



PARENT BULLETIN

14 - 18th Sept 2020: Week 1



Year 7 Messages

KS3 & KS4 Food Lessons: please see the message in section Whole-School Messages

Instrumental Music Tuition has started again this week and timetables are in full swing! If you would like your child in Year 7 to learn a musical instrument, or continue tuition from Primary School, please complete the form that your child has received from their Form Tutor and return to the Main Office. Instrumental Music Tuition is also open to any student at any time of the year. If you would like more information please contact Mr Willsher at pwillsher@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Year 8 Messages

KS3 & KS4 Food Lessons: please see the message in section Whole-School Messages

Year 9 Messages

KS3 & KS4 Food Lessons: please see the message in section Whole-School Messages

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CHILD: Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award 2021

We are very excited and pleased to announce that year 9 will be enrolled onto the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) programme as a whole year group for the first time ever at Parklands. This is a fantastic opportunity for your child and something that not all schools in Chorley can offer.

Please find the information given to pupils on Tuesday during their Aspire lesson. [Here](#) you will find videos and information that inform you and your child of what the Bronze award will entail.

Pupils will be able to get further information in their year group assembly in upcoming weeks but this is something we are very excited about being able to offer to your child.

As part of your child's one hour a week they will complete three out of the four sections for DofE bronze this is done within the timetable and pupils will do a range of activities that will help develop them as a whole person while gaining important new experiences and skills.

If your child wishes to complete the award by doing the expedition come summer they will need to pay a small fee. This is optional but Bronze awards can not be given without all 4 sections completed. Further information will follow from Miss Greaves soon. If you have any questions or would like to donate/sponsor towards our DofE fund please email ngreaves@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Current DofE pupils

The award is still going ahead and we are looking at new dates for the expedition and following guidance from DofE North. Pupils should have completed their three sections or be chasing assessors' reports to complete their sections. Failure to complete their sections will mean they will be unable to do the expedition.

Year 9 Messages

Calling all Y9 students! We have a place remaining on the trip to Nice in October 2021. This trip is now open to all students in Y9 and not just those who study French. The total cost is £640 and includes flights, half board accommodation and excursions to Cannes and Monaco. Please email Mr Stalker (astalker@parklandsacademy.co.uk) if interested.

Year 10 Messages

KS3 & KS4 Food Lessons: please see the message in section Whole-School Messages

Year 10 GCSE English - All parents/carers should have received an email about purchasing the GCSE texts. The deadline for all students to have copies of the texts is **2nd October 2020**. If you are purchasing the books from school, please use the SCOPAY system. All other details are in the email. Please contact your child's English teacher if you have any urgent questions about this. If you did not receive the email, please feel free to contact me at dbanks@parklandsacademy.co.uk.

Year 11 Messages

KS3 & KS4 Food Lessons: please see the message in section Whole-School Messages

Year 11 Elevate

Over the last 4 years we have developed a Y11 Study Skills programme in conjunction with Elevate Education that runs throughout Y11 and is designed to help students develop the skills and mindset required to effectively prepare for and tackle exams. During weekly Elevate sessions we will deliver this programme aimed at supporting students to become more effective learners and to fulfil their individual potential. We realise that these are challenging times; your child's ability to self-motivate, manage their time and prepare effectively will be a crucial factor to guarantee their success over the next few months.

Elevate Education are running a new free webinar series for all parents from their partner schools. These seminars will show you – as parents – the time management secrets, study strategies and tools that your child needs to keep them on track and to thrive in their academic journey.

Follow this link to register to watch the webinars on offer from Elevate Education.

<https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register/>

Regards Mrs. Batson Deputy Headteacher

Careers

Career of the week: not surprisingly, this week Nurse is our career in the spotlight. You will all have seen the impact that nurses have had during the last few months - and hopefully it will have inspired some of you to investigate the healthcare sector further. There are currently almost 7000 live vacancies in the north west for nurses and healthcare staff, so it is certainly an area that is looking for staff. Check out the information on the website

<https://www.parklandsacademy.co.uk/students/career-of-the-week> and find out more.

UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair - Wednesday 11th November - 12pm - 6pm (for Year 11)

Our autumn events will be taking place virtually this term, instead of their usual stadium/university locations. We have designed this fair specifically for students to allow them to explore all their national, local and regional post-18 options from the safety of school or home. They will be able to chat directly to a very wide range of universities, as well as apprenticeship providers and local colleges. The event is free to attend, and open to students in Years 13, 12 and 11, as well as teachers and parents. Attendees will also be able to take part in 10 live webinars on topics such as writing a UCAS personal statement, student finance and taking an apprenticeship.

[Click here to find out more and register.](#)



Check out the following website: <https://nhstalentacademy.org.uk/dr-you/> if you have ever thought about becoming a doctor. There are loads of resources including myth-busting videos about who can be a doctor - well worth a look!



Excellence in education

Virtual CAREERS FAIR 2020

#LTHCareers Week commencing 14th of September

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals are holding their first **Virtual NHS Careers Event** which includes a wide variety of departments at the Trust showcasing different job roles within their area.

We have both clinical and non-clinical departments involved in this who are willing to share their expertise to give you an insight into their daily roles and career paths on offer.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Dietetics	Learner Support Team	LTHTR Membership	Theatres & Maternity support worker	Pharmacy
PM	Clinical Education Team	Occupational Therapy	Pathology	Finance	Audiology

To find out how to get involved in this event, please email Brittany.Mollart@lthtr.nhs.uk

Runshaw Open Event (Year 10/11)

We are delighted to announce that our **September Open Event** on **Saturday 19th September** 10am-2pm will be a complete package which pupils can now register for by visiting www.runshaw.ac.uk/openevent

Registration will only take a minute and will give pupils access to our brand new exclusive online Open Event Platform chock full of 3D tours, videos, profiles and searches, which will be sent to them on the Saturday morning.

When they register they will also have the chance to book a slot to come and see us in person in a Covid safe way. We are a Covid secure employer and are very lucky at Runshaw to have a beautiful spread out campus with rabbits, trees, streams, bridges and squirrels, and we'd love for pupils to come and visit ... please be quick though as **visits are bookable only** and limited in number!

Still on the subject of healthcare careers, we have been awarded funding to set up a Medical Society in school with Medic Mentors. This will allow a number of students in Years 10 and 11 to attend conferences (virtually for now of course), submit blogs and articles in the student magazine and chat to other aspiring medics/vets all over the UK. The only criteria for accessing the funding is a genuine interest in being a doctor, dentist or vet - and a desire to put the work in early in order to stand out when it comes to university applications/ interviews. Drop me an email for more details (pberry@parklandsacademy.co.uk)

Apprenticeship Notifications

None this week

Whole School Messages

As headteacher I have been given authority by the government to implement restrictions in school to help fight the spread of Covid-19. Due to the increasing number of pupils who are self-isolating with suspected symptoms, we all have to pull together to keep each other safe. To date we have had one confirmed case within the Parklands community but this is not a student or member of staff. Our joint aim should be to ensure we limit the spread of the virus and are able to keep the school open to all year groups. It is therefore essential that staff are protected as much as possible, hence the move to Tier 1, which requires the wearing of face coverings in communal areas. Should the number of pupils self-isolating fall, then we will remove the requirement to wear face coverings. The final 2 pages of this bulletin are taken from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health with information about Covid and the common cold. Thank you for your continued support. Mr Mitchell

Attendance information

Use the link below to know what to do regarding attendance and suspected Covid symptoms.

