



Noadswood

Dear all,

I hope it's been a lovely weekend for you all. **I have been really excited to think about tomorrow, as it's my first day back on to site alongside some of you** – those of you in Y10 joining us for the first time in a while – because I have had to 'shield' owing to health reasons like lots of you and your families have had to do, I know.

So if you're in Year 10, and you're not heading in because you have worries about your health, or the health of someone you love, I want you to know that I and we get where you're coming from. So keep reaching out to your tutor, your teachers, your House Leaders or to me about the help and support you need, and we'll be helping you to access what we're delivering in school if you can't be there.

Equally, if you're coming in – maybe you're part of our Keyworker group or a member of Y10 – and you feel a bit nervous about stuff, I get that, too. There is a lot on my mind to make sure I keep you all and myself safe. Gone are the days when I just pull into the carpark and crack on, without giving every single routine we have additional thought to make sure it is hygienic and safe and in line with all important guidance.

Maybe you're someone who wants to wear a face covering? I know there's a lot of different advice out there about the necessity for this, and it isn't, at present considered to be required in schools according to guidance; but I know for some of us, it really feels the right thing to do. So I have arranged for us to buy a reusable, wipe clean face shield for every one of you and every member of staff, in case this is something you'd like to do to help protect yourself and other people, as well as build confidence around each other. This is just one of many measures we have put into place for those students on site already or about to be, and we'll extend and build on it when it gets to the point of being safe to have more of you in – **we can't wait for that time to come.**

We hope you've benefited from the increased numbers of 1:1 phone calls or ePraise messages we've had with you – more of that to come, along with our continuing to provide more interactive remote learning, in addition to the more traditional assignment setting, and our plans to get you together in your tutor groups and for some live lessons in Y7-9 before the end of term.

With respect to your tutor groups, I hope you've all read the letter from Mrs Loveday posted on Friday evening explaining to you our decision to convert our tutor groups from vertical (Y8-11 together) to horizontal (everyone in the same year group as each other, in the way that the Y7 groups are right now). If you haven't got to it yet, hop onto ePraise to find it and have a good read.

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We have thought long and hard about what she wrote in her letter, agonized over it actually. Here's what we believe: no system is perfect, and there are goods and less goods to all for some people, and so we understand some people will be disappointed. We will speak personally to anyone who writes to us in this position, and take time to work through your concerns with you.

But we genuinely believe that we need to tailor the support we provide for you to the age and stage you've reached in your lives and education as we strive to nurture our brilliant community through all this and out the other side. You will remain in your House, of course – I love our House system and the way it operates in our school – and so each tutor group will include people only in your House.

We will also be pulling a working party of students together to devise some lovely activities for you to enjoy with students in other year groups – not having tutor time with people doesn't have to mean other year groups become more detached from you. That's in our hands to prevent, and so if you'd like to be involved in this working party, with ideas, planning or creative skills, drop me a like at headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk – We would absolutely love to have your input.

On the subject of your brilliant student leadership of our school, Mrs Dossett and I have almost finished the **Head Boy and Girl interviews**, and your House Leaders will be working on appointing their senior teams in the next week or so, too. I would like to congratulate every single person we have interviewed so far, and pledge to you that your ideas for greatness in our school and to support each other and the local community will come to life, irrespective of whether you go on to become Head Girl, Boy, House Captain or Vice – your plans are superb, without exception. More on these ideas in the coming weeks.

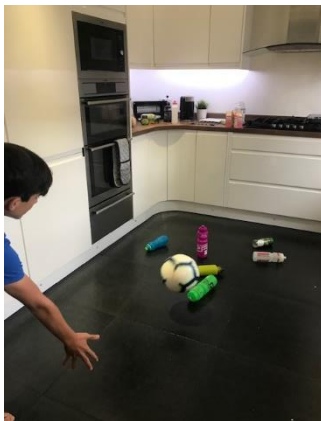
This last week has been no exception in terms of how hard you are all working at home even though we can't be together. Kamren has written to me quite a few times during lockdown, because he has worked so hard, and this piece is no exception – his bro did one of the coke bottles and he did the other, and Kamren felt his brother's one was better. Looking at them, I can't see one that's better than the other so I am going to say well done, both! It's not easy for any of you working round your brothers and sisters all the time, I know, and it's been so good to see how many of you have been able to make it work:



Ione wanted to share a picture of this delicious cake she made to support Pride Month. A beautiful cake, Ione, and good to see you thinking about being an ally for those in the LGBTQ community, at a time when there is so much upheaval in our world about things that we let divide us. You're setting a fantastic example about doing the small things to bring us together in symbolic ways that make a huge difference to us all:

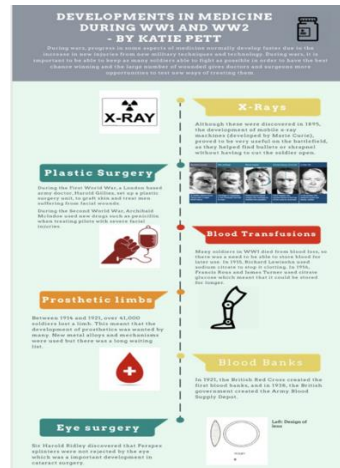
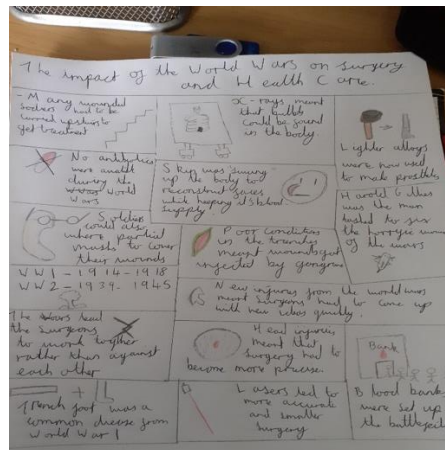


Aaron took part in lots of the Hampshire Game Activities through the PE Dept last week – he took part in some juggling, bowling and tightrope walking as well as completing the 1500m run. What a champ, Mr Shearsmith said, and we all agree with that.



