



PARENT BULLETIN

11 Jan - 15 Jan 2021: Week 2



Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

As we get to the end of the first week of the spring term it is worth taking stock and reflecting on the experiences we have all had in connection with remote learning. It is safe to say that it is a challenging time but we have a common goal - to do our best to provide a good learning experience for our students, your children.

This week I have received feedback from a number of parents about their experience of remote learning; thank you for that. On reflection of this feedback and considering the experiences of my staff I wanted to share a few points with you.

We are absolutely committed to providing the four to five hours of learning for our pupils each day but that will take a variety of forms:

- Google Meet live lessons
- video instruction
- tutorial style drop-ins (ideal for pupils to ask questions)
- online dialogue
- downloadable worksheets
- and other appropriate remote learning activities.

We believe that this varied approach is engaging and appropriate. Where lessons are not live, I have asked teachers to be available to support or answer questions during your child's timetabled slot in every subject. Teachers will not be available other than that slot because they are teaching other groups.

We recognise the broad spectrum of resources and facilities for accessing remote learning that families and homes have, particularly with many of you also working from home. We appreciate that many of you are juggling work, homeschooling, childcare and all the demands that lockdown places on us. The variety of approaches to remote learning noted previously are with these varied demands in mind.

Headteacher's Message

Some parents have given feedback that indicates they are managing everything but some of you have told me that the sheer weight of work is overwhelming for your child, and in turn for you.

With this all in mind I have met with the Curriculum Leaders and asked them to ensure that the work set each lesson is appropriate for a one hour lesson, or that when it is reviewed at the end of the hour the task is extended to the next timetabled lesson. All we expect children to do is work for the duration of the timetabled hour then move on to their next lesson. I do not expect teachers to set work additional to what can realistically be completed in an hour lesson, so homework will not be set. As with the usual course of a day in school, not every remote lesson will result in a piece of assessed work or work which needs marking. I recognise some pupils will work in greater depth and challenge themselves but I urge them to stick to the parameters of their timetable because we need to ensure that they access the full range and balance of subjects. When your child is in school they experience a broad and balanced curriculum with all subjects developing a wide range of skills. During the closure our teachers are still planning and providing for this. Please ensure that your child accesses the learning from all subjects.

I hope that this clarifies our approach and expectations. Thank you for all that you are doing at home and for your ongoing support.

Many thanks,

Mr Mitchell
Headteacher

*We have set out clear, legally binding requirements for schools to provide high-quality remote education. This is mandatory for ALL state-funded schools and will be enforced by Ofsted. We expect schools to provide between three and five teaching hours a day. **Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education***

<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-schools-online-learning-are-live-lessons-really-better-recorded-ones>

Year 7 Messages

None this week

Year 8 Messages

None this week

Year 9 Messages

Year 9 will receive their first progress report of the academic year on Thursday, 14th January. They should be available in Edulink in the Documents section. Please email Mr Dowsing if you have any issues with the app (adowsing@parklandsacademy.co.uk)

Year 10 Messages

Well done to Willow L, whose perfect 3 achievement was not correctly shown in our previous bulletin. Apologies for the admin error.

Year 10 will receive their first WaG (Working at Grade) report of the academic year on Tuesday, 12th January. The report will be made available to parents/carers through the app on the same day - please look in the Documents section. Email Mr Dowsing if you have any issues with the app (adowsing@parklandsacademy.co.uk)

Please note that Year 10 have another 16 months before their final exams. WaGs are the grades that your child has produced at the key assessment points in their subjects during the first term of this academic year and are not overall predictions of final GCSE outcomes. It is possible that WaGs will vary depending on the effort, application and outcomes in each reporting period.

Year 11 Messages

For anyone who is still to apply to college, **Wigan & Leigh College** is offering a 'How to Apply' event on **Tuesday 12th January** at 6pm. This is a helpful step by step guide to applying, plus a short Q&A session at the end with the Schools Liaison Team. Register by clicking this link <https://wiganleigh.onlineopendays.com/> followed by the 'Book My Place' tab at the top of the page. Interviews were scheduled to take place in school, but sadly that is not now going to happen. These interviews will now take place on **Tuesday 9th February** on Microsoft Teams (over the telephone). Students will be informed via email of their interview time, so please remember to check whichever email address you submitted on your application form.

It is not too late to apply to any college - so get those applications in and make sure you have a back-up option. Don't worry about predicted grades or subject choice at this stage, just get an interview booked!

Preston's College is holding a Virtual Open Event on **Thursday 28th January** from 4.00 - 7.30pm. Register now on www.preston.ac.uk/jan21

This will feature new content, including up to date information on the new T Levels.

