



Sandprint- Tuesday 19th May 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

We are now in our seventh week of virtual learning and the half-term holiday next week will be a good opportunity for staff and students to get some time away from the screens, and enjoy some of the summer sunshine. Having spoken to a number of staff recently, and also looking at the results of some on-line surveys we have conducted with them, they are gaining confidence in the use of virtual learning and have significantly developed their skills in crafting virtual lessons. We are holding a staff meeting tonight to talk through the general direction of travel and outline arrangements for after half term, and I will share these with you in the newsletter on Friday. One thing we are still waiting for is further clarification from the government on the expectations for secondary schools. This has been promised so it is wise to wait a few days longer before making any final plans.

On Friday, there will also be a letter coming to you from all of the local Secondary heads. We have drafted this so that there is a common communication to all families in St. Albans and Harpenden before we break up for half term.

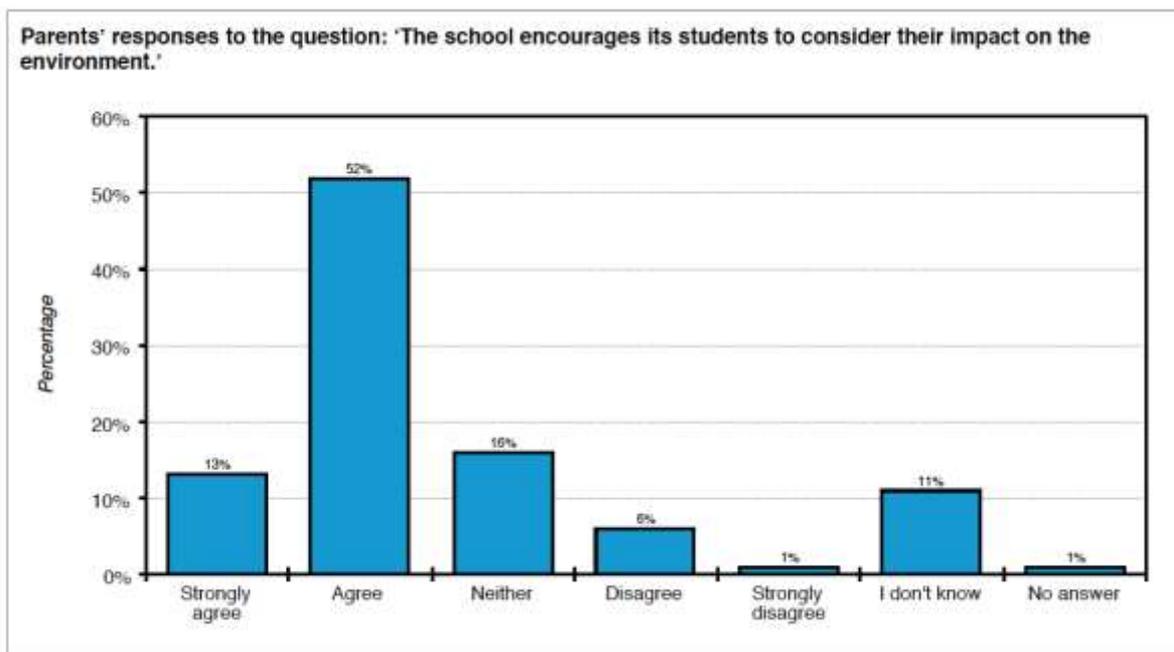


One of the positive things with the lock down is that we are all finding more time to walk around our local area. I am certainly enjoying seeing things on foot rather than in a car. More and more Herts Chalk Walk drawings are appearing, as well as those from students. I have included a selection spotted on my walk into school today to add some colour to the newsletter.



Kirkland Rowell Survey 2020

I have picked out the question about the environment for you this week. As you can see, the parents' view is that we are helping students to consider their impact on the environment. This is one of our key strategic plans for the next five years and whilst no one would have wished for the CV-19 pandemic, there will be some positive take-aways to be had with regards to being more eco-friendly. Once we return to school, we will work on our plans through the student leadership team.



Enjoy the rest of the news.

Best wishes,
Alan Gray

THANK A TEACHER DAY: WEDNESDAY 20th MAY

Michael Morpurgo, celebrated author and former Children's Laureate, and President of the Teaching Awards Trust, said: "So often and for so many of us, it is a teacher who changed our lives, was at our side through hard and difficult times, who lifted us up when we were down, helped us find our voice, gave us confidence when we needed it most, set us on a path that we have followed ever since." Now more than ever, teachers are working tirelessly to support students both educationally and emotionally- so if you have a STAR teacher or support staff member whom you'd like to say thank you to, you can do so on Wednesday 20th May, National Thank a Teacher Day. More details can be found at <https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher-day/> where you can also send a free ecard to a teacher of your choice. Why not say thanks to someone at Sandringham who has supported you recently? It would really give them a boost.



DANCE NEWS: DAILY CLUBS AND ARTS WEEK COMING UP



Many of you are continuing to dance at home, join in the virtual dance clubs and completing the Dance At Home activities. New members are always welcome at the clubs (including ballet, contemporary, striding out and many more!) so why not try a new club this week? (Details are all in the Upcoming dates section at the end of the Newsletter.) It is also Arts Week coming soon so watch this space for more details.

MFL UPDATE: THE GREAT LANGUAGES CHALLENGE



Last week our French, German and Spanish students in the lower school took part in a Languages Challenge organised by the British Council. Eva J in Y7 made her own Schwarzwaelder Kirschtorte (Black Forest Gateau) and Ethan S made a Tarte Tatin.



