



Sandprint- Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our last newsletter of the year. I hope you have found them useful. We have endeavoured to capture the life of the school as well as keeping you informed of key decisions with regards to school operation whilst in lock down.

Thank you

We started our new journey on 23rd March and decided early on that we should 'Keep it Simple'. We also wanted to deliver the highest-quality learning to all students and to keep them on track so that when we did return to school, there was very little 'catch up' required.

Whilst working from home has not been perfect, our assessment so far has been that a vast majority of you (the students) have worked really hard, keeping to good routines throughout the day and making good progress. Your families have been wonderful in helping you with this and we should all be really proud of what has been achieved. When you return in September, we plan to begin the next phase in your education but will check to see if you need any specific catch-up on an individual basis. If this is the case, we may need to use some one-to-one tuition to help with this.

Overall, we feel you will be well-placed to continue with your learning as if you had never been away from school, and a big THANK YOU for engaging so well throughout lock down. You all deserve a medal.

Covid-19 safety card

By the end of this week, you will have received a booklet (Covid-19 Safety Card) via e-mail which contains key information on how to go about life in school from September. In the centre of the booklet is a map showing the new one-way systems that will be in place, and the front and reverse sides give you details of how to keep clean and where to go for break and lunch. **Please take time to read this document carefully before you return to school.**

Holidays and attendance

It looks as though many families are avoiding travel this summer or if they are going on holiday, it will be somewhere in the UK. As a reminder, if you are travelling to somewhere that is not in a flight corridor and requires quarantine measures on return, then you will need to be back in the UK by 20th August so that you can start school on 3rd September.

As you will know, all students must return to school at the start of next term

Start of term and last-minute changes

We have done our best to plan for the start of term, as outlined in the communication to you all earlier in the week. As a reminder, the current guidance is that students should not wear masks/face coverings whilst in school. We will continue to monitor this position.

It may be necessary to adjust some of our plans if there are further announcements from central government on guidelines for schools. If this is the case, we will notify you before the start of the new year.

Wheatfields Junior School and Wheatfields Infants' and Nursery School

And last, but definitely not least. I am delighted to inform you that, from 1st September 2020, Wheatfields Junior School and Wheatfields Infants' and Nursery School convert to academy status and in the process will join Sandringham and become members of the **Alban Academies Trust (AAT)**. This is something we have been working towards for a few years now, and will add a new dimension to how we all operate as a group of schools.

The Alban Academies Trust is a multi-academy trust currently consisting of Verulam School, Ridgeway Academy and Sandringham School. It is based in St. Albans and provides many opportunities for the member schools to work together to improve outcomes for all children. Staff benefit from joint professional development; resources can be shared more easily and of course academies have greater freedoms allowing senior staff and governors to make their own decisions on a range of strategic issues.

There are other local junior schools also going through the process of academisation and wishing to join the Alban Academies Trust, and we look forward shaping a new stage in education for our local area in the future as part of the Alban Academies Trust.

May I wish you all a very enjoyable summer holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Thursday 3rd September 2020.

With best wishes

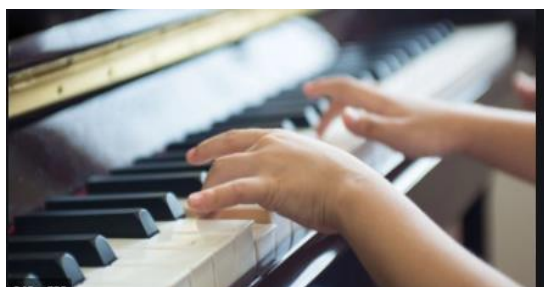
Alan Gray

VISUAL ARTS NEWS: LOCKDOWN IN ART EXHIBITION 2020

The Visual Arts Faculty have produced another fantastic video showcasing of all the beautiful artwork that students have produced during lockdown. The artists' responses are personal, thought-provoking and a representation of how they have felt during lock down. The video features photographs, paintings, sketches, models and even a crochet rainbow square which took over 50 hours to complete! Thank you to all of the artists who submitted the work and to Mrs Barnett and Ms Leto for producing such a lovely memory of this time. [Lockdown in Art Exhibition 2020](#)



