



Kirkburton Middle School – Parent Bulletin 3rd July – 10th July 2020

Headteacher Update

Welcome to our weekly bulletin and to the month of July, I hope you and your family are well. Yesterday the government released its guidance for the full opening of schools from September. The senior leadership team are currently working their way through the guidance and we will provide you with further updates once we've had time to process the information. The message is very clear in that the government expects schools to make plans for all pupils, in all year groups, to return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term. Please click [here](#) for to read 'What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term'. For those interested, the full government guidance issued to schools can be found [here](#). Next week we will begin the process of getting the school ready for the new academic year with this work continuing during the summer holidays. I'm sure like us you yearn for a return to normality. As teachers there is nothing we want more than a full and vibrant school. We hope this dream can soon become a safe reality.

Today we welcomed back our first groups of Year 8 pupils for their socially distanced leaving assemblies. They were wonderful, and very emotional, events and it was great to see so many pupils attend. We very much look forward to the second set of assemblies next week and we wish all our Year 8 pupils the very best for their future studies and beyond.

I have also spent time this week visiting some of our feeder First Schools to talk to Year 5 pupils about their move to KMS in September. I have been incredibly impressed with all the pupils I have met to date and I am confident we will have a Year 6 to be very proud of when they join us in the new school year. To support the transition process we have made a short video introducing the school and some of the Year 6 team. Click [here](#) to view.

We are also looking forward to welcoming a significant number of Year 7 pupils back to school for a series of tutorial mornings. These mornings will give pupils the opportunity to share their experiences of lockdown, reconnect with the school, their friends and staff and find out more about what a return to school in September may look like. We're sure pupils will find the sessions extremely useful and those staff delivering the sessions are really looking forward to coming into school themselves.

We will also welcome back our final cohort of Year 6 pupils on Monday for what we hope will be a very enjoyable final fortnight. We continue to be extremely impressed with all our pupils during these difficult times; they have shown great resilience in the face of adversity and they have been a real credit to themselves, their families and the school.

Thank you to all our wonderful pupils, in all year groups, for their fantastic efforts this week – keep going we're nearly at the end of term.

We recently put in a joint bid with the football club to the FA for some significant funding to improve the drainage on our fields. We were delighted to find out this week that our bid had been successful. Whilst great news for the school, this work will also benefit people across the community who use our facilities for football and other activities. We are hoping that work will commence as soon as the school holidays start in order that the work is complete for the start of the new school year. As such our school fields will be out of action for much of the holidays. We are aware that members of the public use the fields as a short cut when walking from one end of the village to the other. Whilst not fenced, the school fields are private property with no public access and there is no

right of way across any of our fields. We would therefore ask members of the public stay away from the fields, particularly whilst this work is taking place.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and, as always, thank you for continued support of the work of the school.

Well-being

Although schools are closed to the majority of students, we remain here to help. **Please be sure to make contact with school if you need support.** Please see the end of this bulletin for a list of further support services available to you at this difficult time. We've added an extra section this week, Kirklees Support for families in need, which has been shared with us by Kirklees Council.

School safeguarding support

Mrs Senior – Safeguarding Lead
g.senior@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Mr MacIntyre – Deputy Safeguarding Lead
a.macintyre@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Online safety

A reminder that the Government has updated its guidance 'support for parents and carers to keep children safe online'. Further details can be found [here](#).

Government guidance for schools – until the end of August

Not to be confused with the guidance for the opening of schools from September, the government has also updated its guidance this week [here](#) on 'What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' (up until August). It now includes content on summer provision, school uniform and a package of support worth £1billion to support pupils to catch up. There is also updated content on school meals and the Covid Summer Food Fund.

This week the Government also released 'Guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.' Further details can be found [here](#).

Free school meals vouchers

As you will have seen in the press, the Government is to extend its free school meal voucher scheme to cover 6 weeks of the summer holidays. This is a very welcome move however the summer holiday is closer to 7 weeks this year. We are hoping the local authority will cover cost of the additional week. Two new supermarkets have been added to the voucher scheme this week – full details can be found [here](#). Vouchers will be sent out in the usual way, please contact the school office if you have any questions regarding this.

Year 8 Transition

We continue to work closely with Shelley College in relation to transition arrangements this year. Two further videos have been added to their YouTube channel this week which are highly recommended. Click [here](#) to view.

