID LONG PERIODS SITTING DOWN.**  
GET THOSE STEPS IN BY MOVING IN BETWEEN, BEFORE AND AFTER LIVE LESSONS  

- 2. GO FOR A WALK AND ENJOY SOME FRESH AIR DURING BREAK TIMES AND LUNCHTIMES**  
*Made in fresh air*  

- 3. AIM FOR AN AVERAGE OF 60 MINUTES MODERATE INTENSITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PER DAY**  

- 4. TRY AND REDUCE THE TIME YOU SPEND IN FRONT OF A SCREEN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. AVOID SPENDING BREAKS USING IPAD'S/COMPUTERS ETC.**  

- 5. PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES AND LIVE LESSONS DELIVERED BY THE LGS PE DEPARTMENT**  

- 6. BE PROACTIVE IN LOOKING AFTER YOUR PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING**  


 @LGSPE  @LGSPE1



# Remote learning during school closure

## ***More comments and examples from our staff this week.....***

*"I received some amazing examples of art textiles work done at home using limited resources. These are from Wamika in Year 11 and Tanvi and Tanishka in Year 10. They may add colour and visual interest in these dark times....." Mrs Young*



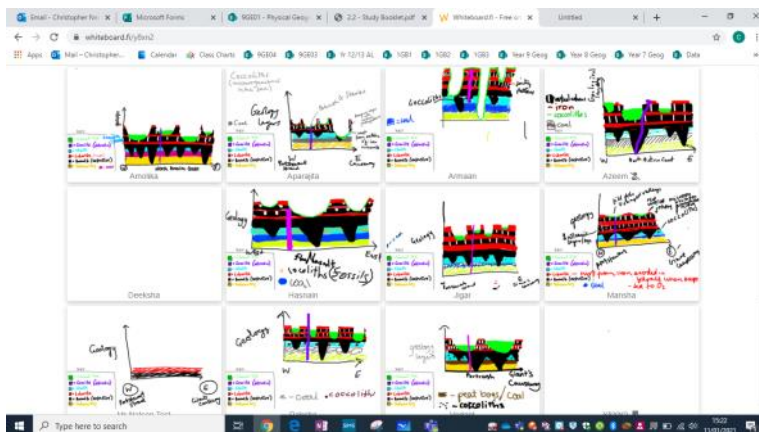




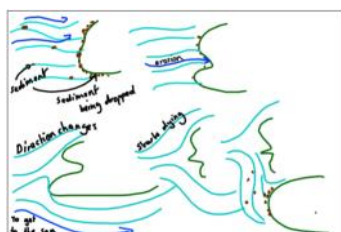
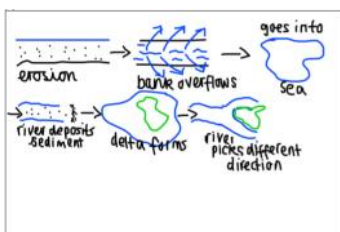
# Remote learning during school closure

## More comments and examples from our staff this week.....

"I thought I would share a screenshot of my live page during my Year 12 physical geography lesson. Students were drawing cross sectional diagrams of the geological history of the North Antrim coast using the **Whiteboard.fi** app. think our first time using it went well!" **Mr Nelson**

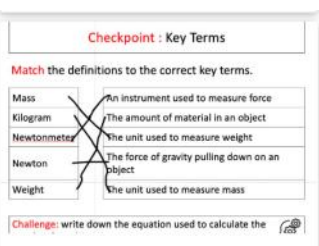
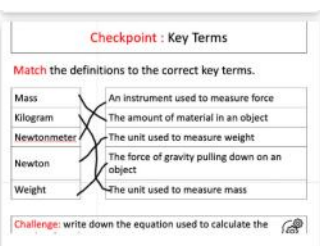
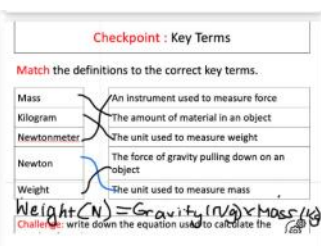
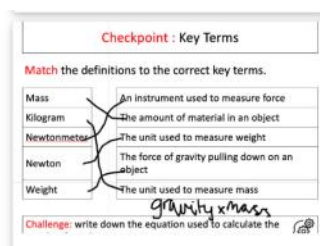


The Whiteboard.fi app allows students to give teachers instant feedback on their understanding of lesson content.



"In geography 8C were recalling their knowledge of delta formation, giving me feedback using Whiteboard.fi - they also made some fantastic videos on Meander formation using Explain Everything and some other animation apps." **Mr Aplin**

"This is a nice example of the online work I have done today with Year 7 Science using with Whiteboard.fi for instance feedback on students' understanding." **Mrs Howard**



"Miss Rae and I met with our Y11 PE groups yesterday for our weekly online PE catch up to share how everyone has been getting active and complete our weekly Team Thompson vs Team Rae challenge. The students were fantastic during the lesson and shared lots of different activities that they have been getting involved in - ranging from skateboarding to karate based workouts, using different fitness apps which were shared with the group, skipping and lots more.

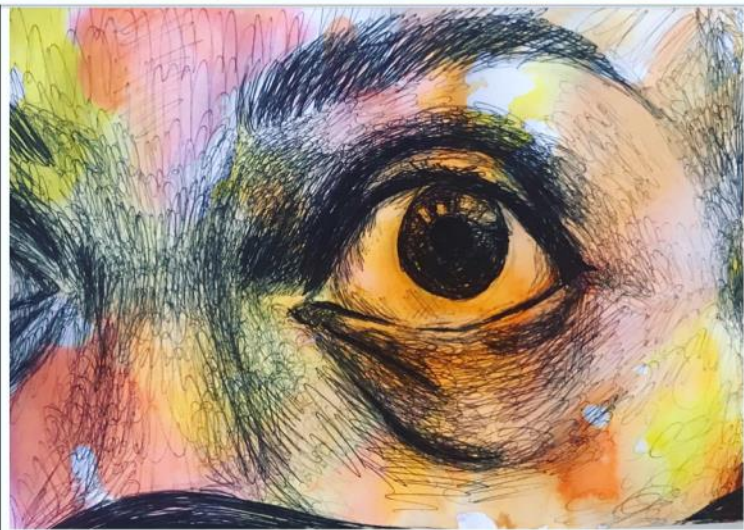
Our first team challenge was juggling and all of the students engaged with the challenge and had been practising throughout the week ready for the live competition. Overall Team Thompson won by a narrow margin but all did really well!" **Miss Thompson**



# Remote learning during school closure

## *More comments and examples from our staff this week.....*

*"Here are some images of drawings Year 10 have been working. They made backgrounds using ink and collage materials before Christmas then took them home and have been adding pen drawings to them during art lessons."* **Ms Stanton**



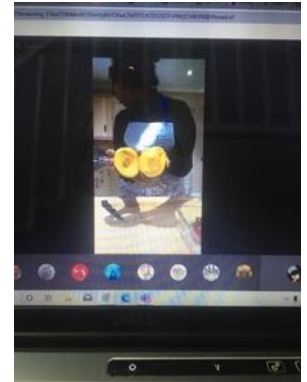




# Remote learning during school closure

## *More comments and examples from our staff this week.....*

Students have enjoyed watching Mrs Toor's fruit salad practical lesson on Tuesday afternoon.



*Students got the chance after the lesson to practise cutting techniques with adult supervision. Examples of Year 7 fruit salad homework.....*

