



Waddesdon C of E School | Coronavirus Newsletter 5 – 1/4/2020

Happy Easter...

Normally, during the Easter Holidays, we encourage students and families to take a break from school. Although there is nothing 'normal' about our current circumstances, I would like to encourage you to consider a change to term time routines also this year.

With this in mind, teachers will not be setting work over the two week period from 6th April to 17th April. Instead, we have published a range of activities and learning challenges in this newsletter should students want to do some independent research. There is also a link to a comprehensive list of subject specific websites which will help consolidate learning and deepen understanding.

I hope that you understand that we would also like to give our staff a break over the Easter Holidays, partly in recognition of the generous ways in which they have responded to recent circumstances. For this reason, please refrain from contacting them directly during this time. We will monitor the Office email account during the holidays and have re-published the Safeguarding contact details in this newsletter. The school is also closed for this period.

Thank you – Mr Abbott

Examination Update

At the time of writing this newsletter, we are working on the assumption that we will be required to generate predicted grades for students in Years 11 and Year 13 fairly soon after Easter. These will not be done until then.



Ofqual have indicated that they will take steps to ensure that grade distributions resemble previous years. Where centres produce grades which seem particularly generous, a moderation process will be applied. Specifically, in the case of our school, our students will benefit from the fact that we regularly outperform other schools for progress. Ofqual has said that this is one of the criteria that they will apply when moderating grades. As soon as we have reviewed the guidance, we will write to Year 11 and 13 students with more information about the process.



Please trust us to apply the rules fairly.



Home Learning – Opportunities for Independent Enquiry

Over the Easter break, we would like to provide families with a break from the daily work that we have been setting. We appreciate that this has, at times, put a strain on families – especially where there is limited access to technology – so we hope that you appreciate a 'normal' rest from work.

If your children are looking for things to achieve over the holidays, teachers have put together some projects, or provided access to resources which may interest them.



Science Investigation



This Easter do you fancy investigating what makes the perfect cup of tea? Finding out what makes bread rise? Testing which crisps are the crispiest or how to make a rollercoaster faster? Look no further...this Easter you have the chance to work towards a Bronze CREST award. This is a nationally recognised award designed for 11-14 year olds (though older students can take part if they want).

You will need to work independently to complete a project researching, testing and writing a project on an idea such as the above. You must spend a minimum of 10 hours work on your project to be eligible for the award, so only join if you can commit this time.

Mrs Ewart and Mrs Watts will be on hand to help you, and Mr Ewart will be your assessor once you've finished. This course has a cost of £5, plus you may need to buy ingredients or resources to test your ideas. To sign up please pay for the CREST Award on Parent Pay **by 6th April**.

Visit the CREST Award website (www.crestawards.org/crest-bronze) or email aewart@waddesdonschool.com for more details.

Song Writing Competition (Music, English)



Calling all songwriters!

Waddesdon Performing Arts have launched a songwriting competition offering 10 winners the chance to have their song featured on the first album to be recorded in the new recording studio! This will be sold to raise money for the school and will hopefully be set up for streaming services, too.



The brief: Write a song in whatever style you like, on whatever theme you like. The lyrics and music must be your own work.

It could be a Pop track, or something a bit funkier. Maybe you are into Rock or Hip Hop? It doesn't matter if you don't play an instrument as you can submit a recording of you singing your song a cappella. Or even if you don't sing, but are more of a rapper then you could just send in a recording of you doing that.

Go to our YouTube channel – Waddesdon Performing Arts – for more information.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqzqlYTx4BqQEguUqzGktg>

The deadline for submissions is the **30th June** so you've got a good amount of time to work on your song. If you need any advice or tips, then just email us at performingarts@waddesdonschool.com and we'll do our best to help.

We are so excited to find out what you are going to create, so make the most of the time you've got and get writing!

Family Meal (Food, Maths, IT, Art Graphics)

Research a balanced menu for a fabulous family meal!

Find the cost of the ingredients using an online shop.

Design the invitations (for a virtual gathering).

Plan the entertainment for after dinner - board games you would enjoy, karaoke song list, display of talents.



Extension tasks - compare budget costs with premium, include alternatives for vegetarian, coeliac (or other) diners; personalise the invitations for each guest.

Reading Challenge



When has there ever been a more perfect time to read? You can escape the isolation and literally visit anywhere from your bedroom, living room, bathroom...you get the idea. **Join us on Twitter for a 14 day Reading Challenge, starting every other Thursday.**

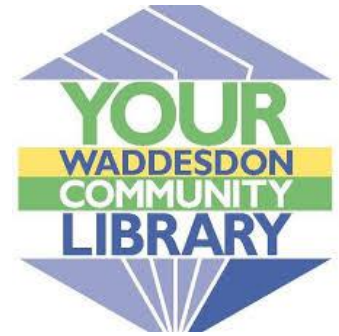
All you need to do is choose a book (or an audiobook on Audible*), divide the number of pages by 14 and read that number of pages for each day of the challenge. Once you've done your reading for the day, get on Twitter and tell us about it (using the hashtag [#waddesdonreads](https://twitter.com/waddesdonreads)).