As with W&L, Preston will now be carrying out telephone interviews, in the evenings so as not to disrupt the working day. Students will be sent a letter detailing the date and time of their interview, plus a reminder text message the day before.

Year 11 Messages

Virtual Work Experience in Allied Healthcare

The NHS Live Virtual Work Experience Programme is now available to support all aspiring healthcare students with work experience opportunities. Students now have access to their own specific work experience programme that will be highly relevant to the following healthcare careers:

Nursing
Midwifery
Paramedics
Physiotherapists
Occupational Therapists
Radiographers
Art, drama and music therapists
Dietitians
Operating Department Practitioners
Radiographers
Podiatrists
Osteopaths
Orthoptists
Prosthetists and orthotics
Speech and language therapists

Students can register for the programme here:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>

Students will receive certificates upon completion, but places are limited and therefore they will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis to keep this fair. If you are interested you can register through the website link above. Places are just £10 a day to cover administrative costs. There are free places available depending on household incomes, please ask.

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NHSHealthcareCareersLiveVirtualWorkExperience.pdf> This is the flyer with full details - check it out!

Myerscough College are holding a Virtual Course Advice evening on **Tuesday 12th January** from 7pm - 8pm and also an Advice morning online on **Saturday 6th February** 10am to 12.30pm.

Instructions on how to book are through the 'What's on' section of Myerscough's website

<https://www.myerscough.ac.uk>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG8WDtCGA-s&feature=emb_rel_end&ab_channel=WinstanleyCollegeTV

Worth revisiting this video from Winstanley College - very inspirational! If you are not sure where to study, have a look at Winstanley and see if this is the place for you. Final open evening coming up in February.

If anyone has a spare few minutes between lessons/homework, check out Indigo and find out more about what sort of jobs will be in demand in the future, what qualifications you might need and whether you will need a degree. There are hundreds of job roles and careers featured, with videos and case studies. It is updated regularly, so all information is relevant. If you have lost or forgotten your log-in details, please ask (Miss Berry). <https://indigo.trotman.co.uk/default/>

Year 11 Messages

Bolton Sixth Form College have a Virtual Open Event on **Tuesday 26th January** from 4:30-6:30pm and students can register at <https://www.bolton-sfc.ac.uk/virtual-open-events-2020/>
This is a great 3D tour of the fantastic state of the art facilities and you get the chance to 'meet' staff and ask questions about their A Level, Advanced Vocational and Mixed programs in a live Q&A session. Book in advance using the link above.

Blackburn College will be conducting their interviews over the phone and as all staff are working from home at present, they will be using personal mobiles. Therefore the phone number will come up as 'withheld' or 'unknown'. They will advise the date and time of the interview in advance via email/text, so please answer as long as it's at the right time/date.

Please note that students (and parents/carers) can email me at any time if they have queries about colleges, courses, careers, apprenticeships or any career-related issues at all!
I am hoping to offer some form of virtual drop-in via Google Meet or Teams - so that everyone gets their questions answered in real time ... watch this space! (pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk)

Careers

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

If you haven't already checked out this site, then get moving! Virtual work experience in lots of different areas of healthcare: Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedics, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Radiographers, Art, drama & music therapists, Dietitians, Operating Department Practitioners, Podiatrists, Osteopaths, Orthoptists, Prosthetics & orthotics, Speech & language therapists. Brought to you by the team from Medic Mentors. Starts in February 2021 - don't miss this chance!

https://www.futuretalentgroup.com/tim-peakeevent?utm_campaign=FutureTalentEd&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=105172036&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9wXvkW757reiAWHAq44cEhvzgKA1mb8nL2Bmg-1dGT4zwdb7pksaTm26Orr-kAJZ5yAvRfvPjq2piprD4EpMLzQUmj8rwUD5-RB7t0quI2lf9WpgM&utm_content=105160514&utm_source=hs_email

If there are any budding astronauts out there, then this event is for you! Future TalentEd in conjunction with Barclays LifeSkills are holding a FREE exclusive virtual Q&A session with **Major Tim Peake**. Students can submit questions in advance about Tim's time at the international space station, his chances of joining NASA's Artemis Program to return astronauts to the moon by 2024, plus STEM careers and opportunities in the space industry. Hosted by Tim Campbell MBE, winner of the first 'The Apprentice' show, the event takes place on **Thursday 21st January** from 5-6pm. Anyone from Y7-11 can take part - parent/carer must be in attendance.

If you are not sure what STEM careers are - this is your chance to find out! Don't miss out.

Apprenticeship Notifications

If anyone is interested in an apprenticeship, don't forget to check out the vacancies on the college websites.

