



Sandprint- Tuesday 9th June

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Following the latest government advice, we look forward to meeting some of our students in person from next Monday.

VLC update and year 10 and 12 meetings

Secondary schools are permitted to provide some face to face work with year 10 and year 12 students between now and the end of the academic year. We have considered this at length and decided that it would be more disruptive to learning to bring some students in for individual lessons rather than continue through with our Virtual Learning Curriculum for everyone. The context is different in many other schools where virtual learning has been more limited, hence they feel the need to bring students in on rotation to deliver a small number of lessons in a limited number of subjects. In our case, to do this would mean that half the class would be in school receiving a lesson whilst the other half of the class would not. We have spoken to members of the Student Leadership Team about this and their view was that it makes more sense to continue as we are so that everyone benefits all of the time. In addition, we already have a number of students from key workers, or with vulnerable backgrounds who are coming in to be supervised whilst studying on the VLC. This would be disrupted should we discontinue the VLC for year 10 and 12.

However, it is important to take the opportunity to meet up with as many students as we can hence the one to one interviews for all year 10 and 12 next week. These interviews will discuss progress, well-being and preparation for next year. There will also be some extra lessons in certain subjects where it will be beneficial to use specialist facilities in school. Details of these lessons will be communicated to students after E-week.

During E-week, all year 7, 8 and 9 will have a similar interview to year 10 and 12 but these will be virtual, since they are not allowed to attend school at the moment.

E-week

Mr. Nicholls has been working with all staff to prepare the activities for E-week. There is a separate article in this Sand Print and staff will be receiving a comprehensive booklet detailing all of the activities planned. I think you will all find this a very worthwhile substitution for the normal E-week programme, and something that is different from the regular VLC. Thank you to Mr. Nicholls for all the work on this.

Head Boy and Head Girl Appointment

We will also be interviewing the year 12 applicants for positions of head boy and head girl during e-week. They will have been notified of their interview time by now and I look forward to meeting them in person next Thursday. Good luck everyone!

Black Lives Matter Assembly

I would like to thank Ms Quinn for preparing and delivering a very powerful school assembly this week on Black Lives Matter. She talked this through with some of our senior students to make sure it fully reflected thoughts of students and would be something that everyone could relate to. I have already mentioned the work going on in preparation for a different and more extensive curriculum programme from September that will incorporate more opportunities for students to learn and reflect on equality issues in our society. I am sure this will be of benefit to everyone.

This week, I thought I would share with you a response from students concerning how well the school promotes racial harmony.

Additional criteria analysis

How students scored the delivery and management of your additional non-academic criteria.

Additional criteria	True (T)	False (F)	Graph	Sample size
Promoting racial harmony	78.7%	21.3%		1378

As you can see, whilst a large majority of students responded yes to promoting racial harmony, a significant minority felt this was not being done as well as it could. Our aim is that this particular response is significantly stronger when we conduct the survey in 2022 as a result of the changes we are making.

There is plenty to read in the remainder of this newsletter, and I hope you find this of interest.

Best wishes,

Mr. Gray

KEEPING FIT: IDEAS FROM SPORT ENGLAND



Official advice is that you can go outside more than once a day for exercise, with members of your household, or with one other person from outside your household while keeping two metres apart at all times. You may have already been keeping fit but if you have not, or would like some fresh inspiration, the link below from SportEngland provides lots of fun and creative ideas on how to get active both at home and outside. With exclusive offers and workouts from content providers such as Les Mills on Demand, Joe Wicks and Fiit, activity planners and mental health links- it is a resource that we hope you find useful.

https://www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement#join_the_movement

E-WEEK (15th-19th JUNE): IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Preparations continue for the week. Tutors have been making appointments with the students and all times will be confirmed by Thursday 11th June at the latest. A reminder that Key Stage 3 students will meet 'online' via Google Meet as they do for lessons. Students should wear their school uniform for the meeting that will be recorded, allowing cameras to be on for discussions. It is not intended that parents formally join these meetings but are encouraged to 'sit in' should they wish to do so.

Year 10 and 12 students will be invited to attend their session 'on-site' with the expectation that the discussion will last no longer than 15 minutes. A full risk assessment has also been completed for the process and students will be guided on and off site. We would ask that students attend in school uniform (Year 10) or follow the sixth form dress code (Year 12). A reminder that any student who has coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, must not attend. These students, and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable (or are living with someone in this category) will not be expected to attend their interview in person and will be seen online. We are not expecting parents to attend these meetings.

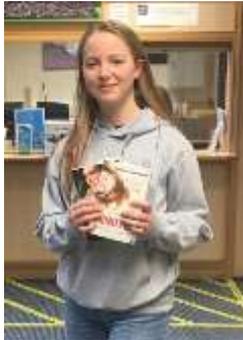
The discussions between tutors and students is only one part of the week. KS3, Year 10 and Year 12 students all have a different programme to follow for the week. Full details will be shared with students later this week. The nature of closure does mean that students will continue to work independently for the most part and we are grateful in advance to families for the continued encouragement they offer to support engagement.

MFL VIRTUAL LIBRARY



Don't forget that you can now access a Virtual Languages Library via your language class on Google Classroom from this week. Students can click on books and news to read in the language, click on the radio for music, the TV for cartoons & even access VR monuments in target language speaking countries. Please ask your language teacher for more details on how to get access.

