

Parental Update on 5th February 2021

Updates this week: Celebration of Remote Learning; Special Remote Learning Experiences next week; Virtual Drama Club; Student Leadership Opportunity; Half Term Reminder; Parents Evening Reminders; Inclusion - LGBT+ Week

Resources at foot of update: Contacting us ; confirmed school dates for 21/22 school year ; mental health resources ; reminders to support reading at home; LGBT+ Links


We have been trying hard to send as many positive messages as we can on how well you are doing with Remote Learning. I have been talking to many of your teachers, and I have sent out over 250 emails to congratulate students on their work this week. Your teachers have also created the second [Celebration Gallery](#) of work - click the link to see if you or your class are mentioned.

SPECIAL REMOTE LEARNING EXPERIENCE NEXT WEEK



Next week we will be hosting a physical wellbeing afternoon for **Years 7,8,9 on Wednesday period 5** and for **Year 10, 11 on Friday p5**. Students will have the chance to join in with one of two physical sessions led by our staff to support physical health and celebrate our students' achievements this term.



Key Stage 3: Join Miss Hibbert for a fun lockdown dance workout. Get your dancing feet at the ready for some cardio dance fun to some classic tunes of 2020/21, the plank challenge and a super lockdown stretch 



Key Stage 4: Join Miss Hibbert for a fun hiit style lockdown workout to some of the classic tunes from 2020/21 and then get your dancing feet at the ready to partake in some techniques from some of our favourite dance practitioners from Cunningham to release technique and maybe even a little bit of



Bob Fosse's Jazz!

OR Watch out next Wednesday and Friday for a live fitness session from the 'Masked' PE Department

A 30 minute fitness session you can do at home with your PE teachers leading the exercise. There will be a range of cardio, abs, leg and arm exercise to keep you going as well as a classic selection of cheesy music! Join In with the class and try and work out which member of the PE department is "behind the masks"!!

REMINDER: Advanced notice that the Department for Education has this week confirmed that **schools will not be open at all during half term week.** For the week commencing 15th February, there will be no remote learning and no vulnerable/critical group in school. It's a rest week for everyone. Families with free school meals will not receive an e-voucher for school that week: you will receive support from Stockport local authority instead.

VIRTUAL DRAMA CLUB - There's still room for more keen arts-enthusiast in the Virtual Drama Club, Google Meets on Wednesdays 3:15 - 3:45 p.m. A project is shaping up and if you're still interested in joining, please email Ms Brothers. If you can't attend the live meets on Wednesdays, but still want to be part of this club, you can always join the Google Classroom and work at your own pace, or carry out work remotely with a printed pack. Please don't hesitate to get in touch: emilie.brothers@wernethschool.com.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY: Be the Future challenge 2021. Can you create a social enterprise idea that addresses a social or environmental issue, such as poverty, climate change or inequality? **We want to hear your ideas for a social enterprise that could work to resolve these issues.**

This is an opportunity for young people to enter a competition and show your leadership, and there are prizes for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. The deadline is Friday 26 February at 5.00 p.m. Learners with the top entries will win an online enterprise workshop, hosted by the [Peter Jones Foundation](#), with the opportunity to meet and hear from leading social entrepreneurs.

Please contact **Miss Hibbert** at: student.leadership@wernethschool.com if you want more information about taking part in this project.

A message from our senior students ...

The senior student team has continued to work hard during lockdown in order to support the school community during these times. We are working towards creating mental well being resources and support alongside emphasising the importance of kindness and how to stay positive during lockdown. These should be finished and sent out in the near future so keep an eye out. We hope you are all well at the moment and we will continue to try our best despite the circumstances and hope you will too !

PARENTS' EVENINGS Virtual Parents Evenings are now confirmed as follows using the SchoolCloud App, and you will receive information via year leaders. Year 7 parents should already have received the link for your parents evening on Wednesday.

YEAR 7 - Wednesday 10th February - 4pm to 7pm

YEAR 10 - Thursday 25th February - 4pm to 7pm

YEAR 9 - CHANGE OF DATE: Thursday 11th March - 4pm to 7pm

As a highly inclusive school, everyone in our school community is welcome and valued and we place a strong emphasis on celebrating diversity in our community. [LGBT+ History Month](#) is celebrated every February in the UK. Its aims are to celebrate LGBT+ people in all their diversity, and in doing so, educate out prejudice. As a school community we celebrate this month every year and aim to educate our young people in a variety of different ways. The theme this year of Body, Mind and Spirit explores the complexities of who they are and what they can aspire to be. During their online Life Learning lessons with Mrs Smith-O'Connell students will be exploring the changes in law in relation to the LGBT+ community and ways to ensure they are using inclusive language for all students in our school community including those of different race, religion, background, gender identity and sexual orientation.

As a school we are renowned for our inclusive ethos, making sure we know our children well and create an environment where all can enjoy and achieve across the curriculum. This is why we are committed to our Inclusion Pledge below:

- We agree everyone has the right to feel safe.
- We understand that all people, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, should be treated with dignity and respect.
- We work on eliminating homophobia from our own words and actions
- We do not tolerate anti-LGBT language and behaviour.
- We support each other and know we can seek appropriate help throughout our school community.

A study commissioned by the LGBT Foundation in 2019 exploring the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on LGBT people highlighted that 64% of people said that they would rather receive support during this time from an LGBT specific organisation. With that in mind it's so important - now more than ever - that young people and their families are aware of who to turn to for advice or help. I have included some links in the resources section at the end of the blog to signpost support for any of our young people who may need it in this area.

