

# THE LINK

Edition 19. 5th February 2021



Dear Parents / Carers,

I am sure that many of you would have been following the news and will be aware of the Prime Minister's latest statement regarding school closures, but for those of you who may not be aware, I have summarised the detail below:

The earliest schools might 'begin to re-open' will be Monday 8th March, which is the start of the third school week after the half-term holiday;

When the decision to return has been made, schools will get two weeks' notice of this.

At this stage, we do not know whether there will be a gradual return of different year groups to school, all students returning at the same time or a rota of year groups returning. More detail from the Department for Education (DfE) is expected soon.

However, a note to all parents; it is likely that when the school does have a date to re-open to students that we will offer your chid the opportunity to have a Lateral Flow Test in the fortnight before. This is in line with the mass Lateral Flow Testing programme, which was planned to take place at the start of the Spring Term. This will allow us to help to identify any asymptomatic cases of Covid-19 and therefore, reduce the chance of infection spreading. I will be sending a letter to parents/carers about this soon, with a link to the testing consent form (sorry - another form to fill in, but very important).

So, we have at least three more school weeks of distance learning under the current arrangements. Thank you for your responses to the Distance Learning Survey recently sent out. Please look out for a letter from Dr Wood & Mr Bird next week with some initial changes we are making based on your feedback and some general distance learning updates. Where parents/carers have requested that someone contact them, we will endeavour to do so as soon as possible.

#### GCSE Grading

Parents of Year 11 and students themselves will, of course, be wondering how we will be assessing and awarding grades this summer. We still do not know what will be expected of us, as the Ofqual / DFE consultation outcome and decision has not been shared with schools. However, here are a few standard things we can confidently say:

 We are still waiting to hear specific guidance from the DFE on how we should approach teacher assessed grades. This year may well be different than last year.

- 2. When pupils return to school all subjects plan to do further assessments to gather more data to be able to accurately award grades at the end of summer term. Year 11 students should therefore expect to sit their 'mock exams' in the majority of their subjects (due to have taken place after Christmas).
- 3. Results / grades achieved or estimated prior to Christmas will contribute to a wider picture of information, they will not be used in isolation.
- 4. There is clear guidance from DfE and Ofqual that the best thing students can do is engage fully with their learning in lockdown as this will put them in the best position moving forward.

#### **Year 9 Pathways**

For students in Year 9, the Pathways process would normally be starting after half term, with various in-school activities to help us create the best Pathways offer, to ensure the possible best fit for all students in the year group. We still plan to do this, but it will largely be through remote / electronic means. Dr Wood will be writing to Year 9 parents/carers & students shortly to inform them of the plan.

As we approach the final week before February half term, may I remind you that the DfE has confirmed that schools will close as usual, over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week. Students who have permission to attend within these groups should return to school on Monday 22nd February.

With best wishes for a good weekend

John Parr Headteacher

## Keeping In Touch! Weekly Tutor Catch Up

We would like to provide students with as many options as possible to keep in touch with school. Therefore, we have introduced a weekly tutor catch up which will take place every Wednesday at 8.45-855am on Teams. This will be in addition to the weekly email they also receive from their tutor.

## Distance learning update



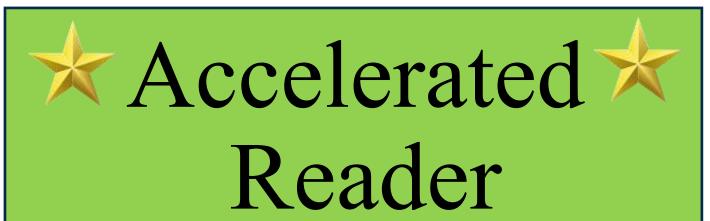
Technology is a wonderful thing when it works! Please accept my apologies for the disruption to our live lessons on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February, it was an issue that was outside of our control and was corrected as soon as possible by our IT support partners at Telford and Wrekin. After nearly 5 weeks of problem free use of Teams it was a reminder, if it were needed, that there is no substitute for face-to-face teaching and learning! Staff and students showed high levels of resilience in the face of these unexpected issues and we hope that it was just a blip and everything will run problem free for the remainder of the lockdown period.

