

LGS Newsletter

19 June 2020



Dear Parents

Welcome to the 12th school closure period weekly newsletter.....

The highlight of this week was undoubtedly welcoming our Year 12 students back into school for face-to-face support sessions. After so many weeks away many were understandably nervous on that first day, but we noticed a real change throughout the morning. They enjoyed seeing friends 'in real life' once again, and also the interaction with teachers. Our staff were equally pleased to be back in school and have a chance to see students in a proper classroom setting instead of on screen or via text and email. We look forward to seeing the students back this coming week for their other two subject sessions.

We are now very conscious that we have only four weeks to go until the end of the term and there is still little clarity from the Government about what will happen in September. We are currently planning for two scenarios, which seem the most likely. In the first scenario, social distancing restrictions remain in place but are reduced so that we would be able to have a greater proportion of students in school; we are working on how we could effectively run a curriculum with half the school in at any one time and the other half studying at home. The second scenario is a return to 'normality', with all students able to resume study in school full time. There is of course a third scenario which we must keep in mind - a 'second wave' of the virus forces national or local school closure once again. We can do much now to prevent this arising, by ensuring that we all keep to the distancing guidance and take extra care with their own hygiene practices.

The Government has today announced additional funding for schools to put in place some form of 'catchup' provision next year. There are few details as yet, and it is frustrating that school leaders have not been involved in any discussions with the Department for Education about this. However, we understand that the part of the plan is to enable schools to commission individual and small group face to face or online tutoring support for students who are in particular need. The most important thing about this announcement is that it recognises that 'catch up' is a process and not an event - it can't simply be solved in a few weeks over the summer. We know that Langley Grammar School students have been broadly very good at remaining engaged with their learning, but there is undoubtedly a gap for many which will need to be made up over time. We are asking our subject leaders to think through what additional provision we will need to make to enable students to get to the point they need to be by the end of next year - whether that is ready for examinations, or ready to move into the next year group.

On the subject of examinations, we do not yet know whether the GCSE and A level exams in summer 2021 will be modified to take account of the disruption to learning experienced by the current Year 10 and Year 12 students. Ofqual, the examinations regulator, has promised a consultation on this, and also that schools should know what is happening before the summer break. It is difficult to see how these objectives can both be achieved, but when we have any further news we keep you and the students informed.

Finally, if you are a Year 10 parent, please could you complete the survey about Year 10 face to face support; you will have been emailed the link separately. Thank you.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

To contact us about anything during the school closure period, please email school@lgs.slough.sch.uk and your query will be passed on to the most appropriate member of staff to deal with it.

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Please visit our website at

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Building work....

Demolition update....

Students returning into school this week have been surprised at the extent of the demolition work. Taking down the structure seems to happen very quickly, although much more time is spent sifting and sorting the rubble into different containers to be taken off the site. The pictures below - taken from the Headteacher's temporary office window - show the removal of the last section of the Old Gym and the clearing of that area of the site over just 24 hours.....



We now have a second - and rather larger - 'dinosaur' machine on site which has now started work on the next section of the building. At the time of writing this article on Friday, room 202, the back stairs and staff work area had disappeared and the stage is now only suitable for open-air productions.....





A fond farewell....



..... from the Student Leadership Team of 2019/20

Haziq Ibrahim (Head Boy)

Jannah Anwar (Head Girl)

Faheem Anwar (Deputy Head Boy)

Hana Ibrahim (Deputy Head Girl)

As our time as the Student Leadership Team comes to an end, we have taken the time to reflect on the past year, yet also look forward.

Our Sixth Form experience was a busy, yet still enriching two years. A-Levels themselves were naturally a demanding task, with workloads far greater than anything we had ever experienced. However, working consistently throughout the two years enabled us to keep up with our academic requirements and take on the roles of Head/Deputy Head Boy and Girl alongside our studies.

Representing our school was an honour all of us were very grateful to be bestowed with, but simultaneously challenging in ways we might have not always expected. Speaking at the Sixth Form Open Evening was one of the first tasks for the Head Boy and Girl, and daunting as it was, was an amazing opportunity for us to grow our confidence and speak passionately and professionally. Planning the Royal Family themed Focus Day for the tea party with the elderly was another highlight and led to a successful event that brought joy to many, not just the attendees but all of us as students as well.

However, while our year was a unique and remarkable experience in its own right, it was unfortunately cut short due to the devastating Covid-19 pandemic. With our cancellation of exams on the academic front there was also a halt to our end of year plans as the Student Leadership Team - unfortunately all the venues and entertainment we had visited and booked for our end of year prom could no longer be put to use, and our end of year assembly was not able to take the form we had wanted it to. Despite this, we are still greatly appreciative of all the skills we learnt in the planning of these events, and have tried to make use of our time in lockdown in other productive ways where possible. Reading, online learning and engaging with current affairs are all some ways our year has tried to stay mentally active during this time (although we also recognised this was a unique opportunity to relax and discover new interests and hobbies).

