



Tomlinscote School

25th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I thought it was time to give another update, provide a few extra 'home learning' ideas and reinforce key messages. The school is open for students of key workers and we have averaged 12 students a day. This is for people where there is no safe alternative at home.

I hope the home learning is going well and that your son/daughter is engaging with all the tasks. The reports from staff so far shows that there has been superb interaction between students and teachers on Google Classroom. I know that form tutors are making daily contact with their tutor group and the daily mindfulness tasks are being well received. You can get involved in these as well!

I need your help though – staff are reporting that too many students are not sending their work back to them when it is requested to do so. **Please check your son/daughter's work every day (I would suggest at the end of the school day at least) and double check if it needs to be sent back to staff for marking/checking.** There are going to be ups and downs but together we can make home learning work as smooth as possible.

Year 11 – a reminder that any students who took Art, Photography, Media, Dance or Drama – they have coursework to complete. These pieces of work are critical so that staff will be able to award a final grade that reflects the students' potential. The subject teachers have added all the relevant tasks and instructions to Google Classroom. Some students have requested work to help prepare them for A Levels. The Sixth Form College Farnborough have sent the following message and link which may be useful for students in the next few weeks.

"On each of the course pages on the College website, <https://farnborough.ac.uk/course> there is a section called "Course Prep Work". This is the work we normally direct prospective students to do during their Getting Ready event in June".

Foreign trips - As previously stated, the Year 7 trips to France and Germany, as well as the Year 10 trip to Berlin, have regrettably had to be cancelled in line with Government advice. At this stage, we have unfortunately not managed to recuperate the money paid to the tour organisers and there is still a lot of uncertainty as to whether/when we might succeed. However, we are acutely aware that many families in our community will have serious concerns regarding their personal finances over the coming weeks or months. Consequently, The Prospect Trust and Tomlinscote have made the decision to process full refunds of all monies paid, to the families who have children on those foreign trips in the timeliest manner.

As you can imagine, we are having to review our standard working practices, as well as adapt to new procedures imposed by ParentPay, but we anticipate that the full refunds will reach your ParentPay accounts within the next two to three weeks. We will endeavour to make the process as swift and timely as we possibly can.

(continued)



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Registered office: Prospect Avenue, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 8JX



A few useful online sites to use with all the family:

PE workout - I did the Joe Wicks workout with students at school this morning. This is another great activity to do as a family and can be accessed through YouTube (Joe Wicks PE coach) every morning at 9am (live) and you can also access the previous days' workouts.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>

Foreign Language - Do you fancy brushing up on some of those language skills or even learning a new language? Duolingo is free and it's the world's biggest community of language learners. One of our members of staff is learning German. Some students may also be keen to develop some knowledge of a foreign language, beyond what they learn in lessons?

Mental health awareness and support – every day we complete a Google Classroom task that is mindfulness related. Here are some more relevant websites:

<https://youngminds.org.uk>

<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/>

with wide range of tips for self-care;

<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/>

<https://nopanic.org.uk/coronavirus/>

with their section and resources designed for Young People;

<https://nopanic.org.uk/youth-hub/>

Science - The Royal Institution are sending out a weekly newsletter with links to their YouTube channel for Science lectures, blogs etc which looks really good. You can sign up for the free newsletter at <https://www.rigb.org/visit-us/find-us>

Reading books - Some more free audiobooks from the Amazon website via Sanity:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sanity-Audio-Apps-Free-Audiobooks/dp/B01NCTQAAV>

Good news for those stuck at home in isolation: Audible is making hundreds of titles available for free during the Coronavirus pandemic. The audiobook platform has said that, for as long as schools are closed, anyone can listen to a vast selection of its titles. This means books read by Westworld's Thandie Newton and Downton Abbey's Dan Stevens are available to stream at no cost at all. Simply visit <https://www.stories.audible.com> from any web browser to get started. No logins, credit card or passwords needed.

Dance - Royal Opera House:

The theatres may have closed the curtains and taken their final bow for the time being, but that isn't stopping the Royal Opera House during the Coronavirus outbreak. Bringing the drama to your home, the theatre will offer a free schedule of both opera and ballet broadcasts so audiences can access world-class performances right at their fingertips. The programme will offer a unique look behind-the-scenes of the prestigious establishment, allowing those who had tickets to cancelled events (and those looking for a bit of entertainment while stuck at home) a taste of the arts in the comfort of their own four walls. The free broadcasts will be available to stream on both the Royal Opera

House's Facebook and YouTube channels, with a schedule running from March to April including classic performances such as Peter and the Wolf and The Metamorphosis.

Newsletter ideas – help needed!

Earlier this week we requested any brilliant ideas for our weekly Newsletter. We would love to receive articles and pictures of things that you are doing to pass the time, in addition to the schoolwork that students are completing. Ideas include:

- Creative artistic masterpieces that you have produced
- Baking delicacies
- Fun photos with pets
- Photos of walks with your family
- Clever ways that have been created to keep in touch with friends
- Any new skills that have been learnt
- Whole family DIY projects
- Gardening – attempts to grow your own produce
- Completed puzzles/Lego structures
- Acts of kindness

In essence, anything that will provide ideas to others for spending time together and anything likely to raise a smile. It will be assumed that permission to use photographs is given, if articles are submitted. *Please email articles to jcarpenter@tomlinscoteschool.com*

The next communication will be through the Newsletter on Friday.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Major
Principal