On a much more positive note, Churches Together in the Strettons have continued with their fund-raising drive over the last week to help the school raise funds to purchase devices to support all of our learners. They set the ambitious target of raising enough money to allow us to purchase a further 38 Chromebook devices, amazingly they had exceeded this target by the weekend and gave me the fantastic news on Sunday evening. We are absolutely bowled over by the generosity of the members of the churches who have donated to this cause and we will be forever grateful for this fantastic donation, which will ensure the school can help all students access live lessons now and into the future. While we hope that we will not need to make use of the devices as a result of further lockdowns, it is reassuring to know that we are now in the position to support every student from day one if the need arises. We will be making full use of the devices when we return to face-to-face learning to support lessons, so the donation will benefit every student at Church Stretton School regardless of what the future holds. I would like to pay particular thanks to Suzanne Orian who made the initial contact with the school to find out if we were in need of support, she was the catalyst for this amazing donation. Thanks also to Dave Hewetson from the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, who donated money to purchase 2 devices, and who raised our situation with Deacon Ron Ball at Shrewsbury Cathedral, who in turn contacted Father Jonathan Mitchell at the Catholic church in Church Stretton. Father Jonathan got together with the other churches in the Strettons to see what they could do between them, which turned to be a huge amount! Many thanks for everyone who has donated, this.

We have received a number of donations from parents and carers via our ParentPay donation scheme, thank you to those who have made donations, and this remains open for further voluntary donations. In last week's Link Mr Parr made a request for donations of IT equipment that Mr Morgan could repurpose and he has been able to make good use of all the items we have received so far. The latest donation was of four laptops from Morris Lubricants and Morris Leisure, which we are incredibly grateful for. As we are purchasing new devices, we are finding that lots of companies are offering discounts for trading in old devices, even if they are no longer functioning and all we have to supply is the serial number of the device. If you have an old device that is not in good working order, we will happily recycle it for you and then use the serial number against one of the available discounts or alternatively you could send the serial number and model information to admin@csschool.co.uk.

I shared a distance learning survey with you via an InTouch message earlier this week, many thanks to those of you who have found the time to complete this, we have already started to look at your feedback and are planning how to act upon it. If you haven't yet had the chance to complete the survey and would like to please do so by following this <u>link</u>, the deadline for doing so is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. In light of the changing features of Teams we have updated the acceptable use guidance for parents and students, I would be grateful if you could read and accept the guidance by following this <u>link</u>.

Many thanks for your continued support of the school during these difficult times and particularly, for your patience with the trials and tribulations of home learning!



Once again well done to the following students for reaching their targets.

## Year 7

Alex Costa-Veiga

**Cerys Hope** 

**Molly Jeffries** 

**Emily Kirkwood** 

Year 8

**Euan France** 

Isla Skelly

Year 9

Finn Feeney

**Beth Hunter** 

Annabelle Kirkwood

Amelie Northwood.

I know it is harder without our wonderful library but if you can find books at home or online then it is important to keep reading and quizzing from home. To help out, most local libraries are offering a Ready Reads Click and Collect Service. You can follow this link to an Online Form. (Craven Arms library not included I'm afraid).

https://shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/ready-reads-collect/

Remember to do AR quizzes at home, you must use the Link that is on Go4Schools or on the School Website. Happy Reading.



Congratulations to last week's winners

Student: Aidann Dales Staff: Miss Sollars

When we return to the school building prizes will be distributed.

## **Snowy Garden Writing**



I stepped out of my old, brick house that had been blanketed with crisp, white snow and stepped onto the soft snow outside, stomping my feet to hear the crunching of the ice-cold snow beneath me. I walked through endless trees, leaving a perfect print of footsteps behind me in the smooth, perfect snow that hadn't been touched. I looked up and miniscule droplets of snow landed on my tongue, then melted quicker than a blink.

