

# LGS Newsletter

## 1 May 2020



Dear Parents

This is our 6th school closure period weekly newsletter - it is hard to know where the time has gone. As I write this there is speculation in the media about how and when schools will reopen, whether social distancing will be required, which year groups will return first....

Our current position is that once we have some firm indication from the Government as to the way forward we will begin planning in detail for whatever we are expected to do. We are currently in Phase 2 of our four phase model, and our aim is to provide steady and sustainable learning for students during the period up until May half term. Most students have been engaging well with the learning activities they have been set and we have been pleased with their responses.

Teachers of Year 11 and 13 students have been busy working on the centre assessment grades which we will be supplying to the examination boards. I have been part of some of those discussions and have been impressed by the knowledge that teachers have demonstrated of the capabilities of the students in their classes. There are a number of checks built into the process to ensure it is fair and equitable; I hope parents will be confident that the grades submitted to the examination boards will fairly represent our professional judgement of the outcomes students would most likely have gained if the examinations had taken place.

Our discussions about the best way to provide learning activities continues. Whilst we have no intention to move to a full 'live' online curriculum, some teachers may be trialling various ways of making learning more interactive. We have drawn up guidelines for the use of Microsoft Teams for interaction between teachers and students, and will circulate these to you next week. To be clear, there should be **no expectation** that staff will engage in "live teaching". However, where it is appropriate for there to be recorded presentations, or a greater element of live interaction via video or chat within a secure framework, we will be enabling staff to do this on occasions if they wish to and if it clearly supports more effective learning.

This week we have interviewed some of our Year 12 students for the senior student roles - Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies. It was a pleasure to be able to talk to the candidates and hear how they were coping with the lockdown. We expect to let you know next week who has been appointed.

A number of families in our school community will now be fasting during Ramadan. The lockdown adds a new and challenging dimension to that experience, and our best wishes go to you.

Finally, a reminder that Friday 8th May is a bank holiday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of E Day. There will be no formal school activities that day — but there is an opportunity for students to learn about an important period of history.

Thank you once again for your support.

*Mr J Constable - Headteacher*

## Reminder - critical worker provision

***The Government's instruction is to stay at home if possible. However, schools are able to offer supervision for children of workers who are critical to the fight against COVID-19 coronavirus and who are unable to arrange appropriate childcare.***

**If you think your son or daughter will need supervision in school at any stage during the next few weeks, please contact us on [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk).**

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Please visit our website at

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

Follow us on Twitter @lgs\_news



# General updates

## How to get in touch with us

Throughout the school closure period, please contact us via email.

The [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk) email address is monitored continually and your query will be forwarded to the most appropriate member of staff.

## ClassCharts

**Please log in to ClassCharts regularly** so that you can see the learning activities your son or daughter has been set and whether they have completed them. The system allows us to track which parents are logging in to ClassCharts and are concerned at the number who have not done so recently. We will soon be starting to contact those parents who have not logged in recently, and whose sons or daughters do not appear to be completing the learning activities they are being set.

## Free School Meals

Families whose children are eligible for free school meals should now be receiving the vouchers through the Government's national scheme. As parents may know from the national media coverage, the rollout through the provider Edenred has not entirely smooth, but the system does now seem to be working. ***If any parents have a son or daughter is eligible for free school meals but are not receiving the voucher codes, please contact Mrs Dobbs, Assistant Headteacher via [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk) and she will be able to help.***

## Reminder - if your son/daughter is ill.....

Please email Mrs Collins in Student Support via [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk) to let her know. We are not keeping registers during the school closure, but it is helpful for subject teachers to know if a student is unable to complete the learning activities set. Similarly, if your family is experiencing any particular circumstances which would make it difficult for your son or daughter to complete work, please let us know in confidence.

## Help and support

A range of organisations including the regional NHS trust, the NSPCC and other online safety groups and have produced guidance for parents to help them navigate the complexities of family life during lockdown. Along with this newsletter you will have received some other publications which may be of use to you at this time.

## 11+ Examination - for entry to Year 7 in September 2021

Registration for the 11+ examination is now open. This is for pupils currently in Year 5 who are seeking entry to the school in September 2021.

Details for parents about the 11+ process can be found on our website on the admissions pages and there is a voice-over presentation about the process at <https://youtu.be/FOEe1IG0Ky0> which replaces the published information evenings.