LIBRARY NEWS: CLICK AND COLLECT ON MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS 9-11am



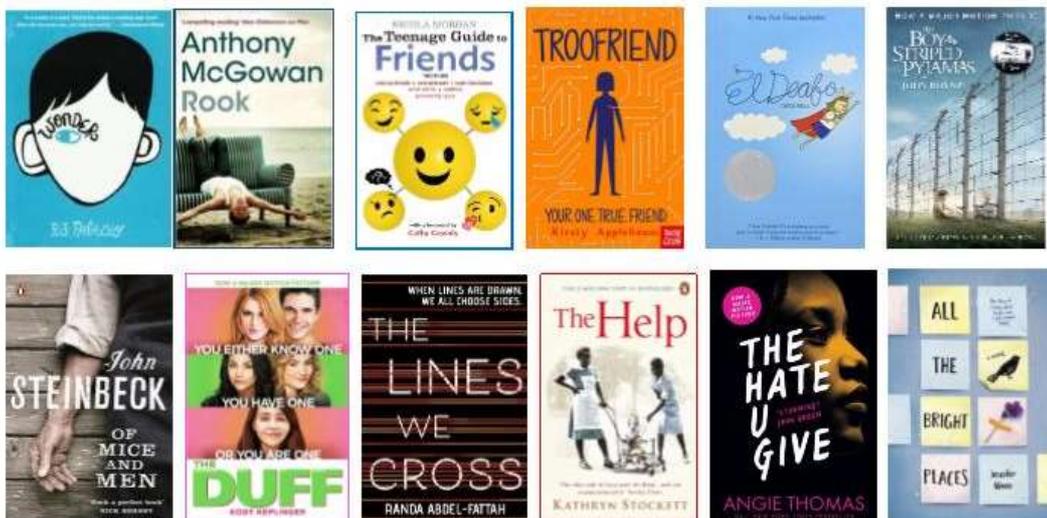
Our click and collect service is off to a good start with many happy students & parents. Don't forget you can use our Library web app: <https://uk.accessit.online/snd02/#!dashboard>. Books can be reserved using the Click and Collect service (click on a book cover and click "Make a reserve") or email kirbyj@mysandstorm.org and then collect reservations between 9-11 on Mondays and Thursdays. Here is a picture of Maddie W collecting her books. There is a huge selection available including the Empathy reading suggestions below and Black Lives Matters list in Friday's edition. Why not get lost in a new book this week?

EMPATHY DAY: TUESDAY 9th JUNE



Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of other people. Showing empathy is not only good for society but also help us to form the strong relationships that we need to learn and thrive. Today, Tuesday 9th June, is Empathy Day and if you would like to see some ideas on how you can practise empathy more not just today, but in the future, please go to www.empathylab.co.uk for more details.

Below is also a list of books available at the library which cover a wide range of topics to encourage empathy for people in situations different to our own. As always you can use the click and collect service to borrow them. We hope you find some of interest.

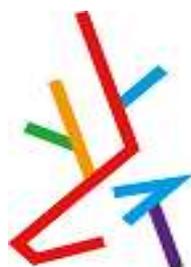


FUNDRAISER FOR GOSH: THE TEDDY SCENES

What started as a single giant teddy in a deckchair to raise a bit of cheer in St Albans on Good Friday during lockdown, has now become over 30 teddies and a new large scene every day. The Teds have been featured on Loose Women and on the BBC News website and now have quite a fan club. Based in on Homestead Road, the family creating the scene have been accepting donations for GOSH and have now raised over £3400. You can follow them on @stalbansteds or donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stalbansteds>



NHC VIRTUAL OPEN EVENINGS: JUNE 16TH- 19TH



North Hertfordshire College will be holding their virtual open evenings next week. If you think you may be interested in studying at college in September, you can find out more on their website www.nhc.ac.uk/open-events. They have added the additional videos below to help students make those important decisions and if you have further questions you can contact them on enquiries@nhc.ac.uk or 01462 424242

[NHC Application and interview process](#)

[Why study at NHC?](#)

[NHC Webinar](#)

BSA SOCIOLOGY CHALLENGE: A LEVEL STUDENTS CAN WIN £500 FOR SANDRINGHAM

The British Sociological Association would like to encourage sociology students aged 16-19 to take part in a project with a chance to win An iPad Mini as well as £500 for the school! Students are invited to conduct and submit research on the following: **'The corona generation? Using your sociological imagination, examine how COVID-19 may change young people's lives.'** Entries are expected to refer to results obtained from their own primary method of research using a suitable sample. The competition is open to anyone currently studying at A level and the closing date for entries is **Monday, 2 November 2020, 4pm**. Find out more at <https://britsoc.co.uk/alevelcomp>



EVENTS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 8th JUNE



- Tues 9th June: **EMPATHY DAY**
10:30-11:30 Ollie Foundation workshop
1.25-1.55 Virtual Choir
5-6.30pm - SYCD & Contemp Seniors.
- Weds 10th June: 3:15-4pm Striding Out, Junior Dance
3:15-4pm Boys Dance Club
- Thurs 11th June: **9-11am SCHOOL OPEN FOR RESOURCES & CLICK AND COLLECT LIBRARY SERVICES**
1:30pm Virtual Drama Club (every week)
3:15-4:30pm Triple Edge and JuniorDance
- Fri 12th June: 1.20-1.55pm Contemporary Dance club