Did you learn anything new today? Has a certain character changed your mind about something?

I will be tweeting every day cheering you on as well as giving you ideas for your posts and insights. As your Librarian, of course, I will also be reading along with you. My choice for the first Reading Challenge will be *Wool* by Hugh Howey which, at 580 pages, is going to test me!

This will be a great opportunity to recommend books to each other and expand your reading interests. Raid the bookshelves in the house, rediscover a childhood favourite or find something you've never heard of on Audible; your choices are endless. I look forward to seeing what you've all chosen for the first challenge **starting on Thursday, 2nd April**.

*Audible are currently offering hundreds of children's books to be streamed for free at stories.audible.com including Alice in Wonderland read by Scarlett Johansson and Frankenstein read by Dan Stevens. If you choose to listen to an audiobook, divide the number of minutes in the book by 14 to work out your daily target.



Journals (Sociology, History, English)



The eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD (Pliny the Younger), the Great Fire of London (Samuel Pepys), The Second World War (Anne Frank). Throughout history people have written about their experiences; experiences that we continue to learn from today.

Why not write a blog, journal or diary of your experiences of covid-19 and your isolation experience. Who knows whether these will be used in the future to research society and become part of history? Diaries are important documents in sociological research.

Great Languages Challenge (French, Spanish, Portuguese, Hindi, Xhosa...)



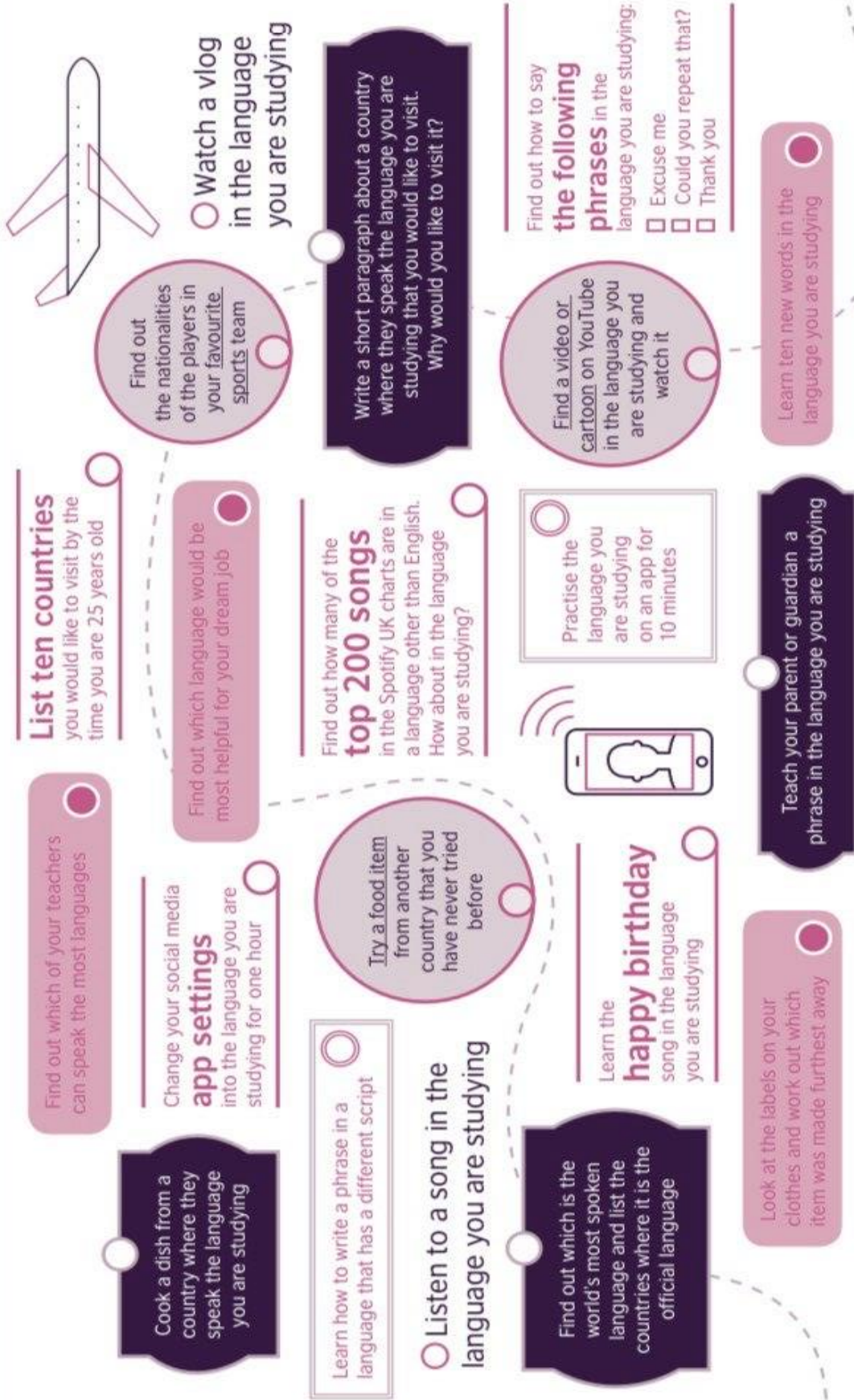
On the next page is an example of the many things that you can do if you want to develop your language skills.