The 11+ registration form can be accessed through the Slough Consortium website at [www.sloughconsortium.org.uk](http://www.sloughconsortium.org.uk). Registration closes on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June. The examination is scheduled to take place in early September for Year 7 entry in September 2021. We are currently planning to keep to that schedule although this could change subject to Government guidance.



# On line talks

## Speakers for Schools virtual talks programme

The organization Speakers for Schools organizes a range of speakers to visit schools to give interesting and informative talks. We have sourced several speakers through this programme.

Speakers for Schools are now offering a range of online talks which are livestreamed. All talks can be accessed by clicking on the appropriate link from the Speakers for Schools website at the following location:

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/>



**Next week's programme includes.....**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 10 am: Branko Bjelobaba, Finance and Engaging in Democracy speaker**

*Life Lessons: Can Success Follow Failure? In Branko's talk, he will let students know some of his top tips for success. Aimed at Year 10 and above.*

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2 pm: Carl Jones, Award Winning International Creative Director**

*Carl's talk will focus on fake news, how to spot it and will share a practical checklist you can use to assess whether what you're seeing on socials or in the media is fake. Aimed at all age groups.*

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 10 am; Kathleen Adler, Managing Director, Wildcat PR**

*Kathleen's talk for 11-13 year olds will focus on her journey to setting up her own business, sharing some of the challenges she had to overcome and opportunities she made the most of.*

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 10 am: Geoff Mulgan CBE, Professor of Collective Intelligence, Public Policy and Social Innovation**

*Geoff's masterclass for Year 10 and above will focus on collective intelligence and intelligence management in relation to COVID-19 and will be appropriate for KS4 and 5 students. He'll look at how different countries around the world have tried to use data to track the disease and manage it, the role of new methods of crowd-sourcing in finding new solutions (eg for ventilators of protective equipment) and the role of platforms in organising support in the community. He'll show how some of the innovations around COVID-19 may be used in the future to help tackle climate change and other challenges.*

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 10am: Liz O'Riordan, Retired Consultant Breast Surgeon**

*Liz's talk for 11-18 year olds will focus on how to cope when bad things happen, developing resilience and self-care strategies during difficult times and how setting goals can help.*

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 10am: Penguin Talks in Collaboration with SFS – The Squiggly Career. This talk will take place on the Penguin YouTube page via the link.**

*Authors of The Squiggly Career, Helen Tupper and Sarah Ellis, share practical tools, exercises and actions to help you grow in confidence, stay curious and ultimately prepare for, and enjoy, the squiggly world of work.*