MUSIC NEWS: INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL LESSONS IN SEPTEMBER



The Music Faculty are working hard to be able to resume all face-to-face instrumental and vocal tuition in school from September. Many of you will have been enjoying virtual lessons during school closure and, where necessary, this may need to be something that we revert to or continue in a small number of cases if we cannot offer them safely in school. We will communicate

further details about arrangements for these lessons at the start of term in September. There will also be an opportunity in September for new students to sign up to start receiving lessons if they wish. Contracts will be resumed as soon as face-to-face teaching is if they were 'paused' during school closure.

Registration for lessons from our Herts Music Service teachers will also re-open at the end of July– this covers all teachers excluding Boris Peck, Laura Bookbinder and Oliver Buckingham. Please visit <http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/registeronline> for more information

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JAMES P (Y12) AND HOLLY C (Y11)

A huge congratulations to James P in Year 12 who raised a fantastic £839.41 during his live stream for Cancer Research UK recently. The 12-hour live event featured quizzes, games, chats and even a rather drastic haircut! He would like to thank everyone from Sandringham who tuned in and donated. Well done James.



A big shout out to Holly C in Year 11 as well, who was spotted doing a litter pick all around the Ridgeway yesterday. A parent noticed her and when asked, Holly said she "just decided to do a litter pick to give something back." What a great thing to do and a wonderful example of the helpful and thoughtful students we have at Sandringham School.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SMSC DURING COVID-19: FROM MS COY

During lockdown we have spent considerable time ensuring that our students keep up their core academic learning. At Sandringham, teachers have been making sure that students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education has also been woven into the virtual learning curriculum. Fit for Life week, Arts week, e-week, the summer dance show, the mathematics summer show and the Sandwich Series music concerts, to name but a few, have all been a testament to this. As we are about to break for the summer there are a number of creative ways of encouraging young people to use this time to continue to explore their spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning.



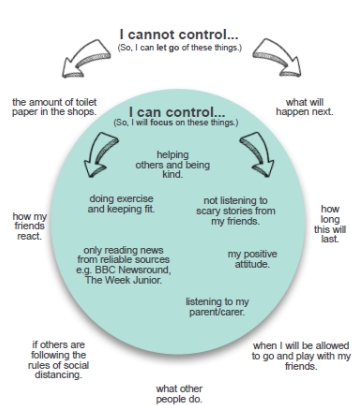
Spiritual education involves the growth of children's sense of self, their unique potential, their strengths and areas for development and their will to achieve. Students could be encouraged to take the time to plant a seed and watch it grow, to look back through photos of themselves as a younger child or have them create a collage of everything that gives them hope. Students have more time to learn to meditate, take up yoga or practise mindfulness – great for

reducing anxiety and helping us all feel in control: [NHS Yoga](#)

Moral education is concerned with questions of intention, motive and attitude. Young people are being taught that simple actions like washing your hands regularly can have huge benefits not only for themselves, but for their families and the wider community. KS4 students could be encouraged to consider the trade-off between our human rights and our national wellbeing and can look in more detail at the implications of [The Coronavirus Act 2020](#)

Social education involves the growth of children's ability to thrive in and contribute to the wider world. It is concerned with the development of interpersonal skills and the ability to interact with a variety of different people. This activity pack aimed at KS3 students could be useful to help young people engage with their communities and make a difference: [Self Care PDF](#)

Finally, cultural education is concerned with the value and richness of cultural diversity here and in the wider world, and how this influences individuals and society. Students could go sight-seeing from the comfort of their own homes! Visiting the Sistine Chapel: [Sistine Chapel](#) or perhaps the [Royal Opera House](#).