School Office

Please note **the office will be closed** on Wednesday 8th July due to staff training and that we will have a reduced office staff team on Thursday 16th July due to further staff training.

In an emergency parents should contact Mr Papworth - j.papworth@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Year 6

Hello Y6's. For those of you at home, I hope you are doing well. I know some of you may join us on Monday. This week Mrs Johnson set a lesson about mindfulness. Mindfulness is about taking at least a few minutes to stay in the present moment. I find if I feel a little bit worried or stressed, having some time to practice mindfulness techniques makes me feel better. I would describe it like pressing a reset button. If you feel like this and want to try it, there are lots of things you e.g. meditation. You may find some examples of these for children on YouTube (but ensure you ask your Mum and Dad's permission first). The way we did this in school is we closed our eyes and focused on breathing in through our noses and out through our mouths for 3 minutes. We also got a pencil and paper and drew drawings on a plain piece of paper by allowing the pencil to travel across the page wherever it felt good to do it. I find colouring in pictures quite mindful, some people like to make Lego models, others will just sit in a quiet spot in the garden and listen to bird song. Whatever you choose to do, I hope it does help you to feel a bit less stressed and a lot more positive. Keep being the best you can be.

Take care Miss Sharples.

PE

Just a few reminders from the PE Department this week

Bikeability: If your child has not had a confirmation letter to confirm they have a place on one of these courses, they have not been successful in gaining a place this time. There will hopefully be a further opportunity next year.

Virtual Sports Day: Please make sure your child completes their Class Charts Virtual Sports Day Task. All the pupils in school will complete the 10 challenges in school time and bring home the results on a piece of card. Any homeschoolers will need to do the challenges at home. All must record their results on their Class Charts by Friday 10th July 2020 in order for their scores to count towards the house competition!

Mrs Joyce, Mr Killock and Mr Martin

Maths

Year 6 - we realise you are working so hard and have earned a well-deserved summer break and there is absolutely no expectation for pupils to work over the summer, however, there is a FREE on-line Year 6 into Year 7 Maths Catch-Up.

Click the link below for more information:

<https://eedi.com/summer-school>

MFL

Please note that Juliet Parks, Shelley College's MAT Director of MFL is leading two webinars next week, please see the link below.

Monday 4pm:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-meet-age-related-expectations-in-primary-french-and-spanish-tickets-111603731766>

Wednesday 8pm:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-meet-age-related-expectations-in-primary-french-and-spanish-tickets-111836915224>

Music

Please find below for our second 'Instrumental Update' worksheet created to help pupils with their home practice routine.

It's full of useful tips and ideas to inspire pupils to continue to build their skills and explore new areas in their music-making. You can find lots more activities on the [Musica Kirklees website](#) and [YouTube channel](#) including some fun challenges, exercises and pieces to learn.

The worksheet is mainly focussed on beginner to intermediate players; advanced players can still enjoy the activities alongside their own choices of repertoire.

Thank you for your support and best wishes for happy music-making!

P.E. Kits, lost property and other belongings in school

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to come into school to collect their child's belongings, whether lost or otherwise. Unfortunately we are not in a position to be able to welcome large numbers of visitors into school and so at present we are unable to return any items to families. We would however like to return all P.E. kits and lost property prior to the summer break. Our intention at the moment is to lay everything we have out on the car park at the front of school for families to come and collect during a set time period. For this we need a prolonged period of sunny weather so we can give families as much notice as possible about the days and times for collection. We thank families for their patience whilst we sort out these arrangements.

We also hope to be able to return books and other pieces of school work to Year 8 pupils however this will need to wait until the autumn term. We will email parents with further information about this in September.



Tips for Acoustic and Electric Guitar Players - Pt. 2!

Hello everyone! How have you been getting along with your guitar playing? We really have missed being able to teach you all in person and can't wait to see you all again sometime soon. You might have noticed that we have been adding lots of exciting tutorial videos, worksheets and activities to our website to help keep you occupied throughout lockdown! We hope that this newsletter will give you extra ideas and tips to keep you motivated in your practice, and will guide you through some of the resources we've created online. If you have any questions about your practice you can email the Musica office and they will pass it on to our team and we will do our best to get back to you. Also, if you would like to send us a video of your amazing guitar playing you can send it as a direct message to the Musica Holme Valley Facebook page #musicakirkleesathome. We would love to see how you are all doing!

