



Dear Parents/carers,

CV19 daily update (Issue 16 – Thursday 2nd April 2020 – 10.00am)

Dear parents/carers,

We understand that Ofqual and the DfE will be making an announcement later today on how GCSE and A-level examination grades will be awarded this summer. Once this is available, we will publish a separate newsletter on this topic.

There will be an update in tomorrow's newsletter about delivery of the Virtual Learning Curriculum (VLC) in phase 3 – after the Easter holiday. Phase 2 is the Easter holiday which, for year 7, 8 and 9 will mean no work being set (as normal). For year 10 and 12, there will be some work to be done and individual subject teachers will provide guidance on this through Google Classroom.

Mayor's Pride Awards 2020

I am delighted to say that Zac, Fin and Josh Pile have been awarded the Young Persons of Distinction Award at the Mayor's Pride Awards Ceremony last night. Due to CV19 the ceremony was conducted via Radio Verulam over the air, but this did not distract from the excitement of the event which is one of the highlights of the St. Albans and District Calendar. Zac, Fin and Josh have raised thousands of pounds for Epilepsy Society through their band 'Princes to Kings'. You may also remember them appearing as the 'unexpected stars of the show' on Michael McIntyre's Big Show, just before Christmas last year. We are delighted their achievements have been recognised through the Mayor's Pride Awards and are very proud of the work they are doing to support their elder brother, Luke, who has severe epilepsy and the Epilepsy Society. Well done Zac, Fin and Josh.

World Class Schools opportunities for students

It seems some of you have been having problems opening files through links. It may be the settings on your pdf file reader but we have reproduced the links below which we now hope will work for you.

For all students.

[#BeCreative](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1crN9tyhDxpzJPo485EeFdfodh1C2IIUy/view) <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1crN9tyhDxpzJPo485EeFdfodh1C2IIUy/view>

[WCSQM competition for all students](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UbPZP3WNn5rHqzkdV_uNoDj2mb9HWUuZ)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UbPZP3WNn5rHqzkdV_uNoDj2mb9HWUuZ

For students age 13+ join the [World Class alumni Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/worldclassalumni/)

[groups](https://www.facebook.com/groups/worldclassalumni/) <https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2Fworldclassalumni%2Fmembers%2F>

For Year 11s engaged and ready for post -16

[Year 11 accredited project](#)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19_wMwjlaqT_69H8LmknXUnygmrxipwVX

For Year 13s an advantage post-18

[Year 13 accredited project](#)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19_wMwjlaqT_69H8LmknXUnygmrxipwVX

Year 11 and Year 13 should join our World Class alumni general and specialist Facebook groups to stay engaged with and supported by #worldclass peers. They need to get on the pages and start the conversations.

<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2Fworldclassalumni%2F>

- General
- [Physics and mathematics](#)
- [Technology and engineering](#)
- [Human science](#)
- [Performing arts](#)
- [Social science](#)
- [Humanities and languages](#)

3. Our #worldclass supplier Strengthening Minds has sent out a free 'Staying at Home in Style' guide, for your students of all ages, and families, attached, @StrMinds. This would be helpful for your Year 11s and 13s who are looking after younger siblings – follow this link for the information.

https://f416d0a2-db80-48ab-8828-48a3480497ad.filesusr.com/ugd/35ee33_2d6a125a358b43df9d8eb58d0c45078c.pdf

Young Minds update

Young Minds has recently conducted a survey that highlighted that 83% of under 25s (2111 surveyed) with a history of mental health issues reported that the pandemic had made their mental health worse. Given that, we felt it was especially important to keep the 'thrive' Young Person's Clinic (YPC) weekly Thursday sessions running as telephone appointments to address any arising need. Do feel free to encourage any young person registered with a GP in the district, and who you feel may benefit from speaking to a GP, to contact their GP Practice and ask to book an appointment in the YPC.

In the meantime, the following websites have some useful resources to support the mental health of young people which you may want to share with your pupils if you haven't already:

www.justtalkherts.org.uk; www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk; <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/>

Guidance for parents and carers: keeping children safe online

The DfE have updated information for parents and carers to include a section on keeping children safe online. It provides links to online resources that will help support parents and carers in keeping their children safe online.