The fierce wind shook the trees causing it to rain a mix of ice and snow on my head. Pretty, little snowdrops peeked through snow covered grass filling my nose with a beautiful aroma as a knelt down to have a look. A chilling snowflake landed on my nose turning my nose pink from its coldness. My snowman smiled back at me as I lay in the soft, crackling snow before I go inside leaving the print of an angel. Winter may be cold . . . But it makes ME feel warm.

### **Mia Sandwith**

Carefully I took a step forward and my foot slowly sunk down into a white abyss. It was a wonderful, winter wonderland, full of the joy and happiness that snow brings. The garden was completely transformed from the boring back garden it had been before. To my left, stood an old oak tree, its branches covered in a soft white powder. Snow.

Snowflakes were covering the entire garden: the bench the bird feeder and all of the bushes, hiding all of the imperfections with a luminous white substance. My fingers slowly grew numb from the harsh polar temperature and I longed to return to the snug house, but my mind wanted to stay outside so I could scrunch up the snow to create snowballs and so I could make a family of snowmen. It was as cold as ice. The sky was not its usual blue but a light grey colour with sprinkles of perfect white.

Slowly the snowflakes came to a halt and the clouds cleared to reveal the glowing sun. The serenity was almost immediately broken as a large snowball came flying towards my face.

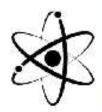
#### **Emily Kirkwood**

The snow danced in the sunlight, resting on the park bench as if it were a blanket, soft and cosy. The rich deep green was hidden by the glistening powder, leaving no traces of the season before. I blinked, breathing in the fresh winter air as the frost softly kissed my face. The snow clung to my eyelashes as if we were one.

*Crunch.* The sounds escaped from under my boots leaving behind a trail of my lonely footprints. I smiled at the white scene in front of me, it made the summer sprout on the inside and winter lie on the outside. The snow seeped through my clothes, leaving behind its cold chill, but I had no care. It was as if my mind was frozen.

#### **Emma Burke**

# SCIENCE



Remote learning hasn't stopped the inquisitive students at Church Stretton from investigating the world around them. Here are some examples of the Science experiments that have supported the live lessons allowing students to perform experiments in the comfort of their own home.

## **Enzymes in Action?**

Year 8 Students studying digestion and the digestive system were able to see first hand the role that enzymes play in breaking down large food molecules into smaller molecules. Chewing on a piece of bread for a few minutes should taste sweet, once the enzymes have worked their magic!



How many students extracted DNA? Strawberries, kiwi and peas were the suggestions but other fruits and vegetables could have

been used. Year 10 students can do so by following the stages outlined in their Class notebook. It would be great to see your results!





## **How Fast? Typical Speeds**

Some Year 9 students have been encouraged to monitor the speed of cars moving down their street or calculate their

CREATING RAINBOWS

We've all done it! Year 7 are in the mix of it looking at refraction in class, Students could simply achieve a rainbow

using a hose on a sunny day - I said sunny, not necessarily



typical walking, running and jogging speed. Timing an object moving a known distance is all you need.

## What's your range of hearing?

Year 7 Students have been able to determine their range of hearing using the online frequency generator.

The human range of hearing is 20-20,000HZ.

How did you fair?

20 - 20,000Hz

## Diffusion

warm

Year 7 have been observing diffusion using food colouring. This activity came with a disclaimer; check with an adult at home before you have a go!



## Are you drinking enough water?

Over the next few days, Year 11 students will be observing the colour of their urine. 70% of the human body is water and its salt and water balance is essential to prevent too much water from entering or leaving body cells.



Remote Learning

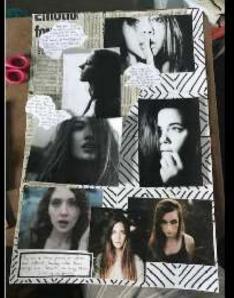


# Lock down masterpieces

**Bonnie Innes** 

Year 8

Delaunuay inspired drawing.