***There are other talks happening — see the Speakers for Schools website for further details.***

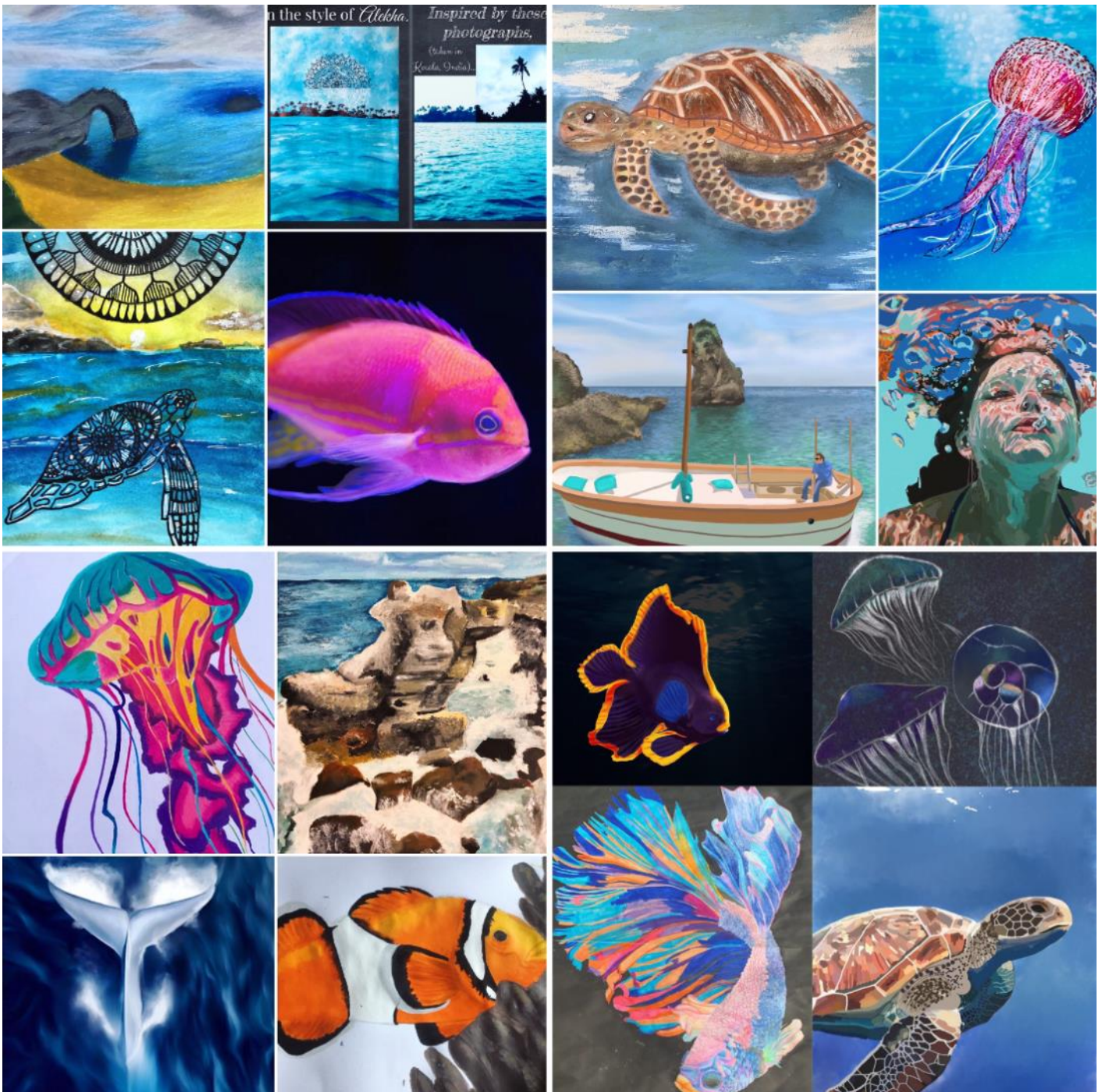


# Snapshots

## What are students doing this week?

### From the Art department

Year 10 GCSE Art students have been working on their "By the Sea" units from home. Many students have been exploring painting apps on their iPads very successfully, along with using more traditional materials. Ms Stanton has put together this fantastic montage of examples.....



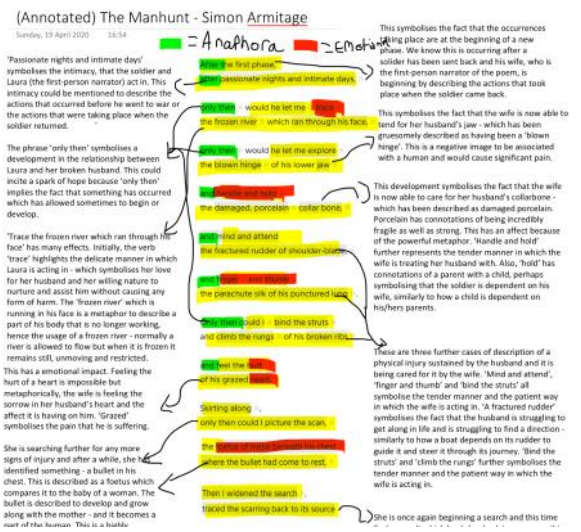


# Snapshots

## From the English department

Mrs Bray writes....

Students in 9H have just started analysing war poetry from the Eduqas GCSE anthology and I've been impressed by the quality of their work so far. They have certainly shown themselves to be independent learners as they transition into GCSE work, demonstrating depth, detail and thoughtfulness in their analysis. These examples are from Priya Brana and Yaman Hafdh



Mr Lloyd, one of our trainee teachers working with our PE department, is also attached to 9H as an assistant form tutor. He has been running a 'challenge league' for the students in that form—many of them have produced some great artwork in one of their challenges with the theme of 'Thank you NHS'.

Examples here are from Priya Brana, Druti Vasist, Arnav Gupta and Ria Mathur....



## And finally, here's something different.....

Many of us are doing workouts at home to keep fit, but Darian in 6K has even made his own set of weights out of concrete! Thank you to Mrs Francis for passing this on.