Despite the slightly peculiar circumstances that we find ourselves in as we approach the end of our term, we still are all extremely happy we chose to take on these roles, as we learnt how to grow as leaders in ways we did not foresee. We hope that the ideas and plans we made while we could can in some shape or form be continued with the next Student Leaders and we wish them all the best as they take over in the coming weeks.

And finally, to all the students and staff that helped to make our time in Sixth Form an enjoyable and fulfilling two years, we thank you and wish you well as we move into the next stages of our lives. We couldn't have done it without you.

Jannah, Haziq, Hana & Faheem

Student Leadership Team



General updates

Phased reopening

We have welcomed Year 12 students back into school this week. They were invited in for two days to receive in-dept support in two of their four subjects. We are looking forward to seeing them back next week for further support with their other two subjects.

There was an obvious anxiety amongst many of the students as they walked back through the school gate for the first time in three months. However, this quickly disappeared as they able to meet with friends and their teachers, and the difference in their mood as they left was very obvious. Students felt the experience of coming back into school was very worthwhile in terms of the academic support but also very important psychologically.

We are now planning to welcome back Year 10 students over the two weeks beginning Monday 29th June. Year 10 parents have been written to separately with further details.

Online interactive teaching

The online interactive teaching sessions have been well received. We have been generally very impressed with students sensible behaviour when online, and teachers are enjoying the sessions. The difficulties associated with 'live' teaching are still apparent - connection and bandwidth difficulties, a slower pace of interaction than would be experienced in the classroom, and some students absent because of family circumstances or routines.

A copy of the online teaching timetable for the week beginning 22nd June is shown below and will have been sent to you with this newsletter. Please note that there can be changes during the week and students are notified of these. Students have been sent this timetable and are expected to be available when the sessions are running.

Week 2 Online Teaching		Year 7 Minimum of one live/interactive/recorded session each week for English, Maths and Science and one per fortnight for other subjects	Year 8 Minimum of one live/interactive/recorded session each week for English, Maths and Science and one per fortnight for other subjects	Year 9 Minimum of one live/interactive/recorded session each week for all subjects	Year 10 Minimum of one live/interactive/recorded session each week for all subjects	Year 12 Minimum of two live/interactive/recorded session each week for all subjects
22nd June	Monday 1	8:30	Tutor time?	Tutor time?	Tutor Time?	Tutor Team meeting
	Monday 2	9:15	Staff Briefing	Staff Briefing	Staff Briefing	Staff Briefing
	Monday 3	10:30		English	Drama - History	
	Monday 4	11:15			Textiles	Music, Sociology, Art - 1
	Pre-lunch	12:00				
	Lunch	13:00				
	Monday 5	14:00	History (Wk 1)	Computing (Wk 2)	Music	Maths 1
	Monday 6	14:45			English DT / Food	Psychology 1
23rd June	Tuesday 1	8:30		Art (Wk1)	Computing	Geography+
	Tuesday 2	9:15		History (Wk2)		PSE 1
	Tuesday 3	10:30			Geography	English 1
	Tuesday 4	11:15	French (Wk 2)			Drama+ - Physics 1
	Pre-lunch	12:00	PE	PE	PE	Chemistry 1
	Lunch	13:00				
	Tuesday 5	14:00	Maths	Science	History - Drama	Psychology+
	Tuesday 6	14:45			Business Studies	French 1 / Computing 1
24th June	Wednesday 1	8:30	Computing (Wk 1)	Geography (Wk 1)	Chemistry	History 1/ DT 1
	Wednesday 2	9:15			Biology?	Physics+ - Drama 1
	Wednesday 3	10:30	Tutor Time?	DT (Wk1)	Maths	PE+
	Wednesday 4	11:15		Music (Wk 2)		Biology 1
	Pre-lunch	12:00			Business Studies	
	Lunch	13:00				
	Wednesday 5	14:00	Science	PSE (Wk 2)		French 2 + Computing+
	Wednesday 6	14:45			Maths	Economics 1
25th June	Thursday 1	8:30	Art (Wk 1)		Biology	Maths 2
	Thursday 2	9:15	P&E (Wk2)			Physics 2
	Thursday 3	10:30		English	DT	Biology 2
	Thursday 4	11:15			PE (GCSE)	History+
	Pre-lunch	12:45				
	Lunch	13:00				
	Thursday 5	14:00	Drama (Wk 1)	German / French (Wk 1)	Drama - History	PE (GCSE) / Philosophy & Ethics Art / Music / Sociology / DT+
	Thursday 6	14:45				Art
26th June	Friday 1	8:30	German (Wk 2)		Physics	Drama 2
	Friday 2	9:15	Geography (Wk 1)		French	Business+ - History 2
	Friday 3	10:30	Coffee+PD	Maths	Coffee+PD	Coffee+PD
	Friday 4	11:15	PE	Coffee+PD	PE	PE
	Pre-lunch	12:45			Physics	Chemistry 2
	Lunch	13:00				
	Friday 5	14:00	Music (Wk 1)			
	Friday 6	14:45	DT (Wk 2)	Drama (Wk 2)	German	Geography 2
					Food Technology	

Our expectation is that students make themselves available online when these sessions are running unless they have a very good reason not to. If they cannot attend, they should email their teachers to explain why. Attendance registers are kept.



