



School Goes Quiet...

Dear Parents and students,
Welcome to this end of term newsletter. It goes without saying that we would never have imagined we would be in the situation we are finding ourselves in, both on personal and educational levels. Since the school closure on 20th March the teaching staff have been doing their very best to manage the Distance Learning way of teaching. We must remember they were not trained for this and you as students

are certainly not used to this method of teaching and learning. We know you are also doing your best, we have seen some great work so very well done to you all. We know its not as easy for some of you and will take a little more time to get into a different routine.

We are using the Text Messaging service to keep you informed with any new developments and thank you for your responses to any requests we have made. Part of our work since 20th March has been to bring more information to you via the school's website. We are further developing

the Gallery area to showcase some of the students work and also an area where we can put some really interesting enrichment activities for students.

In this Newsletter we have included some articles on a few events from this last term. You will appreciate why it is a much smaller magazine than usual, but we hope you find it interesting.

*Mrs Godden,
Executive
Headteacher*

*Miss Thomas
Principal Deputy
Headteacher*





Year 11 Students' Leaving Day at Oldbury Wells

On Wednesday 18th March, students in Year 11 were told that their examinations had been cancelled and all schools would be closing on Friday 20th March. This was to have a dramatic impact on Year 11 students nationwide. All of the leavers events that had been promised to them looked like they would no longer happen. No prom, no leavers assembly, no shirt signing.

Following the government's decision to close schools, many schools across the country did not open to Year 11 on Thursday 19th March. Their school lives ended abruptly with no opportunity to say goodbye to their friends and teachers. At Oldbury Wells we decided to allow Year 11 students to have their last day on Friday 20th March. We had shirt signing and an impromptu leavers' assembly, so students had the chance to say goodbye to one another.

We have decided to hold our school prom later in the year when things return to normal. Ms Barlow, Student Support Worker, is also putting together the yearbook which is designed in-house at Oldbury Wells and has organised leavers' hoodies. Pictured are Year 11 students on their last day at Oldbury Wells.

Mrs Warner, Assistant Headteacher



Students Participate in Sports Relief

The challenge was set: 43 students, 12 hours of volleyball, all in aid of Sport Relief. To begin with the Sixth Form really played their part in this charity event by selling sport relief merchandise that ranged from headbands to socks for all the students and even for the staff to wear! Special credit to Harry Timmins in Sixth Form who took it upon himself to ask staff and students to sponsor him (even using Parents Evening as a bargaining tool). He managed to raise over £200 pounds himself. All of the students and staff involved had great fun themselves, as you can see from the photos that were taken from the day showing smiling faces.

Throughout the mammoth challenge, there was some very questionable music which kept all the spirits high, with a mini dance session breaking out every so often mid point! All that volleyball was hungry work so our standard chip run was required, which went down very well with the students. This also gave them the energy to see out the final few hours of play. Thank you to all the students and Sixth Form and staff who were involved in the day. It was a real success with the total amount raised still being counted, but showing we have smashed the £1,000 target set!

Mr Farish, Head of PE



Schools Donate PPE to the NHS

The BBC visited Oldbury Wells on the morning of Tuesday 31st March 2020. They came to find out all about our local campaign to help the NHS by providing personal protective equipment. Last week Mrs Godden, with the help of Mrs Morgan, Head of Science, donated some of our school's science goggles (new unused ones) to our local hospital. She found that the hospital was very grateful and staff were thankful for the vital eye protection to help them stay safe from coronavirus infection.

Other schools right across Shropshire got involved and worked together to supply vital safety equipment to the NHS. Around 500 pairs of safety specs have been distributed from ten schools. We are aware that the supply of Personal PPE for NHS and carer workers has been a problem for frontline staff caring for patients with coronavirus. We realised that secondary schools right across the country had safety goggles sitting in their science labs and tech workshops. We quickly donated ours to local hospitals where they went straight to staff. We are sure that if health and care providers are short of PPE, that approaching their local secondary schools could be a good solution.

