

# LGS Newsletter

## 10 April 2020



Dear Parents

This is the third of our weekly newsletters during the school closure period.

I hope that your sons and daughters have been able to appreciate some time away from school work, although this is certainly not the Easter holiday they - and all of us - were expecting. We know that this week will not have been easy for many families and trust that you are remaining positive through this very challenging time.

As we have not been setting any school work this week, this newsletter is rather shorter than the previous ones but does contain some useful information and updates for you.

*Mr J Constable - Headteacher*

## Reminder - term and holiday dates

We will “start up’ again for the summer term on Monday 20th April.

During the holiday period we continue to be available through the school email address [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk) in case you wish to contact us for advice and guidance.

## 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 when term starts again on 20th April, please contact us on [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk).

## Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do

### Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or essential work
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

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Please visit our website at

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

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## Year 10 examinations

Year 10 students were originally scheduled to have practice examinations at the end of April. However, we will **not** be running any formal examinations for Year 10 and students will therefore not need to revise for these.

During the next phase of the school closure we will be aiming to ensure that Year 10 students are set activities which will enable them to learn important elements of the planned curriculum in each of their GCSE subjects. Students will be given various assignments to complete, some of which will be assessed to judge how well they are learning the material, and to help subject leaders plan the next stages in the curriculum delivery. With GCSEs still assessed by examinations at the end of the course, it is important that students have plenty of practice with examination material; teachers may therefore set some routine work which involves completion of examination questions.

## Year 12 school examinations

Year 12 students were originally scheduled to have practice examinations straight after the Easter holiday, and are aware that these will not take place. The aim over the next phase of the school closure is for students to cover as much of the planned curriculum as possible. Students will be set a range of learning activities by their teachers, some of which will be assessed.

The practice examinations in April would have formed a significant piece of evidence on which to base UCAS predicted grades. However, the school's practice has always been to base the predictions on a range of evidence, and this continues to be the case. All work completed and assessed during the closure period may form part of that evidence base, and it is therefore essential that students continue to engage with their learning and seek support from their teachers when needed.

We may also consider running a formal assessment or examination period very early in the autumn term; however, no decision has yet been taken on this, and it will depend on a range of factors including how students progress over the next few phases of remote learning, and any further information from the examination boards on how the impact of the disruption to learning will be taken into account next year when the students are in Year 13. We will give you and the students more information at a later date.

## Educational visits

All education visits for the summer term have been cancelled. This includes the planned residential trips in France and Germany and the Sixth Form True Adventure expedition to Vietnam. We are working with the travel companies and our insurers to ensure that we obtain full refunds. Parents of students taking part in the residential visits should be contacted directly by the school with further details. Understandably it may take some considerable time for refunds to be processed.

## EtonX online courses

Eton College is making its online 'EtonX' courses available free of charge to state schools. These are short online courses, roughly 7-10 hours duration, covering a variety of general topics linked to personal development and preparation for higher education. The courses are pitched at older students and we are able to make one module available initially to each of two year groups. Further information will be available at the end of next week and we will email all students in the relevant year groups with the details.



# Support and guidance

## #Coping - Family Life During Lockdown

This useful guide from NHS East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group contains information on high-quality resources to support family life and parenting, with advice on keeping children entertained, looking after everyone's mental health and where to turn for extra help, including confidential helplines.

**#Coping** Family life during the lockdown

NHS East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Over the past few weeks, the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis has brought a lot of sudden changes for families with children. Parenting can be very rewarding. However, in these

A copy has been sent to you with this newsletter.

## Department for Education - wellbeing resources

The Department for Education have also published a list of resources to support the wellbeing and mental health of children and young people during the school closure and lockdown period. There is some overlap with the resources in the NHS resource mentioned above.