Keep safe and healthy, and have a good weekend.

Mr A Conroy, headteacher

FURTHER USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

HOW CAN I CONTACT SCHOOL?

Use the emails below to contact us if possible, but you can also ring our office staff on 0161 494 1222 and they will help if they can. Please note that most of our teachers are teaching remote learning from home, and we have a support staff rota on each day in school

so you will not be able to contact every member of staff if you ring us.

Emails have members of staff monitoring them daily during the week, and will get you the quickest response to resolve an issue.

When emailing any of these addresses, please ensure you state the student and the year group concerned ... it's easy to forget this vital piece of information!

passwords@wernethschool.com	For any password clarification or resets. Our technical team will answer this every day on the same day during the week.
remotelearning@wernethschool.com	For non-password issues with your remote learning, or work to be sent home. We have a small team of staff in every day organising this.
vwk@wernethschool.com	If your child is in school as part of the Critical Worker/Vulnerable group, you can use this email to communicate with us if you need to do so
ineedhelp@wernethschool.com	For anything else not covered by the above, or if you need our support and don't know where to turn.

Remember that you can find teachers' emails via this page on the website:

<https://wernethschool.com/contact> and select "Teaching Staff" in the box on the right.

Year Inclusion Managers are also in school on a rota: if you need to speak to them, you can contact them easiest therefore on the following days:

Miss Taylor, **Year 7** on TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS

Mrs Arnold, **Year 8** on TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS

Mrs Lewis, **Year 9** on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS

Miss Hunt, **Year 10** on WEDNESDAYS and FRIDAYS

Mrs Barnard, **Year 11** on TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS

If your child is classified in one of the government's vulnerable categories and not in school, your year leader will contact you on the days listed above. If your child has an **Education Health and Care Plan**, a member of our SEN department will also contact regularly to check on their progress.

School dates for 2021/22 academic year - <https://wernethschool.com/termdates>

Supporting mental health during lockdown

Due to this lockdown we are aware that mental health issues are on the rise with children and young people, and parents are anxious to know how to support their children. Kooth will be delivering some drop in events for parents to give them an awareness of Kooth and how it can support their children.

Kooth is available to young people in Stockport from the age of 11-18. **Kooth.com** is free and is the largest emotional wellbeing platform in England. It is directly commissioned by the NHS. and can give young people support 24/7 on the platform. Additionally there is also a variety of tools and activities to help build resilience and peer support via moderated forums.

Counselling support can be accessed between 12 noon and 10pm during the week and 6-10 during the weekend, whereby young people can receive an live messaging chat for up to an hour a week from a qualified counsellor, on a weekly basis.

READING: A KEY LOCKDOWN PASTIME

Look out for our [Reading Challenge](#) [see picture below] to win achievement points or a high street voucher. In the meantime, just do your best, get some exercise, talk to friends and family and keep in contact with your form tutors.

The 'Best of' Links to Reading Resources.

[Reading Cloud](https://readingcloud.net/); <https://readingcloud.net/>

[Carel Press Complete Issues](#),

The Username and password are both Werneth. <https://www.completeissues.co.uk/>

[Overdrive](#), You do need to be signed up to your local library. <https://www.overdrive.com/>

[BorrowBox](#),

<https://www.borrowbox.com/>

[Magazines](#): The Economist, Empire, How It Works, Match of the Day, National Geographic, New Scientist, NET, Newsweek, Photography Week, Tech Advisor and Total Film, and other titles encompassing craft, food, fitness and sport.

[Audible](#) has also opened up a variety of FREE-listening audiobooks while schools are closed. The best of these for our students are the Tween and Teen genres and a Folk & Fairytales selection from around the world (for those wishing to follow Einstein's advice!). For households with full Audible subscriptions the Teen & Young Adult collection offers a great variety of genres including difficult situations.

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

[Oak National Academy Virtual Library](#),

is part of the government and National Literacy Trust sponsored lockdown school supporting learning in all subjects. This library has guest authors each week (starting with Jacqueline

Wilson), with different books made available every day. <https://library.thenational.academy/>

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Werneth School Library presents

2021 READING CHALLENGE

Make 2021 the year you challenge yourself to read some amazing books you would normally avoid. For each book you read submit a review to helen.taylor@wernethschool.com to receive achievement points

Send in all 6 reviews for the chance to win a high street voucher.

The Challenge.

- A book based on a real event.
- A book you haven't read before but have seen the film.
- A verse or graphic novel.
- A book that opposes racism and promotes racial tolerance
- A book with an LGBTQ+ or disability theme.
- A book set in a country you have never visited.

Good luck, happy reading.

Apple Books App, offers a small selection of free eBooks & audiobooks (amongst others that are chargeable) for those with Apple devices (iPhone/iPad/iPod/Apple Watch).

Toppsta, join the Toppsta community and enjoy lots of online events. Read their blog here;
<https://toppsta.com/blog/view/bookish-ideas-if-you're-self-isolating-with-the-kids>

LGBT+ Resources

Please see links below and our school website <https://wernethschool.com/staff-students/emotional-wellbeing/lgbtq> for further information about accessing support for LGBT+ students and families.

<https://switchboard.lgbt/help/>

www.lgbt.foundation/helpline

<https://www.stockportmedicalgroup.nhs.uk/help-and-support-service-types/lgbt/>

<https://www.youngstonewall.org.uk/>