



Waddesdon C of E School | Coronavirus Newsletter 11 – 15/06/20

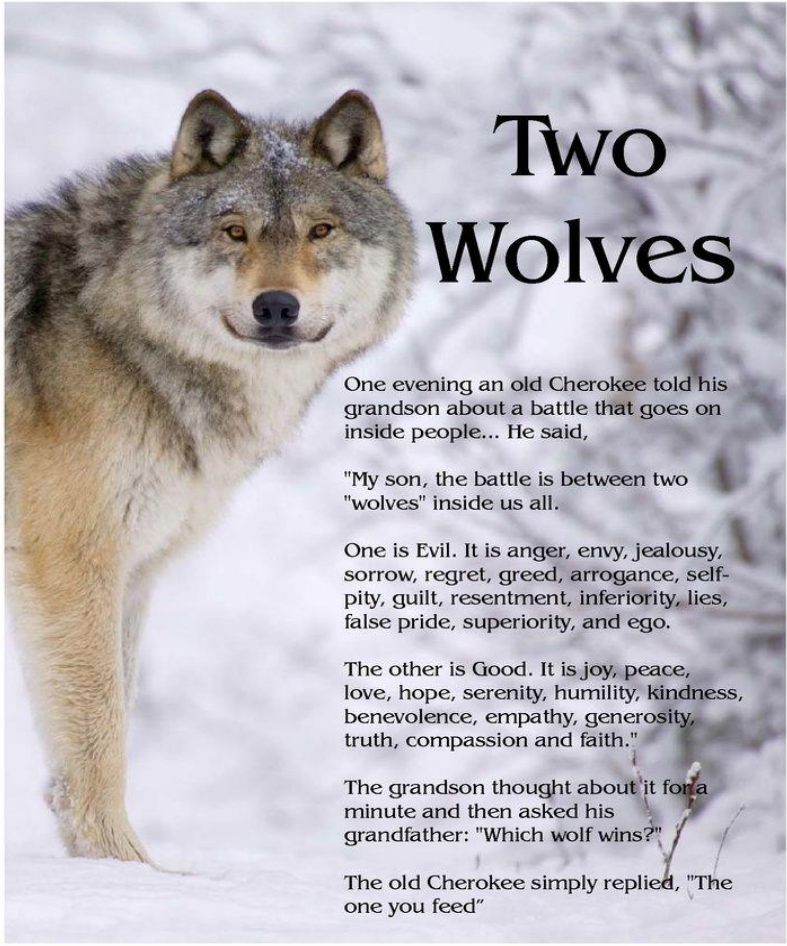
I heard the story - that you will read opposite - on the radio recently.

What struck a chord with me was the way that we have all been consciously and, no doubt mostly unconsciously, feeding our fears, as well as our hopes during this difficult time.

In a time where everything is new, and the word "unprecedented" now a worn out description for the events of the past few months, I think it's helpful to focus on feeding the wolf which will help us get through stronger and better as society, with values reasserted, and a sense of optimism, rather than cynicism or defeat. The lessons we are learning at this time will be the positive legacy to our future selves.

In this edition of the Newsletter, I want to address some of the fears that could threaten to overwhelm us by providing information which I hope you will find helpful and even sustaining.

Mr Abbott



Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people... He said,

"My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed"





School Re-opening

"Something between a military operation and an exercise in mathematics"

Having completed a full risk assessment and shared a detailed Information Pack and explanatory letter with parents of Year 10 and Year 12 students, we open our doors to Year 10 today and Year 12 next week. Thank you to all the parents who were involved in our consultation and who have offered support and encouragement during this time. Receiving such warm words of encouragement is uplifting to the staff team.

We know that the lessons we learn during this time will help us to prepare better for the September return.

We are also very pleased to have planned a transition week for the Year 6 pupils who will be joining us as Year 7s next year. Moving from Primary to Secondary school is a rite of passage in a young person's life, so we are delighted to be able to offer an induction day for each child, albeit slightly different to normal.

For those Year 6 students who are unable to join, there is a virtual tour and interviews with the Head of Year, Mrs Allen and students.



Exams in 2021

Geoff Barton, ASCL's general secretary, has indicated that there are some positive talks between the Government and Ofqual about next year's exams.

In a recent release he acknowledged:

"a growing realisation that GCSEs and A levels cannot be the same as in any other year. There will have to be recognition of time missed by so many pupils, and the fact this cannot be easily made up.

I think we are likely to be looking at a more balanced combination of phased assessment in class during the coming year, with end-of-year exams that are more proportionate in scope.

In other words, a binary view, of either a full exam series or centre-assessed grading, is being replaced by a discussion that is more nuanced."

There also some indications that this approach may continue beyond 2021 which will provide some reassurance for parents and children who are worried about the longer term impact of not being in school for a whole term.



Home Learning and Reporting to Parents

Like many schools we use *Show My Homework* to set work for our students. As outlined in previous newsletters, the main motivation for doing so is to ensure that no child is excluded from other forms of learning due to lack of access to live lessons. Despite its shortcomings, it was also a package that was fully integrated with our students' and teachers' ways of working at the time of lockdown at the end of March.

