



Waddesdon C of E School | Coronavirus Newsletter 3 – 24/03/2020

As we move into the next national stage of combatting Covid-19 together, I find myself thinking of the changes and challenges that you must be facing at home. I know that many families have moved heaven and earth to follow the Government's advice to keep children at home. Thank you for doing so. By keeping your children at home you are reducing the risk of the virus spreading to others and their loved ones.

We will continue to share information from the Government and Ofqual (the exam regulator) via this newsletter. I hope that it will also serve to maintain the link between you and school. As we said to our Year 11 and 13 students on Friday last week, even though they aren't physically here, all our students remain connected with the school and very much in our minds.

We are in a period of transition into a new way of working with your children and you as families. Please bear with us. There will be improvements that we can and will make over the next few weeks. As this newsletter becomes an increasingly regular means of imparting information, I would also very much welcome any articles from students that we can include in it. In addition, I am hopeful that the almost completed *Waddesdon Voice* will drop through your virtual letterboxes before Easter – it is already well into production.

Finally, thank you for the thoughts, prayers, offers of help and goodwill that parents have expressed over the past few days. It is hard to acknowledge them all individually, but do know that they mean a lot to the staff at Waddesdon and to me personally. As a community, I truly believe that we can get through this together and also hope that it will elevate and illuminate those values which matter most.

Mr Abbott





Home Learning and Establishing New Routines

The most important thing will be to establish new routines. Yesterday over a million young people joined Joe Wicks for his PE wake-up at 9am. These will happen daily and will provide a positive and healthy start to the day.



As you know, we set up Show My Homework last week to begin to provide some structure and routine to the students and to maintain curriculum delivery. Over the next two weeks, we will continue to set work in the way that we have been doing, as well as reviewing our modes of delivery. Please bear with us while we do this – we know that there are ways that it could be better. In addition to this work, there will be optional and extra activities, such as the ones listed below.

Useful websites and resources for additional home learning

These website provide students with additional resources and learning.

1. Seneca Learning

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

This comprehensive website allows you to choose different subjects and topic areas to study. This might provide a useful top-up and provide additional in-depth study during the day.

2. Linguascope

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

There are a vast number of language exercises on this website.

3. My Maths

<https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>

Additional activities and suggestions from Art and Food

If you would like to you could submit something for the young artists competition at the Royal Academy. The opportunity is amazing. We are registered as a school so if you are over 12 you can register yourself. If you are not you can register but will need a parent or guardian to register for you.

<http://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

The deadline is 24th April.



Young Artists' Summer Show | Royal Academy

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young people aged 5 - 19 years, taking place both online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts, that recognises talented young artists.

youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk

If you would like to brush up on your cooking skills, Mrs Watts and her husband have set up the website Waddesdon Cooks. Check it out for tips, challenges and links to

<https://www.waddesdoncooks.co.uk/>

More ideas for extended projects and other activities will be included in future newsletters and there are some great top tips also contained in Ms McIvers assembly that she sent out via Show My Homework on Monday. Ideas or suggestions from students very welcome, too!



Sixth Form Consultations

We are aware that the cancellation of GCSE exams will be causing Year 11 students concern with regard to their Waddesdon Sixth Form applications, but rest assured we will do our best to support students through this challenging time.

If your son/daughter has applied to Waddesdon Sixth Form, but has not yet had their consultation meeting at school, Ms McIver will be in contact with you by telephone in the next few weeks to hold the consultation over the phone. Please tell your son/daughter not worry at all about his/her phone consultation. It is an informal conversation about his/her application form and subject choices, as well as an opportunity for him/her to ask any questions. Once all of the consultations are completed, Ms McIver will write to you after Easter with details of the next steps.



Examination Update

We are waiting for further information from Ofqual regarding the allocation of predicted grades for students. We greatly appreciate that this is causing a huge amount of anxiety for some young people and their families.

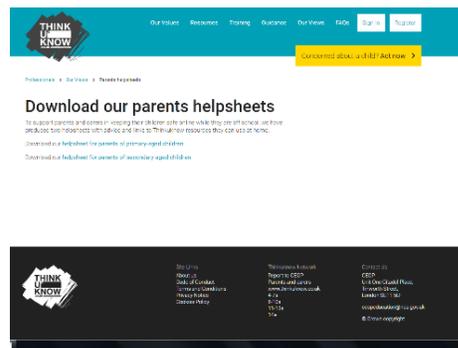
Our approach will remain as follows:

- To make no announcements or decisions (collective or individual) until the information has been issued and reviewed carefully
 - To wait for further guidance from the Association of School and College Leaders so that we are following the same approaches as all schools nationally
 - To communicate with you as fully as is possible
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Keeping your Child Safe

We thought it would be helpful to share with you the link to the Think U Know website which provides information to all parents about keeping children safe online. It is our strong advice that you should look at this information and discuss it with your child.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/our-views/parents-helpsheets/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=11c85df25c-TUK_GLOBAL_MAR_2020_MESSAGE&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-11c85df25c-64794181



Safeguarding contacts/guidance

While the school remains open you should continue to convey any Safeguarding concerns via the usual means. Mr Sturla is our Designated Safeguarding Lead, supported by Miss McIver and Mrs Branton as Additional Safeguarding Leads. All three are currently in school. In the event of a school closure or other eventuality, the following information will help you.