[Runshaw College](#): childcare, accounting, customer service, catering

[Preston's College](#): H&S care, science, pharmacy, dental, beauty therapy, business, construction, accounting, automotive, ICT, hairdressing

[Wigan & Leigh College](#): engineering, construction, accounting, business admin, customer service, catering

These are all current vacancies - although you can't start an apprenticeship yet, you can start looking at what is on offer (ignore the start dates, these are likely to be extended). Have a look at the salary, working hours, type of qualification, location, GCSE requirements - and start planning your CV!

The team from Amazing Apprenticeships recently presented a very popular webinar with the **Armed Forces**, No.1 in the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers 2020 listing, and following this have created a helpful [Q&A factsheet](#).

You can also visit the [Royal Navy](#), [RAF](#) and [British Army](#) **Vacancy Snapshot profiles** for more helpful information on the programmes they offer, how to apply and more.

Whole School Messages

Student Expectations for Google Meet Lessons:

Dress code:

Following a few difficult situations that have arisen this week we would suggest that students attend Google Meet lessons in either their PE top, hoody or school uniform. We do not want children to feel uncomfortable so we expect that the PE top might be the easiest item to wear.

We aim to keep the routine and structure of school as close as possible to the norm and the wearing of 'uniform' prevents peer pressure on having the latest fashion or trends.

Environment:

If possible, we would like students to blur or blank their background. Once again, we have encountered a few issues this week. Having a clear background means that students can conduct their remote lesson without visual interruption. We will send a guide on how to do this.

Student Support, Health & Wellbeing

We will be introducing a weekly welfare meeting for all our students. The purpose of these meetings is to catch-up with the children, offer support or guidance, raise any concerns and give them the opportunity to chat and offer feedback. The catch-ups will be hosted by the Form Tutors and HALs and follow the plan below.

Day	Year Group	Week 1	Week 2
Monday	11	Form Tutor meeting	HAL meeting
Tuesday	10	Form Tutor meeting	HAL meeting
Wednesday	9	Form Tutor meeting	HAL meeting
Thursday	8	Form Tutor meeting	HAL meeting
Friday	7	Form Tutor meeting	HAL meeting

Wherever possible these will take place during our usual registration time 8.40am - 9.00am. However, this will not be possible for some staff due to their own childcare commitments. In these instances, the staff affected will contact the forms directly and make alternative arrangements.

We will continue to review and respond to the needs of our students during the closure. We will make sure that the values we hold dear and the benefits of keeping in touch are still offered through assemblies, additional support and year group specific programmes.

Your child should be using Google Classroom and following their usual timetable for the day. Please click [here](#) to access a timetable which your child can use to plan their day. It can be printed out, or your child can make a copy and edit it digitally. A copy of this timetable has also been sent to your child.

Whole School Messages

Are you ready for winter? Click [here](#) to see information from Chorley Council.

<https://www.oxfordscholastica.com/oxford-scholastica-online/>

Parklands is a partner high school with The Oxford Scholastica Academy and as such, students are automatically entitled to a 15% discount on any course/conference or internship using the code PARKLANDSHIGHSCHOOL-15. There are also fully funded bursary placements available (contact Miss Berry for further details)

Eco News

This is just in case you are not aware there is a fantastic programme that started on the BBC last week called 'Perfect Planet'. It is narrated by Sir David Attenborough and if the first episode 'Volcano' was anything to go by, this new series will again be a fantastic feast of new facts, interesting information, mind blowing camera footage and a thought provoking conclusion regarding the current climate chaos. Also cross curriculum education for the whole family! What's not to like? Link below for the trailer, with all programmes also on BBCiplayer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxibm1ODEpI>

BBC ONE

BBC
A PERFECT PLANET

Narrated by
Sir David Attenborough

Series Producer: Huw Cordey

Executive Producers:
Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey

VOLCANO
Sunday 3rd Jan 2021, 8pm
Producer: Huw Cordey

THE SUN
Sunday 10th Jan 2021, 8pm
Producer: Nick Shoolingin-Jordan

WEATHER
Sunday 17th Jan 2021, 8pm
Producer: Ed Charles

OCEANS
Sunday 24th Jan 2021, 8pm
Producer: Ed Charles

HUMANS
Sunday 31st Jan 2021, 8pm
Producers: Nick Shoolingin-Jordan
and Daniel Rasmussen

SILVERBACK

Get Set Eat Fresh - Aldi Team GB Challenge

Can you create a recipe for Team GB?

Enter Aldi's recipe creating competition for students aged 5–14!



Aldi are aiming to support young people aged 5–14 in developing their understanding and love of fresh, healthy food, the skills they need to cook for themselves and the desire to celebrate food with friends and family.

[Parent Resources Link](#)

[Watch Ian Haste's and Lizzie Yarnold's spinach and feta salad Taste Kitchen video for some extra recipe inspiration.](#)