These are the mountains that my dad cycled up
Three of the mountains are in the alps and the other two are in the Pyrenees

Max S in Year 7 included all the mountains his dad had cycled up! Impressive work Max's Dad! Isabella J in Y8 made the most amazing macaroons, Amelia S in Year 9 cooked up a storm with her coq au vin and Lauren D wrote a review of a French Cartoon she watched saying ' *J'ai regardé quelques épisodes de deux minutes de Trotro, un dessin animé français pour les jeunes enfants, à propos d'un âne appelé Trotro. Mon épisode préféré était quand il est allé à la plage et a construit un château de sable avec ses amis.*'

More examples to follow on Friday but we are sure you will agree- the creativity shown by our school community has been hugely impressive!



A big well done to all those taking part and embracing the project. If you would also like to get involved- details of the challenges can be found on the British Council website.



<https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find/classroom/great-languages-challenge>

MUSIC NEWS: EXAM CONGRATULATIONS AND SANDWICH SERIES



Congratulations to Ela U in 9T for passing her Grade 5 Music Theory examination with a distinction! What a superb result.

The Music Faculty would like to invite you to watch their second concert in the Sandwich Series. Today's concert features Ryan D and Atharva K both in Year 8, and Henry N from Year 11 who performs some original songs. Henry performs in a band named Vertigo with his older brother Ollie (a former student) and Year 12 student Brendan D. You can follow their band on twitter @VertigoBand1

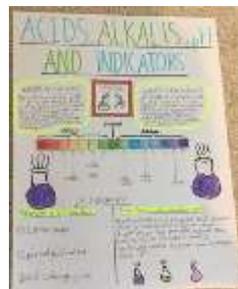
Please keep your video submission coming in to beatone@mysandstorm.org if you would like to be included in the next Sandwich Series concert.



Here is the link to the Sandwich Series Concert Number 2.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CBIC0VNxgl4_nfeaVS5HyFgXw9FUeJ_J/view?usp=sharing

SCIENCE IN THE HOME:



Miss Malone's Year 7s are currently learning all about acids, alkalis, pH and indicators. Jack had some pH strips in his home which he used to investigate the acidity/alkalinity of different products around his home and Eda designed a fabulous poster (pictures above.) Year 10 Biology students also started a new topic last week (homeostasis) where they were asked to do some flipped learning (where students can pace their own learning and learn in a way which suits them.) They created some amazing posters on what they found out including Andrew B-R's one show above. Students have been using Google Meet in subsequent lessons to go over the main parts of the topics vital for their exams next year. Everyone is working so hard and the Science Faculty are incredibly proud of them! Do send in your Home Science experiments (all carried out safely of course) to your Science Teachers.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK: 18-24th MAY



Mental health issues can affect anyone at any time. As such the Mental Health Foundation dedicates a week in May (this week) to raising the awareness of Mental Health and this year the theme is Kindness. Kindness was chosen as a theme because research shows that helping others is not only beneficial to those experiencing difficult times, but also something which can help reduce stress and improve your own emotional wellbeing. During the week, why not try carrying out an **act of kindness** using the hashtag **#KindnessMatters**. **#MentalHealthAwarenessWeek** The document attached also has some great advice on helping with difficult times and numbers that you can call/text if you need to.

If you would like someone confidential to talk to, the following services are also available

HEALTH FOR TEENS: Confidential support from your school nurse on 07480 635050
EVENTBRITE WEBINARS: Wellbeing content for young people at <https://bit.ly/2QZqK4f>
FAMILIES ADVICE LINE: Support related to CV19 0300 777 0707 or hpft.spa@nhs.net

FIT FOR LIFE WEEK: 6th- 10th JULY

Each year Sandringham School holds a 'Fit for Life Week', where we encourage the school community to join together and highlight the importance of physical activity, health and wellbeing. We encourage students, staff and parents to develop good habits, not just for the duration of the week, but to integrate them into all our lifestyles moving forward. This year our focus is on recognising all five strands of wellbeing which include: learning, connecting with others, taking notice, giving and being active, all of which are so important right now!



Given the current situation we are planning for a virtual Fit for Life week and if any staff/parents/students would like to volunteer to be involved in any way please do email the PE department with your interest. More information to follow!

YEAR 8 VIRTUAL AUTHOR VISIT: 2nd JULY 2020



Great news! Local author, Penny Joelson, has agreed to host an online visit for Sandringham Year 8 students on Thursday 2nd July, at 9.50am. She writes brilliant thrillers and we are very excited by her "visit". Details will be sent nearer the time and a letter will go out to parents regarding purchasing her book(s) at a discounted price of £7 each. Penny has a new book coming soon "Things the Eye Can't See", which can also be ordered. Read them all as soon as you can!



FREE ART CLASSES



Adam King, father of two from St Albans, has started creating AD ART video tutorials to teach students how to draw cartoons of a variety of subjects and to give home-schooling parents and carers a 10 minute break. He has created 40 step-by-step lessons so far which have proved incredibly popular with children and adults alike. There are lots of animals but also Captain Tom, Spitfires, Joe Wicks, NHS superheroes and Florence Nightingale. The resource is completely free and you can take a look here.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Adkinguk>

EVENTS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 18th MAY



- Tues 19th May: 5-6.30pm - SYCD & Contemp Seniors.
Weds 20th May: **THANK A TEACHER DAY**
315-4pm Striding Out, Junior Dance
315-4pm Boys Dance Club
Thurs 21st May: **9-11am SCHOOL OPEN FOR RESOURCES**
1:30pm Virtual Drama Club (every week)
315-430pm Triple Edge and Junior Dance
4pm Rob Biddulph's WORLD RECORD
Fri 22nd May: 1.20-1.55pm Contemporary Dance club
Sat 23rd/: Foodbank collections (see 15th May Sandprint)
Sun 24th May