However, we also recognise that as we move towards September, increasing our capacity for live lessons will need to be a part of our approach. I appreciate that is one area which has caused frustration for some parents, especially when making comparisons with some other schools. As a Microsoft organisation, we have piloted live lessons with Year 12.

We will be gathering information from parents about the obstacles that we will need to overcome for this to become a reality. The pilot work that we have been using with Year 12 Teams has provided us with some helpful indicators as to what works and how to avoid the impact on students who are inadvertently excluded. You won't be surprised that there are downsides, as well as upsides, to this form of working.

For those parents who would like to access video lessons for their son or daughter to complement the work set on SMHW, the two websites, BBC Bitesize and Oak Academy are worth reviewing:

<https://www.thenational.academy/information-for-parents-pupils>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

If you would like any guidance about which particular lessons to follow please contact your child's teacher.

In addition, we have changed our usual reporting programme for Years 10 and 12 and will be shortly issuing a well-being survey to all students. This will aid his or her form tutor and teachers to report on progress during this period, as well as being an important point of connection with form tutors.



Project and Enrichment Week (week beginning 22nd June)

During the week of the 22nd June, your son or daughter will carry out extended independent investigations and project work. As well as enriching the students, this will enable teachers to write reports in half the time than normal. The information below provides you with an outline of the work that will be set.

Year 12 Online Careers Focus Week

During the week of 22nd June, we will be setting students daily activities to challenge and support their research into their post 18 options and applications as well as advice on how to start drafting Personal Statements.

We will also be recommending online presentations, virtual open days, virtual work experience and other super-curricular activities to enable students to submit high quality applications. If students haven't done so already, we would strongly recommend registering for the UK Virtual University and Apprenticeship Fair on Wednesday 17th June, with over 100 exhibitors: <https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com/fair-signup/virtual-fair-2>

Project work for Year 7-10

During the week starting 22nd June, your teachers will not be setting you subject-based work. Instead you will choose **at least one** of the project options below. You will be expected to spend approx. **10 hours of work** on your chosen project/s, evidence of which will be submitted via SMHW. Teachers will review your work with awards for work that show exceptional levels of effort and high quality work.

OPTION #1 - Dive into a 'Big Question'

- ❖ Are real life friends better than online ones?
- ❖ Is school the best place to learn?
- ❖ Could we end disease?



Go to <https://www.explore.org/> to look into the questions above and many more!

Via the Oxplore website, choose a question (or two) that interest you and complete the following:

1. Read the information and watch the video clips on the Oxplore site that link to your chosen question.
2. Jot down key notes and information as you go. Use these to help you understand the differing perspective on the question.
3. **Present what you have found out about the question** you have chosen. You may want to do a PowerPoint, a video/audio presentation, a written response. Whatever you choose, make it your own work based on what you have found out.
4. Include in your work your own view/answer to the question (you may record an audio/video to show this).

OPTION #2 - Race Across the World

Following on from Ms McIver's 'Armchair Travel' assembly on 2nd June and the BBC show 'Race Across the World', choose one of the following routes and **write a presentation/report that explains your planned journey:**

1. London to Moscow
2. Cairo to Cape Town
3. Singapore to Tokyo

Aspects you may want to include are:

- ❖ travel costs and how you will use your £1500 Budget
- ❖ your route and maps showing your journey
- ❖ accommodation you will use
- ❖ places you will visit
- ❖ for at least 3 countries you travel through include information on the country's
 - culture and traditions
 - food and drink
 - history and politics
 - physical geography (climate, mountains, rivers etc.)



OPTION #3 - Repair, Restore and Reuse



Choose a project in your home to upcycle or repair. Take photos of the process and complete a **short written/visual report that explains your project**. This is a practical project and you should check you have access to the required materials in your home before starting. You are not expected to go out and buy materials to complete this task.

You may choose to:

- ❖ design and make a new outfit/item out of old clothes
- ❖ repair/update/restore a piece of furniture
- ❖ recycle items to create a piece of art or a new item e.g. use wooden pallets to create outdoor furniture
- ❖ make something for a younger sibling out of broken/old items

OPTION #4 - Community Action- Be Kind

Use this week to find multiple ways of showing kindness to members of your local community and family. This could include some of the following:

- ❖ baking and delivering cakes and goodies to elderly neighbours/key workers
- ❖ litter picking
- ❖ gardening
- ❖ cleaning
- ❖ delivering food to a food bank
- ❖ supporting younger siblings with home schooling



Make a diary showing your work. This could include photos, video, audio and feedback from members of your community.

OPTION #5 - Project 'New to Me'

Create your own NEW project on ANYTHING that is of interest to you. The only rules are:

1. It must have **real valid educational benefit to you**. For example, it does not include 'playing online with friends for 15 hours' or 'completing a Netflix box set'. If in doubt, check with your Head of Year or Mrs Branton before starting.
2. You **MUST present your research/work at the end of the project** (diary, PowerPoint, film, written report).
3. It should reflect between 10-15 hours of work.
4. It cannot be previous class work that you have been asked to do by your teachers.



