

Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

Issue 243- 27th March 2020

An unusual week

First of all, I would like to send my very best wishes to the students and families of our White Hills Park community. I know that we are living in very unusual times and that many of you are having to cope with challenging and difficult situations.

I apologise for the lack of a Newsletter last week. The amount of emergency planning we had to do unfortunately took precedence, but we will make sure that the Newsletter continues as normal from now on. We will obviously have fewer school events to talk about, so during the time that we are closed, I would encourage you to share news and events with us so we can communicate with our wider community. That might be examples of volunteering, news from your local community, appeals for help, tips for surviving the isolation at home – whatever you think would be worth sharing. If you have items for the Newsletter, please could you email them to news@whptrust.org

We have been overwhelmed by the messages of support and offers of help from our local community. This crisis has demonstrated the exceptionally close links between our schools and their communities, and if anything, the links have been strengthened over the last couple of weeks. We have tried to give as much information as possible to parents and families, and to make sure that we can support students whose normal school routine has been abruptly changed.

One issue that has led to considerable anxiety is exams for Year 11 and Year 13. The picture is not entirely clear yet, but there are some things we do know. Firstly, there will be no exams this summer. Grades will be awarded based on a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment, alongside other data such as prior attainment. Since the precise format of this is not yet known, nor the evidence that we will have to provide to support our assessment judgements, **it is vitally important that Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to engage with the work that they are being set by teachers, and stay in touch during this period.**

Universities and colleges have indicated that they will be flexible and do all they can to support students as they move forward. We will work with every Year 13 student who needs support, either to secure a university or college place, or a place on a suitable apprenticeship or training course. We will also make sure that every Year 11 student is either given a place at Bramcote College, or if this is not an appropriate destination, then we will work with you to find one. Rest assured, everyone is in the same boat so everyone will be adapting their procedures to take these extraordinary circumstances into account. Please see the government statement for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

Finally for this week, I would like to mention the amazing work that has been done to establish a continuing supply for our students who are entitled to a free school meal each day. We know that in these exceptionally challenging times, it is even more important to support our families. We have set up a partnership with Hope Nottingham, a wonderful local charity with whom we have a very strong existing relationship, who will be providing a weekly food delivery to all the families who are entitled to free school meals. Hopefully, this will give support for the whole family as well as providing lunch for our students. I am well aware that there may be families in our community who are suffering hardship but who aren't currently on our Free school Meal list, perhaps because the family income has abruptly disappeared. If you are in this situation and are not sure where to turn, please get in touch with us and we will do everything we can to support you.

I'd like to end by offering my best wishes for your continuing good health.

Paul Heery
Chief Executive Officer

Food Parcel Deliveries

We have set up an exciting partnership with Hope Nottingham (www.hope-nottingham.org.uk) to provide a food parcel delivery each week while schools are closed to our students who are in receipt of a free school meal. We are hoping that this will reduce the need for non-essential travel to the shops and will also provide some essential items that may be difficult to get hold of in the shops! If any parent feels they need additional support in this area, even if you are currently not in receipt of a free school meal, please contact Alderman White School on studentsupport@aldermanwhite.school or Bramcote College on bramcote@whptrust.org and we will do our best to help in any way we can.

We are also grateful to the members of staff who have volunteered to support Hope Nottingham in both the packaging and delivery of food parcels to our students – you may see some familiar faces over the next few weeks after all!

If you would like to make any donations to Hope Nottingham or would like to volunteer any support, please contact them directly on 0303 040 1110.

Mr D Farnie

Alderman White Year 11 Balloon Faces

At the impromptu gathering we had for Year 11 students last Friday I asked the students to take a balloon away with them and send me back a self portrait via camera phone/email. The balloons are intended as a small symbol of their passing childhood and also a creative, mindful task about patience- watching, waiting and staying safe/keeping the balloon safe?

As we know they don't last for ever, although after a child's birthday party it often seems as if they will...BUT the balloon WILL deflate/pop and this difficult time will pass, we just need to work together as a community to keep everyone safe.

I look forward to more photographs coming through - I hope to include them in the year book , along with photographs; for some the resemblance is uncanny!!

