

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to finish the term with a newsletter and try to pull together some of the information we have and will be sending you into one document. It also gives me an opportunity to share some of the work of the school and thank the community in this difficult and uncertain time.

I have received many emails from parents this week, acknowledging the difficult situation that the community finds itself in and thanking the staff for all their work. I would like to echo their words. In a time of great uncertainty, when many schools have been closing their doors to students across all the years, we have been able to remain open for the vast majority of our students and that is because of the dedication and care of our school's staff. I want to thank them personally for their support and efforts, when I'm sure many have been as concerned as many other parents for their own and their children's well-being.

As so with today comes the end of term; not the end I would have hoped for but the end nonetheless. In the following newsletter I will do my best to outline what the next few weeks looks like and beyond, although with advice changing on a daily basis planning past Monday is a difficult proposition.

I would like however to note straight away our Year 11 and 13 students who handled the news admirably yesterday. I can only imagine how difficult it must have been to know that they had worked so hard for two years preparing and building up emotionally for the challenges ahead in May and June only to have the rug swept from beneath them. Believe me our staff were as devastated as our pupils yesterday but we want everyone to know how proud we are of all of them and the people they have become since joining West Hatch, whether that be from the start of their schooling, part way through or into our Sixth Form. It has been a pleasure seeing them grow into the fine young citizens they are.

To our Year 13 students, the very best of luck in the amazing futures they have ahead of them whether it be University, work or an Apprenticeship. To Year 11, we will continue to support them in their transition to Sixth Form study and there is more information below about our preparation for West Hatch if your child has applied to the school. We will forward any information to you all regarding assessments and grades as soon as we have it. If students

have not completed coursework or exams, please make sure they do everything required of them as the more evidence we have of their learning the better it is for them.

And so we now travel into uncharted territories where the school's place in the community will be to educate the vast majority of students remotely while remaining open for the small minority who either need additional support or to enable our countries key workers to continue their work.

Whatever is expected of us, West Hatch will continue to serve our community to the very best of our ability and I would like to thank you in advance for any support you as parents provide, including supporting your children with the work they are being set so that they do not fall behind. Although I think the picture my wife sent me this morning (see below) may sum up the feeling of many of you in preparation for Monday (they are not my children!).

I hope this newsletter provides you with all the information you need, we will continue to update you regularly and touch base whenever we have a clearer idea of what comes next.

Daniel Leonard  
Headteacher



## Students work

Students are expected to carry on learning. We have a school timetable and I would suggest that parents follow the same schedule with their children, the timetables can be found on your MyEd App. Students will be set work via Show My Homework by each of their teachers except for PE staff. I would recommend that during PE time you get your children to do some physical exercise - there are many examples on the internet to help you with this.

Staff will be setting a range of different tasks, some the lessons they would have been taught and some will be project based work to be completed over a period of time.

I have asked teachers to put various assessment points in place throughout the time students are off. It is important that students send the assessment work back to staff for marking or complete the quizzes requested. Students should only send work to teachers if it is requested.

Teachers will be available to support. I will be sending individual teachers email addresses out so you can contact them. **Please only contact staff between working hours - 9am until 3pm** while the school is closed. They may not get back to you immediately but will do so in a reasonable time. If you do not receive a response within a reasonable time please email the admin email and this will be chased up for you.

## YEAR 11 PREPARATION FOR SIXTH FORM

Over the next few weeks we will be finalising our Sixth Form offers. Students will receive an alert via the ULAS system, some of our students will not be able to do subjects they have chosen because of timetable clashes or predicted grades; you will be provided with contact details to discuss this.

I do not want our Year 11's having 5 months off and therefore being unable to meet the standards we require when they return into Year 12. Therefore after Easter, applicants will be sent extensive work from the subjects they have been offered. They will have to complete this work and then an assessment 2 weeks before the summer holidays so that it can be marked. **This will form part of the entry requirements for the Sixth Form** and a student will not be accepted if they do not complete the work, or do not complete it to the required standard.

## Key Workers Information

I have sent another email out today with regard to Key Workers children. I have also put some further guidance below from the Department for Education.

The key message is that if your child can stay at home they should.



If a parent chooses to send their child into school on Monday without informing us, and they are not a Key Worker or don't fall under the vulnerable categories as set out by the Government, the Local Authority has advised us to send the student home immediately.

The point of closing schools is to increase social distancing and minimise the transition of the coronavirus. Please be fair to our staff and those children and families who need the support and if you can, keep your children at home.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

## What will the day look like if my child is in school

From Monday the school day will not look the same. School will be open from **09:00am until 3pm** each day and there will be a skeleton staff working to minimise social contact. Students will not be taught, but will be provided with a computer where they can get on with the work they have been set by teachers; they will be supervised during this time. We will have a break at the normal time and lunch will be at approximately 12:30pm for an hour, once again there will be supervision in place during this time. **Students must go straight to the hall when they arrive at school.**

Essex County Council have informed us that after Easter they expect that not all schools will be open and that students will all go to the same school, perhaps in some form of rota. We will await further advice on this and will inform you when we know more.

