



24 April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

As we enter the start of a very different Summer Term, I am pleased to see that our students are engaging well with their remote learning and lots of students are now working through assignments set for them on Microsoft Teams. Our key priority remains to support the welfare of all our students and their families, some of whom have now sadly suffered the loss of close family relatives due to Covid-19, whilst doing our utmost to protect the education of your children, our students.

Remote Learning

We continue to fine tune remote learning to encourage students to engage with learning whilst being aware that for some this can be difficult. Subject teachers are uploading new learning materials and assignments into Microsoft Teams and will continue to do so on a weekly basis. By the end of next week students in all year groups will be set work through Microsoft Teams with clear instructions for the task, how long they should spend working on each piece of work and how to 'turn it in'. Students will receive an email through their school email account when resources or assignments have been added. We have had some very positive feedback from older year group students and their parents/carers who are finding this way of working is helping them to feel more connected to school and their teachers and other students in the class. Teachers have fed back that the chat feature is being used positively to ask questions, often with other students offering support to each other as they would in a normal classroom situation.

Full instructions for accessing Microsoft Teams and supporting information for home learning can be found on our website in the [Remote Learning](#) section.

Please remember to only use your school email or the chat feature in Microsoft Teams to contact your teachers. Students should not email teachers using their personal email account.

Keeping Connected

Next week will see the launch of our weekly student bulletin, it will contain information to support learning from home along with news from staff and other students. We will be encouraging students to share ideas for keeping occupied and connected remotely with friends and family. This week our followers on Instagram @nestonhighofficial has increased to over 1000 as we share ideas and good news stories. Yesterday we featured some amazing rainbow cakes made by Joe from Year 7 who raised £40 for the NHS and beautiful 'comfort rocks' designed by Annabelle also in Year 7.

Activities from Crowd Sourced

Please find attached a list of activities for students from 'Crowd Sourced'. This has been shared by the local youth work group. We hope you will find the resources and ideas useful.

Staying safe online

- While students are spending a significantly increased amount of time on electronic devices during lockdown, we are keen that they take measures to stay safe while online. Please can we draw your attention to the following resources, which provide support for parents, carer's and students to ensure that young people are protected from harm online:
- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Internet matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

School Library

Mrs Eckersley is busy extending the loan period on all books, but there are lots to do, so don't worry if you get a return reminder.

PPE Visors in Production

The DT department with support from Mrs Woolley, Mrs Cooper and Mrs Kendrick have made 500 visors for healthcare workers and local hospitals this week. We planned to make 2500 PPE Visors, but demand has been so high, and the visors so well received that we will be keeping production going. Many requests have come from families connected with the school; it is fantastic to be able to support our key workers in this way. So far, we have donated to:

Arrowe Park Radiography Team (see photo below)

Spital Surgery

Sutton Beeches Care Home

Complete Care – community carers

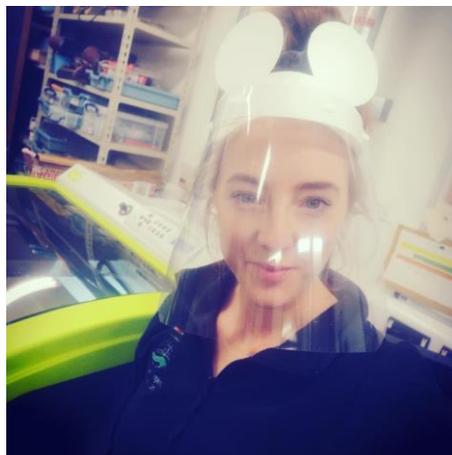
Arrowe Park Hospital Childrens Ward - complete with novelty ears- Rabbits, Unicorns and Mickey Mouse (see photo below)

Bupa Car Home, Upton (Wirral)

This photo was sent through with a message to say, “thank you so much, the visors are being used already”. These radiologists were protected as they prepared to scan patients with Covid-19



This Week's Production Team and Miss Griffiths modelling the bespoke visors for the staff on the children's ward at Arrowe Park hospital.



Finally, can I thank you for your positive feedback and comments re the holistic support that we have tried to maintain with our students and families. Having now launched Microsoft Teams and provided the school community with a new learning platform that is sustainable and will enhance the outcomes for our young people not just through the present position but into the future I am sure that this will now enhance the connectivity between school and home. As this way of working is rolled out, we will look to take strategic feedback from all parties in order that we can fine tune and amend remote learning to provide an even better learning experience for all.

Stay safe and if possible, enjoy the sunshine.

Kind regards

K Simpson
Headteacher