Ms G Friend

Well done Alderman White Year 11 Food Preparation & Nutrition group!

Congratulations to all the pupils in our Year 11 Food group for successfully completing the practical tasks for their exam and a big thank-you to all parents & carers who managed to find and provide ingredients at such a difficult time.

For those of you who are struggling for inspiration to 'tickle your taste buds' look no further than some of these completed dishes... Perhaps you can guess the theme?

Mrs K Buckland



'The Magical Music of Harry Potter' - AW Swing Band Trip to the Royal Concert Hall

Members of the Alderman White Swing Band had the privilege of watching the world-renowned Hallé Orchestra at Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall on Saturday 14th March. The concert, entitled 'The Magical Music of Harry Potter' was a spellbinding journey through the rich film scores of all eight Potter films - complete with Gilderoy Lockhart as compère! We learnt some fascinating information about the way all four composers created these iconic film scores and were inspired by the incredible musicianship shown by the orchestra. Many thanks to Mr Stephan and Miss Kempster for their help in organising and running the trip, and of course to the students who were, as ever, a credit to the school.



Mr C Wedgeworth

Alderman White 'Virtual Enrichment' Goes Live!

Extra-curricular music and performance is a huge part of what we do at Alderman White - and we wouldn't want to let the small matter of a school closure get in our way. This week we were very excited to launch two new online platforms designed to keep our enrichment programme thriving.

Our brand new 'Virtual Enrichment' Google Classroom already has over 60 members and is growing by the hour. Once they have joined, members of the Swing Band, Orchestra and Alderman White Theatre Company have the opportunity to complete daily quizzes, try their hand at composition and arranging and receive feedback from teachers, and share any new musical experiences they've had. As we have discussed, this surreal period of time is actually a great opportunity for honing our musical skills: I have started learning the trombone, much to the delight of the rest of my household... A few of us have also started to create our own virtual music ensembles!

Additionally, immediately following Thursday's 8pm national applause for NHS workers, the brand-new Alderman White YouTube channel went live. Every day we will post a video from one of our recent performances to raise spirits and send a message of hope to the whole community. Incredibly, 110 of our students have taken part in one of these performances over the last couple of years, so there's no shortage of material. But if we do run out, we'll just create some more using our Virtual Enrichment Google Classroom!

You can subscribe to our channel here for daily updates:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1eGZTUdyhphiAjw9CNWGSg>

Mr C Wedgeworth



Keeping Active at Home

We hope that you have been managing to keep active from the comfort of your own home. Having to stay at home should not stop you from finding fun ways to keep active and get the daily exercise you need. Remember staying physically active releases many 'happy' hormones which is crucial to a healthy mental well being.

For those of you who need a helping hand there is no shortage of ideas out there. No doubt you may have come across many exercise programs on social media that you may have done this week. Today I am focussing on the Nation's treasure that is Joe Wicks. Each morning Joe releases a 30 minute workout for us on YouTube that everyone can access from home, either on your smart TV or mobile device. It is guaranteed to get your heart pumping and your muscles moving to set you up for whatever your day holds. This week I have been setting students this workout as their PE assignment on Google Classrooms - so get stuck in!

Miss A Kilbane

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

A update from DofE:

We have been working on a list of activities that young people can do from home during the current situation of isolation and social distancing. There have been some amazingly inventive ideas coming through.

We have a webpage specifically for participants FAQ's:

<https://www.dofe.org/coronavirus/faqs-participants>

Clearly all expeditions will not run for the foreseeable future – we need to follow Government and NHS advice strictly to keep the whole population safe.

Feel free to email me if you have any questions about your DofE whilst your off school. I'll always get back to you during school hours.

There are lots of on line courses that are available through Groupon, if you are looking for ideas for your skills section, such as Makeup, Languages, Sign Language, Yoga, Dress Making, Film Directing... and there are many more to choose from. I've just picked a selection.

Again, there is no pressure to complete any of your sections. It's just in case you're looking for things to do whilst your off school.

Stay Safe.

Miss A McLoughlin



Bramcote College Year 11 Prom News

Hello Year 11, hope you are all doing OK.

