



Wolstanton
High School

WOLSTANTON HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT BULLETIN 2: Tuesday 31st March 2020

In these unprecedented times, we know how important it is for us all to keep in touch. Rather than sending out letters, we will be sending out our Parent Bulletin regularly to help keep you fully informed.

SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE:

Thank you very much to all parents! Those who can are keeping children at home, and those who need us are sending children every day. We really value your support which enables the majority of our staff to work from home safely.

Staff are busy providing materials and lessons for students not in school. We are also using the time to review our curriculum offer for next academic year: usually a job done in the summer term!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help you.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL INFORMATION for Free School Meals Families:

FSM families will be sent an electronic voucher to support with purchase of food every week ... see page 2 for more information.

STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE NHS

save lives

You should only send your child to school on Monday if you have to, because your work is critical to our COVID-19 response.

If you are able to keep your child at home, you should.



Safeguarding ideas for parents

To support children with anxiety over the COVID19 outbreak:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Talking%20to%20a%20child%20worried%20about%20coronavirus%20%28COVID-19%29&utm_campaign=CASPAR-2019-03-30

Keeping children safe online: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Our safeguarding helpline is available to answer any questions or to listen to your concerns. Open school days 08:30-15:00 – email: Safeguarding@wolstanton.shaw-education.org.uk

Screen Time Healthy Balance: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/screen-time-and-healthy-balance-quick-activities>

THANK YOU! Thank you to all parents for responding to our “Safe & Well Checks, this is really important in helping us to fulfil our safeguarding requirements. Our sincere apologies to any parents who responded but the email did not register on our system, thank you for your patience, this should now be resolved. Our staff are very appreciative of the lovely messages many parents have sent in return, it really does make a huge difference to us! Thank you!

Ideas for keeping children engaged!

<https://storytimefromspace.com/> For younger children, listen to a story about space read by a real-life astronaut on the International Space Station!

<https://www.roalddahl.com/things-to-do-indoors> Roald Dahl website with activities

<https://www.freeusandworldmaps.com/html/Countries/Europe%20Countries/UnitedKingdomPrint.html> free printable blank maps – test your knowledge

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/> The Great Indoors - activities

FSM e-vouchers

Does your child usually receive a free school meal?

During these difficult times, Shaw Education Trust will be providing parents/carers with a £20 food voucher per week for any students that are eligible for free school meals and who are not currently in attendance at one of our schools or school hubs.

We have identified those who are eligible and will distribute the vouchers on a weekly basis via email, starting Friday 27th March. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and you have not yet received your voucher please let us know asap.

For more information, please contact the school directly or visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance

Scam around Free School Meals

*Some Schools have already reported that parents and carers of children in receipt of free school meals are being targeted by fraudsters. Fraudsters are targeting families, emailing parents and carers with messages such as 'If your child is entitled to free school meals send your bank details to the school and they will help with funding while the school is closed'. The email contains links for the parents to follow if they want to receive the this funding – **these links are fake**. This is a scam. Please share this information with parents and carers to make them aware of this scam.*

LATEST ON EXAMS: A letter from Mr Charlesworth, Head of Year 11

I am aware that there is some anxiety around what is happening with the summer exams being cancelled. As it stands, exam boards will be asking teachers to submit grades on what we believe the students would achieve if they had sat the exam in the summer. They will then use this data, combined with other calculations to generate a grade for each student in each of their subjects. Therefore, students need to keep working and revising. Most staff have set work for these students on SENECA/MyMath etcs, but also they need to make use of their exercise books and continue using their revision packs to maximise their learning. If your child wishes to challenge the grade by the exam board, they will have the opportunity to sit the exam at some point to yet be confirmed. Therefore, it is a priority that their learning gap does not widen and they keep focussed with their studies over the next few months.

College Places: *We have had communication from Newcastle College, Stoke College and Stoke Sixth Form. All of these have cancelled any planned transition events over the next few months. Any student still waiting for their interview will receive a telephone interview and then the offer of a place will be shared. All students who have been offered a place will start in September 2020. The colleges will keep in touch with individuals regarding enrolment and other preparations.*

Not Yet Applied: *The application process is still open for all establishments; we advise students to engage with this process as a matter of urgency.*

I would like to thank all parents and students for their hard work over the last five years and their continued hard work for the next few months. It has been an absolute pleasure to have been your child's Head of Year. We have managed to instil such a hardworking and passionate attitude to learning in this group where I can only see amazing things for their future. None of us could have contemplated this national crisis ever happening. It is unfair that the students have been robbed of these last few months at school, the chance to sit their exams, celebrate, and reap the benefits of sitting them on results day. It is important for the students that they get a true celebration of their success here at Wolstanton High School and that we give them the closure that they will ultimately need to move on to the next stage of the life. Please be assured I will contact you when further details are known.

Mr Charlesworth

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-update-on-2020-exams>



Year 11 Prom

We are looking to postpone prom to a later date and looking to put in a celebration assembly that everyone can attend once we reach the other end of the pandemic. Watch this space ... our Year 11 will get the send-off they deserve!

Year 11 Leavers' Hoody

Look out for an email from Mr Charlesworth regarding buying Leavers' Hoody.

The cost of this is £20.50p, or £24.50p if you want to personalise it with their name!