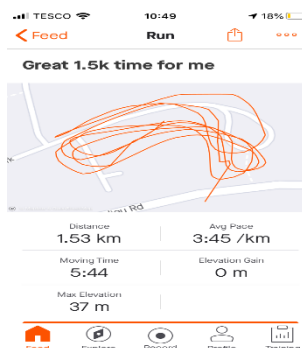
Erin has made us a superb film clip outlining the creation of our world story, as believed by those in the Hindu faith. It's important to read and listen to the stories important to all of us, what ever our belief, and that have been powerful in our world for centuries. Erin will remember the story so well herself by putting it together in this way, and so will you if you watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/428999935>

Katie and Archie are two first class Y10 historians – thank you for sharing their work with me so I can share it proudly with everyone, Miss Rawlinson:



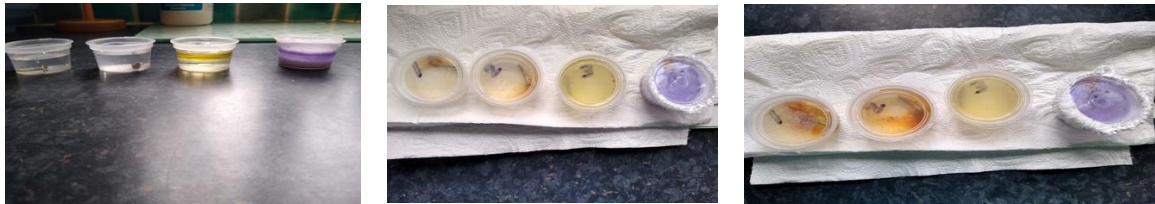
Their work looks at how medicine and surgery was impacted by war. It's so interesting to think about that, as we all reflect on how medicine is evolving and, we hope, advancing, in the best possible directions as we deal with this virus – humans have always managed, in crises, to make advances, even though the journey there is sometimes bumpy, as Archie and Katie note. We'll be studying this period in medicine we're in now in the future. What do you think we might be saying about it?

Robbie, one of our many top lockdown heroes, sent me another photo showing how much work he's ploughed his way through, and he's balancing that as best he can with staying active as you can see from the photo from his running:



Robbie leads the PE Strava club this week, whilst Max is the guy to have tried out the most activities, and our all-time leader to date is Filip on 4 hours 57 mins. Well done, lads!

Ryan gave a great go to the iron nails science experiment at home, watching the results over three days, and Mr Chilton was so impressed, he sent his photos on to Dr Fairless and me:



And it's been another bumper crop of Art, shared with me by Mr Wilkinson as usual – it cheers up my every week, guys, and it's such a pleasure to share it on with everyone:



More to come in the next letter, but for now it's a really huge well done to Ben, Rachel and Lucy for these fine pieces of work. I am ever so proud of your talent and creativity, and also the way you ALL maintain your commitment to this professional level of work through all the challenges of life and lockdown combined. Really well done.

I've got one competition to share with you in this letter, which came my way from Miss Harwood, one of our ELSAs. The Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) are reaching out to young people as they work to compile a **book of letters from lockdown**. If you wanted to share any aspect of your experiences through a letter (to your future self, to a loved one, to us at school, or just an open letter that shouts out something you want to share) why not join in? **The letters need to be 600 or less, and, if successful, your work will go in to a published book about this unique time in history.** If you're interested, you need to send your letter by October 10th 2020 to: spnt.hantscamhsinnovation@nhs.net and to me, of course, because I would love these and I have plans for a Noadswood 'Learning in Lockdown' publication,. So drop your letter to headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

I'm going to finish with an update about one of our **pets**, our Alice Cat, who loves nothing more than to come with us for our daily walk:



She's there to remind you to keep getting yourself active as the weeks tick by – lots of you have been working with us on the best type of schedule for your day to help you to feel good, and getting out and about will always help with that. If Alice can do it, maybe most of us can do it, because, believe me, she isn't an athlete. She's an eater and a sleeper who then springs to life with a sudden daily zeal for a walk, despite a fairly large cyst on her leg that needs draining (you know what it's like – jobs held up in lockdown!). So be more like Alice, interrupt your eating or those days where it all seems too hard with getting out in that fresh air!

Have as good a week as you can. I am so looking forward to seeing some of you, plus Mr Crowley, Mrs Loveday and I are going to be making a bit of a film (which I know I have been threatening to do for weeks now, so it's time the pain barrier is broken!) to share with you how much we're missing you and how things are shaping up at your school. Really can't wait to share it with you all.

Take best care, keep safe, and back with you soon,

Miss M