If you are concerned about a child, it is important that you talk to someone about this. Don't ignore your concerns or delay taking action.

- If there is immediate risk of harm to a child, call the Police on 999
 - You can call Buckinghamshire County Council's First Response Team on 01296 383962 (out of hours: 0800 999 7677). They will listen to your concerns and decide on the appropriate course of action.
- You can contact the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 (free service, lines open 24 hours a day). They will listen to your concerns, offer advice and support and can take action on your behalf if a child is in danger. You can also report concerns anonymously. For further information or to report your concerns online visit: www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/



Government Guidance and Update for schools and families

The Government has now raised the risk level to high.

If your son or daughter hasn't read or understood fully the importance of these rules, please make sure that they read the following information. The new rules, outlined below make clear the expectation on all of us:

NEW RULES ON STAYING AT HOME AND AWAY FROM OTHERS

The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives.

When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection. That is why the government is now (23 March 2020) introducing three new measures.

1. Requiring people to stay at home, except for very limited purposes

2. Closing non-essential shops and community spaces
3. Stopping all gatherings of more than two people in public

Every citizen must comply with these new measures. The relevant authorities, including the police, will be given the powers to enforce them – including through fines and dispersing gatherings.

These measures are effective immediately. The Government will look again at these measures in three weeks, and relax them if the evidence shows this is possible.

1. STAYING AT HOME

You should only leave the house for one of four reasons.

- **Shopping for basic necessities**, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
- **One form of exercise a day**, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.
- **Any medical need**, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- **Travelling to and from work**, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home.

These four reasons are exceptions - even when doing these activities, you should be minimising time spent outside of the home and ensuring you are 2 metres apart from anyone outside of your household.

These measures must be followed by everyone. Separate advice is available for individuals or households who are isolating, and for the most vulnerable who need to be shielded.

If you work in a critical sector outlined in this guidance, or your child has been identified as vulnerable, you can continue to take your children to school.

2. CLOSING NON-ESSENTIAL SHOPS AND PUBLIC SPACES

Last week, the Government ordered certain businesses - including pubs, cinemas and theatres - to close.

The Government is now extending this requirement to a further set of businesses and other venues, including:

- **all non-essential retail stores** - this will include clothing and electronics stores; hair, beauty and nail salons; and outdoor and indoor markets, excluding food markets.
- **libraries, community centres, and youth centres**
- **indoor and outdoor leisure facilities** such as bowling alleys, arcades and soft play facilities.
- **communal places within parks**, such as playgrounds, sports courts and outdoor gyms.
- **places of worship**, except for funerals attended by immediate families.
- **hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, caravan parks, and boarding houses** for commercial/leisure use (excluding permanent residents and key workers).

3. STOPPING PUBLIC GATHERINGS

To make sure people are staying at home and apart from each other, the Government is also **stopping all public gatherings of more than two people.**

There are only two exceptions to this rule:

- **where the gathering is of a group of people who live together** - this means that a parent can, for example, take their children to the shops if there is no option to leave them at home.
- **where the gathering is essential for work purposes** - but workers should be trying to minimise all meetings and other gatherings in the workplace.

In addition, the Government is stopping social events, including weddings, baptisms and other religious ceremonies. This will exclude funerals, which can be attended by immediate family.

DELIVERING THESE NEW MEASURES

These measures will reduce our day to day contact with other people. They are a vital part of our efforts to reduce the rate of transmission of coronavirus.

Every citizen is instructed to comply with these new measures.

The Government will therefore be ensuring the police and other relevant authorities have the powers to enforce them, including through fines and dispersing gatherings where people do not comply.

They will initially last for the three weeks from 23 March, at which point the Government will look at them again and relax them if the evidence shows this is possible.



“You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them”. Maya Angelou

School contact

We have reduced the number of staff in school to an absolute minimum which means we are unable to respond to phone calls.

For all enquiries, please email: office@waddesdonschool.com



Website:
www.waddesdonschool.com



Contact:
By email



Email:
office@waddesdonschool.com