On Wednesday 1st April, 200 pairs of school safety goggles were donated to Bridgnorth Hospital for their community care nursing team. The safety goggles in this case came from kind donations from William Brookes School, The Corbet School and The Grove School. Thomas Adams School has started making visors for their local GP practice! Schools who have contributed so far include: Church Stretton School, Concorde College, The Corbet School, The Grove School, Mary Webb School, Priory School, The Shrewsbury School and Thomas Adams School. Well done everyone!

Mrs Godden, Executive Headteacher



Mrs Godden getting ready to deliver 200 pairs of Oldbury Wells' safety specs to Bridgnorth Hospital.



Pictured is Hazel Gregory of Bridgnorth Hospital Walk-in Centre taking stock of the safety glasses.

Teaching and Distance Learning

We have recently undertaken a parental survey regarding distance learning. As you know, this is new ground for us all and getting the balance and workload right for us all is tricky. General comments from parents are positive and many parents have asked us to pass on thanks for the hard work and support your child's teachers are giving students at this difficult time. We thank you for this and hope over the coming weeks we will get better at managing children's education in this way! As for the students' work, we have been very impressed with you - we know this is not easy.

In due course we will start to "showcase" some of the project work students have done on the Gallery page of the website. Below is a modified approach we are taking to the distance learning work for the Spring Term.

After Easter we will trial the use of an independent study day – see the table below. On this (changing) day no work will be set for the year group. Students will have the opportunity to catch up, revisit areas, respond to feedback or simply take a break from looking at a screen all day. We will be in contact with you again for your feedback on this.

Mr Williams, Assistant Headteacher and Mr Wycherley, Deputy Headteacher

Independent Study Days					
Week Commencing	April 20 th	April 27 th	May 4 th	May 11 th	May 18 th
Monday	Year 7	Year 11, 12, 13	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8
Tuesday	Year 8	Year 7	Year 11, 12, 13	Year 10	Year 9
Wednesday	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7	Year 11, 12, 13	Year 10
Thursday	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7	Year 11, 12, 13
Friday	Year 11, 12, 13	Year 10	Year 9 BH	Year 8	Year 7



VE Day 2020 Tribute Cranes of Peace

Friday 8th May 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and there are events up and down the country that have been cancelled. To make up for it, we would like to put together our own tribute on our school website. We invite you and your families to make a paper crane and email a photograph of it to me. Students will receive more details about this activity via Show My Homework over Easter, including instructions on how to fold a paper crane.

At the end of World War II, origami cranes came to symbolise peace, reflection and unity. A fitting symbol for our current time as well as a tribute to the soldiers of the war. The photos will then be collated for display on our school website in time for 8th May so that everyone can see the Oldbury Wells online tribute to VE Day. I'll look forward to hopefully seeing lots of origami cranes flying my way soon.

Mr Grainger, Head of Humanities



I WILL WRITE PEACE ON YOUR WINGS
AND YOU WILL FLY ALL OVER THE WORLD.
SADAKO SASAKI

“Hands On” Easter Art Project

Draw your hand to say ‘Hello!’ Mark Wallinger is a Turner prize-winning artist whose work *One World* features a satellite photo of the world on a football. As part of a new project launched recently by Firstsite Gallery in Colchester, he hopes that people at home up and down the country will draw around their own hand, add in decorative details and then display it in their windows to create a nationwide wave. He said he was inspired by prehistoric cave painters who used their hands as stencils. He says, “The idea is that it becomes a gesture of contact. To wave at someone is a thing we all learned to do early on.”

Mrs Wycherley will send students details of the project via Show My Homework over Easter. In the meantime, here are some ideas to inspire you. You could fill your hand template with patterns inspired by the art of Zentangle or you could create an Aboriginal dot painting inspired hand. You could design a thank you to the NHS or base your design on the work of your favourite artist or designer. The possibilities are endless! The main thing is to use your imagination and have fun creating your design. Once finished, put your hand drawing in your window, at home take a photo of just the picture and email it to Mrs Wycherley who will arrange for your creations to be displayed in the Gallery section of our school website.

Mrs Wycherley, Head of Art

