



Dear Parents/carers,

### CV19 update (Issue 26– Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020)

This week we have said farewell to two members of staff. Mrs. Milner, who has worked in the library for over 5 years, has gained promotion and is moving to another school in Hertfordshire to lead a library of her own. Thank you for all of your work at Sandringham and we will miss you greatly. Ms. Summers, who is Director of Learning for English, goes on maternity leave today. We wish Ms Summers well and look forward to hearing the news of a new arrival in due course. Ms Pitsillis, Assistant Headteacher will be overseeing the English faculty whilst Ms Summers is on her maternity leave.

The 'Chalk Walk' drawings continue to appear all over our local area, and this one is particularly welcome, thanking the staff at the school for all of their work. I know there is another one for Wheatfields staff and I would like to thank whoever is responsible for these for thinking of us. As I mentioned on Tuesday, let's see how much you can brighten up the area with your Chalk Walk drawings. If you do one, please send me a photo of it.



We are now on day 45 of the lock down, and three weeks into this half-term. Thoughts are now turning to how we might manage a phased return to school and we may know more on timescales following the announcement due this Sunday. I would like to reassure you at this stage that a lot of planning has been done already and that whatever we are asked to do, we will manage this to a very high standard. Next week, our new year 7 intake will receive various information from the school about their new start. We may not be able to meet them all in person before September, but I am sure our virtual communications will be just as powerful and help them to settle quickly into school life.

Finally, I thought I would share with you some statistics on rewards. The table below shows the number of postcards sent home to students since the lockdown began. (more details further on) it just shows how much effort students are making to keep on top of their learning from home. I am incredibly proud of you all and believe implicitly that the work you are doing now will make things so much better when we do eventually return to school.

	<b>Aspiration</b>	<b>Confidence</b>	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Integrity</b>	<b>Resilience</b>	<b>Total</b>
7	398	106	72	107	241	924
8	240	35	86	51	171	583
9	119	85	35	58	113	410
10	96	42	23	19	81	261
12	18	6	15	1	10	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>2228</b>

For now, have a wonderful Bank Holiday where we celebrate the special VE day anniversary. With best wishes, Alan Gray

## MUSIC NEWS: THE SANDWICH SERIES AND MUSIC LESSONS



If your son or daughter plays a musical instrument or sings, the Music Faculty would love to include them in their new series of mini-concerts that they will be sharing with the school community. All you need to do is make a short video of your son/daughter performing on their instrument or singing and email it to [beatone@mysandstorm.org](mailto:beatone@mysandstorm.org) or you can share the recording with Mrs Beaton via Dropbox or Google drive.

A reminder as well to all parents/carers of students who receive instrumental or vocal lessons at school that you should have received a letter last week explaining how to register your son/daughter for online tuition. If you have not yet responded and do wish to begin online tuition, please register asap so that they can commence the delivery of this service.

## ENGLISH NEWS: EXTRACT FROM A STUDENT LETTER TO KEY WORKERS



*“Teachers have been committed and diligent and not just on an academic level. Thinking of us pupils as a whole person not just teaching us a subject lesson. For example, in PE, there have been sport challenges to keep us motivated and fit at a time where we may want to sit and do nothing. In LL the teachers have kept the class and friends communicating to create a sense of normality. Furthermore, they have unbelievably managed to keep extra activities like the choir and drama going virtually for their pupils. There have even been quizzes and games sent to us to have some fun and lighten people’s moods.*

*Sandringham’s teachers have even gone further and supported the local community and helped other keyworkers at this time of need. The DT department and others have gone into school and spent their time creating vital PPE equipment for the NHS and then distributing it those desperately needing it. This reflects what a committed and caring school Sandringham is and the quality of teachers we have that work there.*

*From talking to my peers outside of school, it makes me appreciate how well Sandringham has performed and rallied us together, united in a time of worry and fear. I am proud to be a part of the Sandringham community and again I want to thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart. You have all really made such a difference to us in these arduous times.*

*Stay safe, Lauren P 8A”*

## **POSTCARDS HOME: AMAZING WORK!**

Over 2200 postcards home have been issued since lockdown began. This is a huge testament to the dedication being shown by our students during these difficult times. Some students have received TEN postcards home- this is phenomenal - so thank you for all your hard work and to the teachers who are taking time to award them. As there have been too many to send out physically, postcards will now automatically be awarded to students electronically through My Child at School. They will be visible for students and their families and will appear as a certificate with the character logo with messages or congratulations from teachers. A huge thank you to Mrs Fullerton for making this happen and Mr Kemp for coordinating the whole process. Keep up the amazing work!