Thanks to all of you who replied to my email yesterday, great to hear from so many of you. Please give your friends a nudge and check they've replied for me please.

As we come to the end of our very strange first week, we thought it would be nice to give you something to look forward to. So here is a little glimmer of hope -->

If you've not had a great first week, have some quiet time this weekend to make a plan for next week. How are you going to make sure you start Monday as you mean to go on?

I hope we're also remembering to do our bit and be a responsible citizen; keeping to the rules around social distancing and helping out at home.

These are bizarre times; you are living through history in the making - it's tough but it will pass.

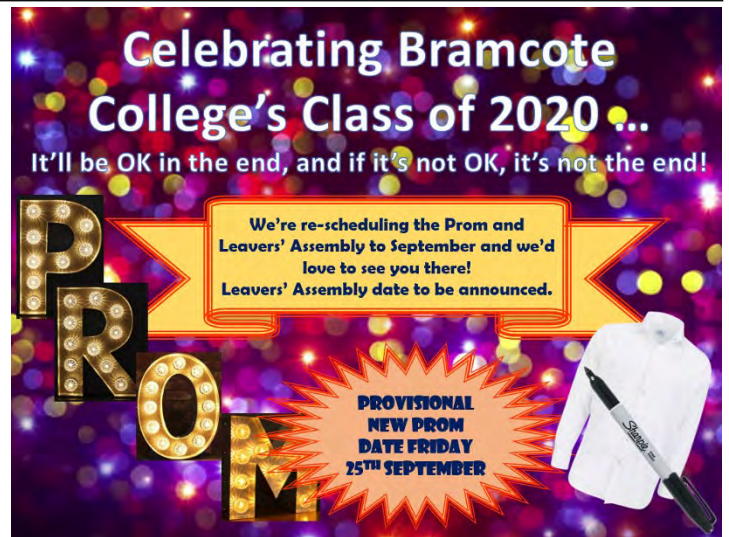
I really liked the advice from the Deputy Chief Health Officer yesterday. She said that we can think to ourselves - how can we make sure that we come out of this well? In other words, all being well and we avoid the virus, what can we do in this time? Get fit, learn a new skill, do those jobs we're always putting off around the house etc. Oh and work of course! Use your time productively - don't come out of this saying 'If only...'

My plan for Monday is to step away from the biscuit tin- don't say I don't practice what I preach!

I sincerely hope you and all your loved ones are OK. Please remember BC is here for you.

Best wishes,

Mrs R l'Anson.



Bramcote College Newsletter for Students

BC6F looking towards the future for AW & BC Y11

While we are working hard with our fantastic Year 12 and 13 students to overcome the current situation we find ourselves in, we also want to look to the future.

We are now making plans to support the Year 11s who have already applied for a place at BC6F to give you a chance to think about the future and what it might look like when life starts to get back to normal.

Every Year 11 who has already applied for a place at BC6F will receive a letter next week explaining the offer we would like to make them, and there will be more communications after Easter about how to be prepared for the courses you are going onto study.

We are also accepting new applications. See our prospectus and courses, and apply online now on our website: www.bc6f.org.uk

Miss J Cooper

This week Year 7 to 11 students have had an email newsletter with loads of advice, help and ideas for keeping busy in these unusual times. The aim is to get a new newsletter out every 4 days or so just to keep the BC community connected until we can all be back together again.