If you watched Mrs Watts' assembly on Monday, you'll remember that she said that she was struggling with her language learning. Perhaps the suggestions from the British Council will help you (and her!) to find some creative ways of getting into your learning.

Bonne Chance! ¡Buena suerte! Boa sorte!

सौभाग्य nqwenelela impumelelo!

THE GREAT LANGUAGES CHALLENGE



Year 12 MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) Challenge!

To challenge Year 12 students to take their independent learning to new heights, Ms McIver and Subject Leaders have produced a directory of free, online university short courses, hosted by prestigious universities all over the UK and North

America. MOOCs are hosted by university lecturers and industry professionals. Completing a MOOC has many benefits for

students: it enhances and deepens their understanding of a subject they are studying at A level; it helps them decide if it is really a subject/career they want to pursue at a higher level; it looks very impressive on university/degree apprenticeship applications. We know that Year 12 students have very much benefited from completing these courses in the past.



MOOC topics include: video game design, creating a social media marketing campaign, fashion and sustainability, ethical hacking, screen writing, engineering the future, challenging wealth and income inequality, understanding anti-semitism, global sustainability, morality, song writing, medical technology, forensic psychology, biochemistry, ecology and conservation, gender inequality...and the list goes on....

Year 12 students can search for MOOCs as well as sign up at: www.futurelearn.com and they commit to a few hours of learning for a set number of weeks. The MOOC Directory is available to all Year 12 students on SMHW under Extension Studies. Go for it!

Lights Camera Action! (Drama, English)



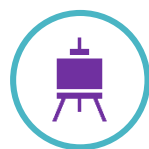
In response to the school closures caused by Coronavirus, [National Theatre](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk) is now offering username and password access to the National Theatre Collection. For a temporary period, plays can be accessed remotely ensuring students studying from home can still watch them.

Our access details are: <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com>*
Username: 4Og!2Sd% / Password: 6Ys!4Pc!

*The Log in button is in the top right-hand corner of the landing page, so just insert your username and password to left-hand option of the login pop-up.

Please ensure you are typing the credentials in rather than copying and pasting them as this can insert invisible spaces which invalidate the details. These should be entered under the 'access log in' and not the 'personal log in'. If you have any difficulties please test in another browser as some are known as having issues.

This resource is free for students, but must not be offered to anyone external to your institution or posted on social media, or the licence will be withdrawn.



Our subject specific websites can now all be found in one handy place on the Covid-19 Update page on our website. Just visit <https://waddesdonschool.com/covid-19-update/>

SIXTH FORM CONSULTATIONS



The Sixth Form team have started to contact Year 11 students to hold the remaining Sixth Form consultations over the phone. Please reassure your son/daughter that the consultation is an informal conversation and there is nothing to do to prepare for it in advance.

We are phoning as many students as we can this week and will continue the phone calls after the Easter holidays. Once we have completed all consultations, we will write to students and parents in early May with details of the next steps. It has been lovely to meet/speak to so many Year 11 students so far and we look forward to working with students in Sixth Form next year.



The **Easter Raffle** has had to be temporarily postponed. Thank you for your understanding, and please keep those tickets to hand as we shall pick this up again when we are all back into the school routine.



Safeguarding contacts/ guidance

Mr Sturla is our Designated Safeguarding Lead, supported by Miss McIver and Mrs Branton as Additional Safeguarding Leads.

In the event of reduced channels of communication during the holidays, or any other eventuality, the following information will help you.

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/

Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

It is our strong advice that you should look at online safety information and continue to discuss it with your child.

In addition the following links will provide you further support at home:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers



A final thought...

"I think I'm allowed to go for a run once a day. Is that in addition to taking the kids on a bike ride? Or, instead of? And if I chat to two strangers on the High Street, the police will stop me.

We are social creatures. But often we only realize how precious something is – once we lose it. So when we all 'get through' this, I believe we're going to be kinder. Kinder to one another. Kinder to friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues – and complete strangers. I have already seen a growth in 'community feeling' – my local village has pulled together to support our elderly residents creating a shopping rota, via WhatsApp.

Neighbours are waving to one another from their windows. So every time I feel a little down – I remember how important it is to be grateful. And how important gratitude is in times of uncertainty.

So now my morning is slightly different. When I wake up and the children are still sleeping, I take 5 minutes and write down 5 things I'm grateful for. These can be anything – but it just helps me start my day right.

So when we all 'get through' this, I believe we're all going to be more grateful. For so many things, we previously took for granted.

Stay safe and stay kind."

Alex Mehta, Director of Judicum Education



On Tuesday there was a good attendance at our virtual Holy Communion, presided over by Phil, our Chaplain. Over 100 people got involved in, or viewed the Communion Service. We hope that it provided students and families with spiritual support and time away from the stresses and uncertainty of our new way of life.

***God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid, or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory
Jesus Christ Our Lord
Amen***



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