Name	Website	Age range	Description	Registration
<b>BPS</b>	<a href="https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-blogs">https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-blogs</a>	11-18	advice on dealing with school closures and talking to children about COVID-19.	not required
<b>Children's Society</b>	<a href="https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/coronavirus-information-and-support">https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/coronavirus-information-and-support</a>	11-18	information and support on different aspects of mental health and wellbeing	not required
<b>MindEd</b>	<a href="https://www.minded.org.uk/">https://www.minded.org.uk/</a>	11-18	an educational resource for all adults on children and young people's mental health	required
<b>Rise Above</b>	<a href="https://riseabove.org.uk/topic/my-mind/">https://riseabove.org.uk/topic/my-mind/</a>	11-18	videos with tips on gaining confidence, dealing with anxiety and coping strategies from other young people.	not required
<b>The Child Bereavement Network</b>	<a href="http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/covid-19.aspx">http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/covid-19.aspx</a>	11-18	advice on supporting grieving children during the coronavirus outbreak.	not required



# Holiday activities

## “Well-rounded” bingo

The lockdown does present students with an opportunity to look beyond the subject-based learning activities and to try some new activities or learn something different.

This links well to our school ethos, and our aim for our students to be well-rounded. Mrs Dodds, Assistant Headteacher, has put together a challenge card with a range of optional activities for students to have a go at during the holiday period. Students should have been sent a version of this and the link to the online copy which can be found at:

<https://flipgrid.com/cfef30d5>

**Well-rounded Bingo**

An optional set of activities during the Easter period.  
Be safe and follow the Government's guidelines whatever you are doing over the Easter period. If the activity is about helping or talking to others, this should only be with someone who is known to your parents and they should be aware that you are communicating with them **before** you contact them.

**How it works?**  
Complete a bingo pattern: a line with five activities in a diagonal, horizontal or vertical row; two lines and finally, complete a full house (where all activities have been completed). You need to follow the link to flipgrid and share your progress with pictures and videos and have fun.

Grow a plant from a seed (can be something you've eaten - e.g. avocado/strawberry).	Read a book from a genre you don't normally choose.*	Complete five chores which will benefit your family (one which you have never done before).	Play a board game with others, create a board game and play it or complete a jigsaw.	Chat with friends virtually.
Teach something to someone else.	Keep a journal or blog/vlog of your Easter holiday during isolation.	Do something artistic – music/ dance/ art.	Sit outside for 10 minutes three times a week and identify as many sounds as you can hear.	Do something physical three times each week.
Spend time talking to your family. Find out what school was like for them.	Experience both sunrise and sunset within the same day.	Yoga (YouTube has plenty) or meditation (headspace app perhaps).	Try a full day without using any technology (no phone, iPad, TV, computer, games etc.)	Cook a meal for everyone in your household.
Write down 5 things you are grateful for in your life (on 3 separate days).	Raise some money for a charity.	Learn a poem.	Write and send a motivational postcard/ letter/ email to a relative you can't see during isolation.	Watch a play or a musical <a href="http://filmedonstage.com/news/76-free-musical">http://filmedonstage.com/news/76-free-musical</a> (check with parents before watching to ensure it is age appropriate).

\*[https://stories.audible.com/discovery?ref=adbl\\_ent\\_anon\\_sc\\_ds\\_vn](https://stories.audible.com/discovery?ref=adbl_ent_anon_sc_ds_vn) Audible are offering free titles during the closure period.

## “What did you do during the lockdown?”

It is important to think about using the school closure and lockdown time positively. We know all families will have different pressures and some students will be dealing with very difficult circumstances. However, it is also important for students to try and see the positive opportunities this time brings.

For older students, particularly Year 11 and 12, it may be that universities and employers in the future will be interested to know how the school closure and lockdown period was used for personal and academic development. This is an ideal time for students to practice their independent learning skills, read around their subjects, or push themselves into new directions.

We can imagine students being asked questions like ‘So how did the lockdown change you?’ or ‘How have you become a better learner as a result of your experience?’, or ‘How did you put the time you would have spent revising to good use?’. Certainly worth thinking about.....