When we return in September, we will continue to embed SMSC into the curriculum. This includes encouraging students to discover their interests and talents, encouraging methods to build their resilience, improving their understanding of why and how to keep themselves physically and mentally healthy and looking ahead to face the challenges of 'the new normal'.

SCIENCE NEWS: SUCCESS FOR SIXTH FORM BIOLOGISTS



Back in June, our year 12 biologists competed in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad run by the Royal Society of Biology. The competition challenges students' biology knowledge and encourages them to continue studying the biosciences beyond school. The competition consisted of a one-hour multiple-choice test based around their first year of A-level study and prior GCSE knowledge, and over 8500 students took part worldwide. The Science Faculty are proud of all those that took part, but special mention goes to the following:

Silver medallists: Ellen Bennett, Jessica Simmons, Tavish Gunoo & George Wallis

Bronze medallists: Abi Morrow, Mide Bolarin, Francis Allen, Amalie Newman-Booth, Jessica Beadle-Platt, Hana Chorley

Highly commended: Francesca Theodoropoulou-Estacchini, Kieran Cooke, Yasmin Virji, Sophie Stockwell, Olivia Hardingham, Daisy Charnock, Sam Lawrie

Commended: Thomas Byrne, Shannah Shrivastava, Sophie Quinlan, Catherine Lomas, Niyati Yajnik



Achievement certificates will be sent to the school in September. A reminder that all students who took part in this year's competition are eligible to a free year of [BioNet membership](#), which provides you with electronic subscription to [The Biologist](#) magazine and e-newsletters featuring bioscience-related news and events. Well done and the Science Faculty look forward to further success next year in the International Olympiad competition.

YC HERTS: POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES SUMMER PROGRAMME 2020



YC Herts are running a two-week programme for young people to learn about keeping themselves safe. It is running Monday-Friday, 3 hours daily, with 2 hours of professional sports coaching. You will be awarded a £30 Amazon voucher on completion and a certificate of participation. Please speak to a YC Hertfordshire Youth Worker if you're interested in joining the project by calling

0300 123 7538 or email yhc@hertfordshire.gov.uk

MESSAGE FROM FoSs: QUIZ SUCCESS AND NEW VENUE FOR SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE



A big thank you to everyone who joined in with the FoSs Online Family Quiz. We had fantastic response with 30 teams registering and taking part. It was a resounding success with fun rounds such as Tripadvisor 1 star review, Ikea or Cheese and a particular highlight of Kazoo that tune. Our kazooist is available for Birthdays, weddings and other events! We had lots of laughs and great feedback. Congratulations to the winners, Janda Bobs, and to runners up Duncan's Doughnuts. A special mention to Banana who played without adults on the team (possibly a bonus!) Well done to everyone who took part.

There will be a second-hand uniform sale on Saturday 25th July at midday at in front of C block on the grass. If you have good quality outgrown school uniform, this can be delivered to Amanda Lavallin at 15 Skyswood Road, St Albans beforehand. *Please note they **don't need any shirts trousers or ties** * All money raised goes to Fo\$S.



SELF CARE SUMMER: IDEAS TO HELP WITH YOUR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH



The National Centre for Children and Families have created a comprehensive document (attached) providing practical suggestions on how students and adults can look after their physical and mental health over the summer. They also have a weekly event you can join in with called *Challenge Tuesday*-sharing your art, photos, poetry and crafts using #SelfcareSummer and tagging @afnccf. We hope you find some of the ideas useful.

IMPORTANT DATES

You can now view all of the important dates for the academic year 2020-21 on the Sandringham School website. These may be subject to change due to social distancing restrictions but can be used as a guide for events hopefully taking place next year. The new school website launched a little while ago looks fantastic so a big thanks to Mrs Walker and everyone else involved for all their hard work on it. We hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in September. <https://sandringham.herts.sch.uk/school-calendar/>