All of the resources mentioned on this page are available to see all in one place [here](#).

Focus for beginners: **open string chords**

Mr Scriven has made some videos on good technique with our open string chord shapes, and changing between these chords. Using these videos in your practice will help you develop clear sounding chords, and fluent chord changes in your songs.

Check out the first one here!

Don't forget, we have plenty of songs up on our resources page that you can try with these chords too!



Focus for our more advanced players: **improvising using modes**

Modes are like scales. Each one has a very specific sound and identity. We often hear the Lydian mode in films as it has a very cinematic quality to it. It's much like the major scale, just with a sharpened fourth. Learning modes will give your improvisations a new dimension!

Mr Bateman has made two videos on using the Bb major scale and the Bb Lydian mode in your improvisations.

Check out the first one here!

**Something especially for our electric players:
string bends!**

String bends are an exciting way for us to articulate notes. By bending a string up, we can raise the pitch of the note up (usually either by a semitone or a tone, depending on how far you bend it). It takes a lot of practice to get accurate with your bends and to ensure that your intonation is spot on!

Mr Scriven has done a video to help you with your string bends.



**Something for everyone:
alternate tunings!**

Our guitar is usually tuned to EADGBE. But what happens when we tune it differently? What happens when we move away from what we're used to? We can start to explore the guitar in a very different way through using alternate tunings. Mr Bateman has made a series of three videos on exploring alternate tunings which are suitable for electric and acoustic players alike.

Check out the first one here!



Some inspiring videos!

For our acoustic-ers...

Michael Hedges was a pioneer of a whole new style of acoustic guitar playing in 1980s and 1990s, and a really important figure in the history of the instrument.

Check out his most famous piece here!

For our electric-ers...

Check out the Canadian band Rush. Their guitarist Alex Lifeson has made a huge contribution to the world of rock guitar over the last 40 years...

Check them out here!



Kirklees Council Notices

Please see the free opportunities that may be of interest to you and your family:

1. Crosland Moor Course – Free adults courses relating to employability and self-confidence. To apply or find out more, go to <http://croslandmoorclc.co.uk/>
2. Hopeful Families (Yorkshire Children's Centre) (See attached) – Offering help & support for parents/carers in areas including: CVs, job search, debt & finance, emotional wellbeing, online training and benefits. For more information contact Deb Armitage at Deb.armitage@yccuk.org.uk or 07849398757.
3. Steps to success - Mindful Me programme – A fully funded 6 week online mindfulness & wellbeing programme open to anyone in Kirklees. To find out more or to register, contact Simon Leonard on 01274 800 547 or 07539205739.
4. HOOT Creative Arts' Out of the Blue programme of creative activities for mental health & wellbeing is now available online. Open to anyone aged 18 +, resident in Kirklees, looking to protect and/or maintain their mental health and wellbeing. See the website for more details or to register - <https://www.hootcreativearts.co.uk/hootfromhome>



Recently Unemployed?

Hopeful Families can HELP



In these challenging times **Hopeful Families** are working to support as many people as possible.

Do you need **Help and Support** with everything you need to get back to work?

- **CV's**
- **Job Search**
- **Employability Skills**
- **Debt & Finance**
- **Emotional & Wellbeing Support**
- **Online Training**
- **Benefits**



For more information please contact:

Deb Armitage: 07849 398757 or Angela Hepworth: 07526 178180

Email: Deb.armitage@yccuk.org.uk



Hopeful Families offers opportunities to build hope, confidence and skills for people who are not in work.
It is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund.

Family Quiz

Wimbledon has been cancelled for the first time since World War Two because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The tournament was due to be played between 29 June and 12 July.

Here's our KMS quiz to remind you of Wimbledon...

Who won the men's and women's singles at Wimbledon last year?

Andy Murray won Wimbledon in 2013 – when was the previous male British winner?

Between them, how many singles titles have the Williams sisters won?

How many singles titles does Roger Federer have to his name?

How many tennis balls are prepared for Wimbledon each year?

How many times did Tim Henman reach the Wimbledon semi-finals?

When was the first Wimbledon held?

Answers

Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep

1936, Fred Perry

12 Serena 7, Venus 5

8, the most recent was 2017

54,000

Four

1877