Miss J Cooper

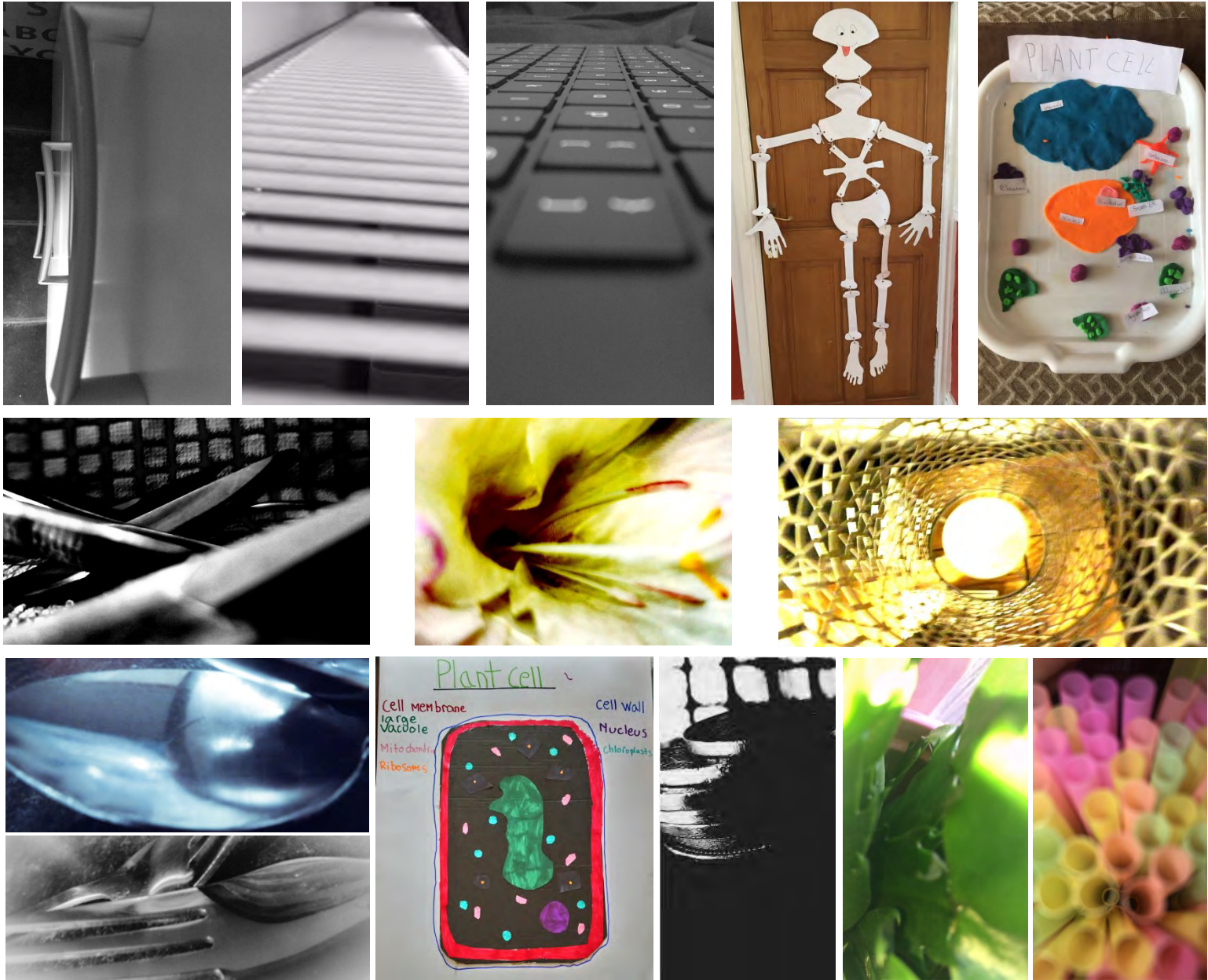
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Great work going on at home by Bramcote College students

Although things are very different this week compared to last week, there is still amazing work going on at BC, here are just a few examples of Science at home and the Y10/11 photography challenge 'can you tell what it is?' using different camera angles, positions and macro/close ups. Brilliant work!

Miss J Cooper



Bramcote Rainbow Challenge

You may have noticed that rainbows have started to appear in the windows of your neighbours' houses. These are being put up all around the country so children still feel connected to the communities they are living in and know that the adults and children around them know how hard it is for children to stay home in the way the Government and NHS need us to do.

So.... I would like to launch the BC rainbow 9 shot challenge. Students are encouraged to take 9 photos of things they find around the house making up every colour of the rainbow ... red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet, pink & brown ... and use an App like 'Layout' which is free to download and put it into a rainbow tile like this one. Then send it to photos@whptrust.org and I will put them on the BC Instagram and Facebook for you

Miss J Cooper