Snapshots

From the History Department.....

Last week's 'just for fun' historical challenge was to write a clerihew.....

Write a Clerihew about an historical figure

A what? A Clerihew is a short, four line rhyming verse, so called because they were invented by a writer with the wonderful name of Edward Clerihew Bentley.

The challenge is to write a Clerihew about any famous historic person.

If you are stuck about how to do this then take this well known Clerihew, about King George III (who suffered from madness) as an example....

*George the Third
Ought never to have occurred.
One can only wonder
At so grotesque a blunder.*



The winners this week are Yusuf Hamid of 7R, for his clerihew about the civil rights campaigner Martin Luther King, Priyadarshini Kanitkar of 8H who wrote about Nicólo Paganini, a composer who wrote 24 caprices and had a gambling addiction, and Naina Jaswal of 9V for her entry about Florence Nightingale.

Martin Luther King he spoke,
*Those that heard they were awake,
He spoke with a passion truly deep,
And he aroused those who were
asleep.*

Paganini's caprices
*Were show stopping pieces
Until he lost his bets
To pay his debts*

Florence Nightingale,
*A famous female,
Helped people recover in camp,
While carrying around her bright
lamp*

The current competition is to **Make a historical building out of food!**

The possibilities are endless in terms of both what you make, as well as what you make it out of! Cake, toast, fruit... and any building or structure with a historical link!

By way of inspiration, Mrs Clark got her apron on and thoroughly enjoyed herself making a WW2 Anderson shelter cake, and Miss Mawdesley got creative with toast and made The Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben).





Snapshots

From the Geography team....

Year 11 students have been working on transition tasks to prepare themselves for A level study. This example of a reading review task from **Shweta Velmurugan** illustrates the kind of independent thinking and reading we'd like all the geographers to be doing...

Mr D Mace, Assistant Headteacher

From Ms Burns

Behaviour & welfare Practitioner

We were delighted to receive the following email from local charity Aik Saath about two of our Year 12 Young Health Champions.

During the secret shopping session in February half-term, Harleen and Kirthana reviewed the local GUM clinic - the Garden Clinic.

They provided a great deal of feedback and based on this, the clinic has completely overhauled many aspects of how they operate - a brief report is attached.

It's fantastic to know your students are having a really significant impact on how local services are being delivered.

Best wishes,

Rob

Rob Deeks

Aik Saath - Together As One

Congratulations to our Year 12 Young Health Champions....

Harleen Kaur and Kirthana Balachandran.

Aik Saath is a brilliant local organization in Slough that works to empower young people to make our communities safer, stronger places.



For more information about Aik Saath and how your son or daughter could get involved, please visit

<http://aiksaath.com/>





Opportunities....

Langley Grammar School Cyber Discovery Club

The first stage of Cyber Discovery is CyberStart Assess and discover your hidden talent for cyber security.



Do you have what it takes to become one of the agency's new recruits?



Are you aged 13-18?

This stage opened Tuesday 2nd June 2020 and closes on Wednesday 30th September 2020

The Cyber Protection Agency is searching for talent and new recruits (The CPA is a fictional organisation). Agent J, a senior and experienced agent, asks you to complete a number of challenges that will help to assess whether you have what it takes to become one of the agency's new recruits.

There are several challenges, each harder than the last. You can move between them and come back to previous challenges. To complete each challenge, you must simply read the briefing and then try to find the code it is asking for. When you think they've got the right one, you enter it into the box and click 'submit code'. Your score will then appear and you have until this phase closes to play and try to improve your score.

<http://cyberdisc.io/welcome>

If you are interested in taking part please email Mrs Jenkins for our club access code.



Opportunities....

The deadline for this competition, organized by OfCom and the Financial Times, has been extended to **30th June**, so there is still time for any student aged 16+ to enter. More information at

<https://www.smallscreenbigdebate.co.uk/student-competition>



Small Screen:
Big Debate

Are you aged
16-18?

Closing date:
~~9th April~~
2020

What is the future of TV?

Ofcom and FT's Competition for Schools 2020

To find out more and apply:
[smallscreenbigdebate.co.uk](https://www.smallscreenbigdebate.co.uk)



The way people watch TV is changing, and younger viewers, in particular, are crucial to the future success of the UK's broadcasters.



So if you're aged 16-18, we want to hear your ideas in response to this question: 'What must traditional broadcasters and streaming services do to make sure they appeal to the audiences of tomorrow?'

Enter Ofcom and FT's Competition for Schools by **submitting your blog post or video entry before ~~9th April 2020!~~**



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