<https://www.parklandsacademy.co.uk/school-information/plans-for-reopening-september-2020>

We have been made aware of a video going around on the Tik Tok App which shows extremely violent and graphic footage. The age limit in the UK is 13 years for Tik Tok, and there can still be unsuitable and damaging footage on there. We strongly recommend parents discuss this with their child and we will continue to educate about online safety throughout the year. The link below shares parental guidance for keeping children safe online. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Food Lessons

Thank you in advance to those parents/carers who have already been able to provide their child with an apron for food lessons this week. Due to the Coronavirus guidance we have been given we have had to withdraw the use of our school aprons. Please do not go to any great expense, however your child will need a clean apron, suitable for cooking, for their next food practical lesson. Please also ensure that any foods that require refrigeration are packed separately and named. Any issues or concerns in regards to this please contact me directly at sbrookes@parklandsacademy.co.uk

Thanks, Mrs Brookes, Curriculum Leader Food

Please can all pupils check at home for any library books that they may have borrowed before lockdown. Please bring back any that are found and pass them to your form tutor.

Perfect 3s

Has your child continued to achieve the perfect 3 since the start of term? There are **843** pupils with the perfect 3!

Year 7: 193 pupils

Year 8: 173 pupils

Year 9: 154 pupils

Year 10: 164 students

Year 11: 159 students

Please congratulate your child if they are one of the perfect 3s! All BfL scores can be found in the Edulink app.

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-talking-children-families-about-returning-school-guiding-principles>

Common cold and COVID-19 symptoms

As schools return we recognise paediatricians may receive queries from the families they see on what to do if and when a child develops this winter the usual coughs and colds. Below we describe the current evidence around indications for testing for children. This article may also be helpful to families and schools.

As children return to schools after a prolonged break, we expect colds and similar viral infections to circulate. Parents will want to know which symptoms will warrant testing for COVID-19 (and remain away from school whilst awaiting results) and those which on probability do not justify testing (and can therefore stay in school). This will ensure that children are not unnecessarily kept away from schools and exposed to inappropriate testing.

To help make that decision we have the following information:

[Evidence from the UK and internationally](#) tells us that COVID-19 is generally milder in children than in adults: most infected children present with mild symptoms or are asymptomatic, and very few rarely develop severe or life-threatening disease.

Similarly, hospital admission rates for children with evidence of COVID-19 infection are far lower than those of adults, with only 2% of all admissions occurring in children and young people below the age of 18 and 1.1% below the age of 5.¹

Fever and cough were the commonest symptoms for any child requiring hospital admission. Of 651 children admitted to hospital with COVID-19, 70% had fever and 39% had a cough.² Less than 1 in 10 of these children were reported to have coryzal symptoms (runny noses) or sore throats.

Most admissions occurred during the peak of the pandemic, when areas such as London had a COVID-19 prevalence of about 10%. The current prevalence rate is no higher than 0.2% in any region of the UK at present (8 September), so the risk of a child actually having COVID-19 presently is far lower.

The evidence we have on transmission of COVID-19 in schools is also extremely reassuring. There is good data from the UK showing that children (especially primary school aged children and younger) are about half as likely to be infected with COVID-19 than adults.³ Children also appear to transmit COVID-19 less readily than adults; there have been very few reported COVID-19 outbreaks in nurseries or schools, either in countries like Denmark that reopened their schools early in the pandemic (15 April) and in Sweden and Iceland did not close their schools at all during the pandemic.⁴

Equally reassuring for teachers, in those countries that have kept schools open, such as Sweden, teachers do not have higher rates of COVID-19 than the general population (and they have lower rates than professions such as supermarket workers and taxi drivers).⁵

Whole School Messages

From this available evidence we believe that children with simple cold symptoms such as coryzal symptoms (runny noses) or sore throats without fever who would normally have attended schools in other times should not be tested for COVID-19.

This is in agreement with current PHE guidance for deciding when to test. These symptoms are:

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste.

Following this guidance allows the identification of children most likely to be infected and help detect any emerging outbreak.

Some children with chronic respiratory illnesses such as cystic fibrosis may have more frequent coughs. Local arrangements need to be in place to ensure they can also be routinely tested for COVID-19 when they develop a new persistent cough which fits PHE criteria at the same time as they have bacterial cough swabs.

In addition to testing, it is also important that parents keep children at home when they are unwell and children are actively encouraged to follow good hygiene measures.