## **CHILD ONLINE SAFETY**



It's no secret that young people love spending time on social media – and with schools currently closed and many of us confined to our homes, they may be more strongly drawn to these apps than usual. There's nothing wrong or harmful about this in and of itself but it's important to remember that online risks children face haven't gone away.

As a parent, you are in the best position to notice if something isn't quite right with your child. While most children only have positive experiences online, occasionally things can go wrong. And with children likely to be spending more time on the internet during lockdown, it is more important than ever for you and your child to know the best reporting and support routes, should either of you ever be worried about something online. Mr Allday has highlighted the following link which shows references several place you can go to which offer support <https://parentinfo.org/article/child-online-safety-during-lockdown-where-to-report>

## **YEAR 13 QUIZ- WEDS 13<sup>th</sup> MAY @ 4pm- COME AND JOIN THE FUN**



Year 13, please join Miss Clark and the Senior Executive Team for a Year Group Quiz Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May @ 4pm, joining details will be released via the google classroom.

## POSTCARD PALS- SUPPORTING THE ELDERLY AND ISOLATED



Rob Varney from Communities 1<sup>st</sup> has contacted all schools in St Albans with a lovely initiative. Pupils are asked to write a short letter or postcard to an isolated member of the community and post it to their school. The school will then post the letters in one envelope to Communities 1st so they can be delivered to isolated local residents and local care homes. Letters should not contain any personal information,

should be addressed 'Dear Resident,' and should be signed off with just a first name, or 'from a pupil of Sandringham School'. The Postcard Pals project is a great opportunity to make a big difference to those struggling with isolation and also a chance for students to become aware of those in the community in different situations to their own. If you would prefer to email the letters, you can do so to [Melissa.holian@sandringham.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Melissa.holian@sandringham.herts.sch.uk).

## WEBINAR FOR PARENTS ON DEALING WITH THE JUGGLE

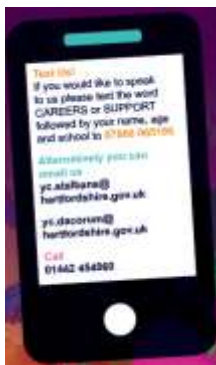
With the covid-crisis closing schools for the majority of children, many parents face the daunting task of having full-time work while also home schooling their children. In light of this, our Chair of Governors, Professor Anna Cox, has drawn attention to the following webinar that is well worth a view.



In this episode, Professor Sandra Dunsmuir, Professor of Educational & Child Psychology and Director of the UCL Educational Psychology department shares her insights and experience in how parents can best juggle these competing demands, help their children learn, and keep the family happy at the same time. At the end she provides several resources for anyone looking for additional info <https://youtu.be/fXcTmuyLOW8>

## ONLINE SUPPORT FROM YC HERTS

YC Herts are providing virtual information, advice and guidance for young people in St Albans during Covid-19 on the following:



- **Options after Year 11** Including 6th form, college, apprenticeship, training.
- **Careers guidance:** Helping students to identify a career which matches their skills, abilities and interests.
- **Advice on finding employment or training including:** CV writing, finding and researching vacancies, completing application forms and interview skills.
- **Emotional wellbeing:** Providing advice, hints and tips on how to improve and maintain emotional wellbeing during COVID-19.
- **Support:** Around any other aspect of your life, whether that be relationships, confidence, body image or more. Text CAREERS or SUPPORT to **07860 065195** or call **01442 454060**