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3 February 2021

Dear Parents

Remote learning respite

We have been very encouraged by the way in which our students have engaged with remote learning since the start of January; attendance to lessons has been routinely high and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The 3-part 'live' lesson format has worked well and provided a much needed structure for everyone.

I am sure that we can all agree that the main downside to remote learning is the necessity to be in front of a screen for prolonged periods of time, therefore, we wish to address this without compromising the structure that we have in place. So, the plan is to suspend some lessons during Wednesday 10 February to allow students to do some activities away from screens.

Plan for Wednesday 10 February

- Lessons 1, 2 and 3: proceed as normal
- Finish remote learning after lesson 3, i.e. 12.35pm
- Lessons 4 and 5: suspended

We would suggest that students have an early lunch (at 12.35pm) then set aside the afternoon to tackle a challenge, possibly from the list below. Form Tutors will be keen to find out what students have done and for them to share any evidence, e.g. video, photos etc. Year group prizes will be awarded to the most noteworthy submissions.

Learning challenges - our Top 10 categories

This list is not meant to be exhaustive but should serve as examples of what students might wish to do with this time. The one thing we would advocate is that it is not spent on social media!

1. Mini-Masterchef or Bake Off
 - 1.1. Plan a menu and cook the meal for your family
 - 1.2. Bake a cake or cakes as a gift to others
2. Arts and crafts
 - 2.1. Create lego models and make a stop frame animation video
 - 2.2. Create a piece of art using household items
 - 2.3. Complete a jigsaw puzzle
 - 2.4. Create a Valentine's Day cake and card to match
 - 2.5. Design a board game for your family to play
3. Photography
 - 3.1. Create a photo album of your locality by taking photos of everyday things we take for granted such as:
 - 3.1.1. Wildlife



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- 3.1.2. Landscapes
 - 3.1.3. People
 - 3.1.4. Our community
 - 3.1.5. Things that grab your attention
4. Exercise
 - 4.1. Go for a long walk to discover an area close to you that you might not know about
 - 4.2. Do an exercise class, e.g. yoga, fitness etc
 - 4.3. Meet a friend for a socially distanced jog/run/walk
 - 4.4. Take your dog for a walk
 - 4.5. Go on a bike ride
 5. Good deeds
 - 5.1. Plan a good deed for someone else within your household as a surprise
 - 5.2. Make contact with an elderly relative
 - 5.3. Offer to vacuum and tidy your room or someone else's room!
 - 5.4. Start learning sign language
 - 5.5. Wash your parents' car
 6. Musical
 - 6.1. Write a piece of music or lyrics for a song
 - 6.2. Learn a new piece with your instrument
 7. Writing
 - 7.1. Devise a poem
 - 7.2. Write a letter to an elderly relative and post it to them
 - 7.3. Write a blog detailing an aspect of your lockdown life
 8. Reading
 - 8.1. Start a new book that you have been meaning to read
 - 8.2. Read about the national and world news
 - 8.3. Research the history of your family, where you live etc
 9. Film
 - 9.1. Create a vlog, e.g. a day in the life of
 - 9.2. Watch a film and write a review for your family (and tutor) to read
 - 9.3. Interview a relative and make a video of it
 10. Gardens
 - 10.1. Plant something
 - 10.2. Identify and record the various birds in your garden

We hope that you will support us by encouraging your child to get actively involved by speaking to them over the weekend and planning how they will make best use of the time available.

Yours faithfully



Kieran McGrane
Headteacher