## If students need some additional support

I realise this is a difficult time for all of us but I know from my own children that many are struggling to come to terms with what's happening across the world and closer to home. We have a School Counsellor available at the school and he would be happy to hold meetings with students if required. We will be putting additional provision on for students and indeed staff once we return; we understand there may be some bereavement support required and support due to social isolation. I have also listed below some additional support you could utilise during the school closure:

### Help Lines for Support

Kooth.com

Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people

Monday – Friday 12pm – 10pm

Saturday – Sunday 6pm – 10pm

Childline | Childline

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

Get help and advice about a wide range of issues, call us on 0800 1111, talk to a counsellor online, send Childline an email or post on the message boards

Samaritans

Need support? We're here to listen 24 hours, 365 days a year.

Call 116 123 for free or view other ways to get in touch; [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

BECOME

0800 023 2033

[www.becomecharity.org.uk](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk)

Help, support and advice to children in care and young care leavers so that they can unleash their potential and take control of their lives.

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

The Mix:

0808 808 4994 - Free information and support for under 25s in the UK. Get advice about sex, relationships, drugs, mental health, money & jobs.

CHUMS

[www.chums.uk.com](http://www.chums.uk.com)

CHUMS Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People provides therapeutic support in a variety of ways. CHUMS has developed a unique service delivery model to ensure that children and young people are able to access a service that supports their individual needs

Ditch the Label

<https://www.ditchthelabel.org/>

Ditch the Label is one of the UK's largest and most ambitious anti-bullying charities.

PAPYRUS

PAPYRUS is the UK Charity for the prevention of young suicide. For PAPYRUS HOPELINEUK call 0800 068 4141 (open 10am-10pm weekdays, 2pm-10pm weekends and bank holidays).

<https://papyrus-uk.org/>

## SOMETHING A BIT MORE POSITIVE

I was exceptionally proud to be invited to the Rotary Club Youth Makes Music performance on Friday 6th March at Chigwell School. I and the audience were absolutely blown away by our *Unconventional* Choir who are getting better and better every time I see them. They sang Electricity, Naughty and You Will Be Found and brought most of us in the audience to tears. Joshua Lord was also asked by the Rotary to perform a solo having recently performed for them at the Royal Albert Hall in front of thousands of people. He sang a beautiful rendition of Stars from Les Miserables. I would like to thank Ms Lord for her work with the choir and on the evening, it was a fantastic showcase for our amazingly talented children.



## World Book Day

Students at West Hatch High School, enjoyed a week of World Book Day activities this month.

There was a 'Murder Mystery' in the library, a 'Literary Pairs' game across the school, various reading quizzes and challenges and a Book Cover T-Shirt competition for Year 7 students.

The school's literacy co-ordinator, Mrs Moynihan, said: "It was wonderful to see the library buzzing with students and well done to all the students who entered. The creativity of our students has been wonderful to see." I'd like to thank Mrs Moynihan and Mrs Sheikh for all their work in preparing the events.

Over 60 Year 7 students entered the T Shirt competition where they were asked to design a T-shirt with a literary theme. Congratulations to our winners below:

Third place – Kavish Nayyar -prize of £10

Second Place – Mohammad Abbas Ahadi - prize of £20

First Place – Ria Patel – Won Amazon Fire Tablet.



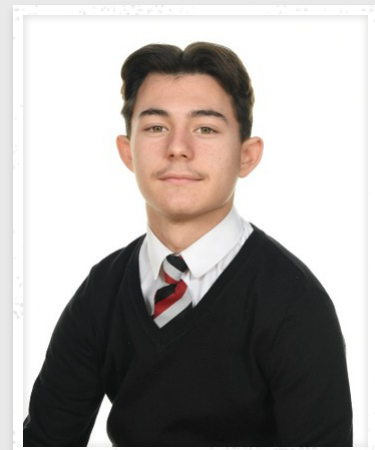


Well done to Callum Glanville and his Mum, Maxine, who appeared on BBC Bitesize on Sunday 8th March to mark International Women's Day,

BBC Bitesize asked four young people to speak to older female family members about their experiences as women and what IWD means to them.

Callum was one of the four selected to take part. The link to the article and video is here:

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zf227nb](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zf227nb)



## So what happens when we return?

We don't know when we will be back. The Government will inform us of when we will return however, whenever that may be all teachers have been asked to prepare a three week review, recap and reteach module which will be followed by an assessment week. This will take place across all year groups to ensure our students have the essential knowledge and understanding they need, even though they have been working from home.

It is vitally important that parents ensure their children are working, and I have already sent out a range of online links you could use. Particularly for our Year 10 and 12 students, this time next year you will be in the final stages of preparation for your exams. Use the time you have now effectively because you will be the one who suffers in the end. Students should be doing at least 5 hours work per day and it is parents responsibility now to ensure this happens, we will provide the work but you have to make sure your children get it done.



# Finally

Thank you again for all your support this year so far. We very much hope that normal service will resume as soon as possible but in times like this, the countries health and well being must come first.

I will be in regular contact over the period of the closure and if parents have any questions for anyone at the school please contact them via the [admin@westhatch.net](mailto:admin@westhatch.net) email. If it is directly in relation to the work your child is doing, please feel free to contact staff directly between 9am and 3pm each day.

I want to wish everyone reading this the best of health.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Leonard  
Headteacher



“The best th