You may want to plan and cook gourmet meals for your family, complete an endurance/new physical challenge, learn to use a new piece of software or musical instrument, teach yourself a new language or create a piece of art work that can be shared with members of the Waddesdon community.

At the end of the week (26th June), students will upload evidence of their work for teachers to review.



Well-being support

We continue to be mindful of the impact that continued uncertainty surrounding lockdown has on student well-being. Please keep talking to your son/daughter about how they are feeling and remind them about Mind's Five Steps to Well-Being, which they will have heard about in assembly.



The following links might be useful to explore:

Anna Freud Self Care: <https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/>

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

Kooth: <https://www.kooth.com/>



Virtual Interform – Be Active!

As you hopefully have already noted, this week (15th–19th June) the PE department are running a Virtual Interform. The competition is to walk/run/cycle/swim (anything that involves travelling a distance) as many kilometres as you can in 5 days. The form that travels the furthest combined distance will be the winner.

This competition is open to all students in Year 7 up to Sixth Form and the form tutor's kilometres will also be added to their form's total. Daily updates on the current standings will be provided on the Show My Homework notice board and via PE department Instagram @waddesdonPE.

Further details about how to record and submit your distances have been posted on Show My Homework today. Although family member's distances will not count towards the form total, it would be great if parents, carers and siblings could also get involved and encourage students to get active. Interform is all about working together as a team and every student's contribution will play a vital part in their form's success, so we hope that you are able to support your child's involvement in this competition.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this account, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Smith. Equally, if you or your son/daughter have any ideas of content that you would like to be included please do get in touch.

We hope that you and your child will find this account useful and support us in our efforts to increase communication, engagement and participation in physical activity and sport at Waddesdon and hopefully beyond.

Miss Smith

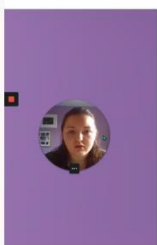
BLACK LIVES MATTER

The events of the past two weeks in America, and closer to home in London, Bristol and Oxford to name but three places, have touched us all.

As well as expressing solidarity for Black Lives Matter, I wish publicly to pledge our school's determination to stand up more explicitly as an anti-racist school. We wish to engage with our student body to understand the issue from their perspective using this to shape the changes that we will make. We are optimistic about the shared consciousness and discussions that this movement will bring to Waddesdon.

Our Head of History, Miss Drought, and I have posted a message on SMHW today, asking our students and other community members to help us establish a statement for our website which will form the basis of the way that we contribute more directly to the fight against racial prejudice and discrimination. Her email address is hdrought@waddesdonschool.com

Over the past few days, assemblies by Miss Barnett, our Sixth Form team and Mr Judson have asked us to consider this aspect of our lives – whoever we are. The Sixth Form discussion about unconscious bias was both insightful and showed real leadership in this area.



- Listen to the voices and experiences of others
- Research Britain's history
 - Britain's role in the Slave Trade
 - Windrush
 - British rule in India between 18th – 20th Century
 - Brixton riots (1981, 1985, 1995)
- Challenge the words and actions of others around you
- Diversify the stories that you consume
- When you can, vote for leaders who are anti-racist.



“We need more light about each other. Light creates understanding, understanding creates love, love creates patience, and patience creates unity.” Malcolm X



Safeguarding contacts/ guidance

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

- 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 0800 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/

Thinking of Year 11



On Friday, one of our Year 11 students sent this message to Mr Mac, the Head of Year 11:

"Good morning, Sir.

Today I would have sat my last exam. Please could you thank all my teachers for their help and support since I started at Waddesdon.

I am looking forward to starting in the Sixth Form.

I hope you have a good summer."

We wish all our Year 11s whose exams would all finish this week the very best.

Post 16 Passport for Year 11

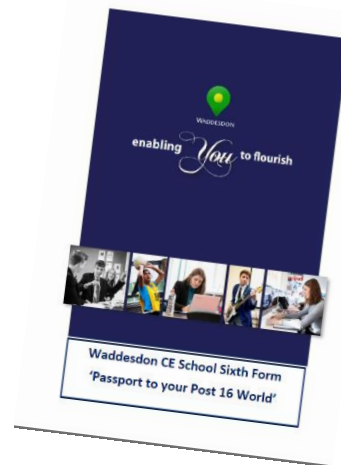
Thank you for the positive feedback about the suggested resources for Year 11 as they prepare for their next steps.

It is great to see students' enthusiasm and we hope the activities are beneficial. Year 11 students who have applied to Sixth Form have all now received their conditional offer letters by post. Students should bring their completed one-page 'Learning Summaries' for each of their chosen subjects to Enrolment in August and then their first A level lesson.


Submissions for the Challenge Award will be collected during Sixth Form Induction Day in September.

Miss McIver, Head of Sixth Form

"The old Cherokee simply replied, 'The one you feed'."



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