

WEEKLY 'HEAD'-LINES

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hopefully students are making excellent progress with their online learning at home. I have heard lots of reports that teachers and students are discussing work via emails and that there are plenty of useful resources available on mrrscience.com.

I would strongly recommend agreeing a manageable timetable that breaks the day up into different sections so that concentration levels remain high throughout the day at home. Another idea is to stick closely to your child's regular timetable to help provide a template for learning. My own children have been following the Joe Wicks PE sessions at home on You tube, and have been doing regular exercise in the garden between activities. It also seems to have been a chance to do extra practice time on the guitar, or the piano and take part in cooking and gardening.

We have had a small group of students in school this week and they will be with us for the duration of the current situation. They have been tremendous so far and have enjoyed some new learning experiences in what has been a very different learning environment. So far we have had cooking, Science experiments, the paper the aeroplane challenge and sport sessions alongside dedicated time for on-line learning.

I think during these times it is essential to keep calm and remain positive as much as possible. Communicate with our relatives, especially elderly and vulnerable ones and share good news whenever possible. The entire staff miss the buzz of school life and we cannot believe how different life is currently – compared to even a week ago. Please stay positive everyone, keep safe and look after each other.

Mr Jon Arnold



NOTICES

Daily blog

Our students are doing a daily blog to record the work they are doing and provide them with something to look back on in years to come. We will put two blogs in our bulletin each week.

Monday 23rd March 2020

Coming into school was quite an unusual experience, as you did not know who would be here, you didn't know what teachers would be here and you didn't know what you were going to be doing for the day. Also with everything going on in the news about the COVID-19 everyone was a little on edge. As soon as we got into school we sanitized our hands and were welcomed with toast, it was so strange seeing the school so quiet but it was much better that way. For the first 1 1/2 (up until break), we began with the online work set by our teachers and work from [mrrscience](http://mrrscience.com). Afterwards we headed outside to do some PE, we played a few games, did a lot of running, we were all exhausted. We split up half of us doing football and half of us playing table tennis. We went for lunch, then a few of us went off playing hide and seek around the school. Once lunch was finished, some of us went to do a science experiment with Mr Richards, we attempted to turn a copper 2p coin to silver or gold. Not many of us were successful and most of us ended up with a half gold coin. After this, some of us had a game of basketball and another little game of football. I have enjoyed my day a lot!

Charlotte Upton

Tuesday 24th March 2020

This morning we did 90 minutes of online learning through mrrscience.com and Mathswatch. After break we went to Food Technology with Mrs Higgins and made a delicious bowl of vegetable pasta sauce. It was delightful. Alex is going to eat hers before she gets home. After a yummy lunch of meatballs and pasta, we went to the fitness suite with Miss Bannister and were able to run on the treadmills or cycle on the bikes or lift weights. It was nice to get some activity in to our day. Our final activity was Science with Miss Evans. We made a variety of paper airplanes some of our own designs but also some record breakers! We then went to the dining hall to test the length these airplanes would fly. We made some paper helicopters and recorded how long they stayed in the air, Anya is the record holder with 2.89 seconds. We are enjoying our days at school and prefer this to doing online working at home.



Anya, Alex and Caitlin (Year 7)

National online safety

The organisation, National Online Safety have published free online safety guides for parents and children.

Remote learning is a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in these difficult circumstances. However, there are factors that need to be taken into consideration.

Headteacher Free school meals scam

The Department for Education have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'. This is a scam email – it is not from a local authority. Please do not respond to it, and delete immediately. Read the government guidance [here](#), which explains what schools should do to make sure eligible students have continued access to free school meals.

Online safety

As many of you are using the internet and online resources for home schooling, we wanted to share this website with you, [click here](#). Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

Keeping calm during difficulty

Feeling a certain amount of concern or worry is natural when we encounter difficult or unsettling times. [Click here](#) to view a video demonstrating an introduction to mindfulness. It explains how mindfulness can help rewire the brain to work in calmer and more positive ways. You can also listen to this guided [audio clip](#) alongside it, and take a look at this mindfulness [PDF](#) as supplementary resources.

The below guides will help you: [online tips for students](#) and [online tips for parents](#)

GCSE – what we know now

As soon as we are able to share more and accurate information, we will do so.

- Regulators will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with us and the other exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.
- Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
 - To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges soon.
 - Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.
- Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it's as fair as possible.
 - The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
 - These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.
- The exam boards will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.
 - Students will be able to appeal their grades if they don't believe the right process has been followed.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer.

CAREERS

Mrs Murphy, our Careers Adviser, will be available for remote career guidance during the school closure should your child have any career or work experience related questions or concerns.

She can be contacted by email at:

murphy.m@mrat.co.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

Shropshire Public Health Nursing Service	0333 358 3654
Compass	0345 678 9021
Early Help	https://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/
Parenting Team	01743 250950
SEND Local Offer	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/

WEBSITE QUICK LINKS

Please click on the following useful links to find out more.

- [News](#)
- [Home Learning](#)
- [Term Dates](#)

FACEBOOK

Please follow us on Facebook [@ShrewsburyAcademy](#) for supplementary home learning ideas, news and feel good stories. We also encourage you to share your ideas and interact with our posts!

For news from across the Trust, why not also follow [@MarchesAcademyTrust](#).



Shrewsbury Academy, Corndon Crescent, Shrewsbury, SY1 4LL
 01743 276700
enquiries@sa.sat.coop
shrewsburyacademy.co.uk



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