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

More feedback from you

Thank you to all the teachers and staff keeping things going. You are being amazing. We are loving all the feedback in the newsletters. The one thing that struck us both is how the kids have taken so naturally to working from home. This demonstrates to us that Sandringham school have actually given a bigger gift to the children than they may realise. The gift of resilience, self-motivation and being able to adapt to new situations. We can see that our year 10 son is calm and accepting of his new way of learning and the friends are all naturally gathering to work together. The life skills that they are now learning will in our view make them stronger as young adults and Sandringham are doing a great job in preparing them for their future. We would really like it if we could keep the work coming over the Easter break, albeit a bit less. We feel that the routine of school is having a positive effect on the house and most importantly helps the weeks go quickly!!!

I just wanted to drop an email to say a very big thank you to Sandringham school and to everyone who works there. I think you're all amazing and I feel privileged to be part of the Sandringham school community. I have 2 sons at the school, one in Year 8 and the other in Year 10 and I'm just so impressed with how the school has approached home learning. Also appreciating you had to deliver it all in such a short space of time and a totally new concept of teaching, The key areas that have really helped the boys and us as a family - is keeping to the school routine. I think this was great that you could implement this from day 1 as the boys are keeping to getting up as normal and then follow the school day, with the set break times right through until 3.00pm. I think by ensuring the lessons start at the normal lesson time - this has really helped. I'm also impressed with the range of materials that are being used for lessons - I especially like the online lessons being delivered by the teacher. I appreciate you can't do this for all lessons - but I think this has been one of the most effective learning methods, so the more you can use this format it would be really beneficial - even if the teacher just speaks to them for 10 minutes at the beginning of the class to talk through the work they've been set, check everyone is okay and some social contact. However, I know it's early days and lots of different methods to get used to. I have also found the communication from the school exceptional and have really appreciated the daily newsletters and updates. I think the broad range of topics you cover is admirable and the focus isn't just on the schooling, but also other activities and the mental health and wellbeing for both parents and students, and the various links, web addresses and webinars are all so valuable and helpful. Finally - I also wanted to say a big thank you for keeping the school open for children of key workers and having a presence at the school every day - this

truly shows the commitment the school has and dedication to the wider community as well as the pupils. I hope you all have a very happy and well deserved Easter break and have time to relax. Thank you again for everything over the last few weeks - which have been truly unprecedented times for us all. I think the approach Sandringham has taken really demonstrates that we're all here to support each other and we will get through it together. Take care and stay safe everyone.

We would like to say thank you to you and all of your staff, who are ensuring that home-schooling is just as well-organised and as positive an experience as the real thing! The transition to online teaching has seemed seamless to this parent and child audience: we have all been so impressed by the 'real time' feel to the day; the work set and the feedback from teacher to student. This personal feedback after the lesson is wonderfully encouraging - a little praise goes a long way. During the lesson it appears that Joe is acting similarly to how he would at school - working to a timescale and interacting with a teacher, if he needs help. We have even been impressed by the occasional group chats, whereby the students actually perform virtual group work or help each other - any group chat member, who is not concentrating, seems to be given short shrift by the students themselves! Lovely to feel that Sandringham has already instilled a great work ethic into a year 7 boy. Thank you once again for your unstinting dedication and efficiency. Please pass on our many thanks to your hard-working and talented staff, who are providing a wonderful sense of order, continuity and invigorating aspiration in such difficult times.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank you again for your excellent response in managing the crisis and to continue with the children's education

I just want to appreciate all your handwork in this difficult time. My son is in Year 7 and have been really positive about all the virtual classes, how the teachers are organised and delivering the lessons. He is happy and not at all worried about his studies as the teachers and the school has been great keeping the students really positive. Also giving out information to the parents which is really helpful and pointing to the correct resources so it's not too overwhelming. Also want to appreciate the management the way they have handled this from the very beginning of this home learning. The students had very clear instructions as what's going to happen and what they should be doing during the virtual learning as they were very well prepared mentally.

Can I also thank those of you who stop to give me an update verbally when I am out and about. It is really good to hear the feedback about how things are going so please do say hello (from 2m!) if you see me around.

Best wishes

Alan Gray