Morgan Emeny

Year 10

Artist research,

Mike Monaghan



Elena Morton

Year 10

Artist research,

David Lazarr

# Lock down masterpieces

Bella Atherton

Year 8

Delaunuay inspired drawing.





Finn Feeney

Year 9

William Morris study

Will Doley

Year 8

Delaunuay inspired drawing









## Winners and nominees for this week are listed below....

Lily Whitfield-Turner Nominated by Mrs Outram for excellent contributions in online lessons.

Finn Feeney - Nominated by Mr Basnett for brilliant ideas and a willingness to share with the rest of the group and Miss Clift for always being on task and enthusiastically joining all online lessons .

Lilly Brown - Nominated by Mr Charles for fantastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online assessments.

Wilfred Turner Nominated Miss Clift for enthusiastically joining all lessons and keeping year 8/9 laughing.

## Back to Key Stage 4 again next week



#### This week's nominations:

Miss Clift	Finn Feeney	Always being on task and enthusiastically joining all online lessons			
Miss Clift	Wilfred Turner	Enthusiastically joining all lessons and keeping year 8/9 laughing			
Mrs Outram	Charlie Warburton	Excellent contributions in online lessons			
Mrs Outram	Lily Whitfield-Turner	Excellent contributions to online lessons			
Mr Charles	Lilly Brown	Fantastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online assessments.			
Mr Charles	Charlie Morris	Fantastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online assessments.			
Mr Charles	Lily Atkin	antastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online ssessments.			
Mr Charles	Matilda Booth-Gillett	Fantastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online assessments.			
Mr Charles	Adnan Khalid	Fantastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online assessments.			
Mr Charles	Charlotte Hale	antastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online ssessments.			
Mr Charles	Max Hallam	Fantastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online assessments.			
Mr Charles	Melisa Karakulah	Fantastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online assessments.			
Mr Charles	Charlie Lewis-Williams	Fantastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online assessments.			
Mr Charles	Rhys Page	Fantastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online assessments.			
Mr Charles	Seth Richards	Fantastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online assessments.			
Mr Charles	Lawson Wyatt	Fantastic work during online lessons and consistently excellent online assessments.			
Mr Basnett	Isobel Devey	Brilliant ideas and a willingness to share the rest of the group.			
Mr Basnett	Finn Feeney	Brilliant ideas and a willingness to share with the rest of the group.			

Please find below some resources and signposting to help safeguard our young people and their mental health during these unusual times.

## Self-Care & Mental Health

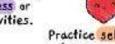




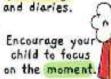




Focus on articulating feelings. I am angry." Set aside time for low-stress or solo activities.



Practice self-care for yourself to set the standard.



Encourage

journaling

Establish a self-care routine.

Recognize toxic stress events.

Cultivate interests and hobbies.

#### TYPES OF SELF-CARE HYSICAL EMOTIONA Time alone Stress Boundaries Sleep managment Meditation Stretching apport systems Emotional Yoga Pasitive social media Walking maturity. Connection hysical release Forgiveness Communication Nature Healthy food Journaling Compassion Time together Yoga Kindress Auk for help Sacred space Reat

## Here to help:

Key stage 3 (Years 7,8 & 9 )

Mr Wright

philip.wright@csschool.co.uk

Key stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)
Safeguarding - Mr Longhurst
martyn.longhurst@csschool.co.uk

SEND and Inclusion

Mrs Quye
su.quye@csschool.co.uk

Online Learning - Mr Bird daniel.bird@csschool.co.uk

Stay Safe. Mrs Quye



A list of websites & apps that are helpful for managing mental health

## **NHS Every Mind Matters**

www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters

This website offers a range of mental health advice as well as an interactive quiz that's designed to help you feel more in control of your emotional/mental wellbeing.

### Kooth

www.kooth.com

This site contains free mental health support with their online counsellors. It is a free sign up service that has resources such as discussion boards, helpful tips/articles written by young people and an option for them to write mood journals & set positive goals.

## Childline

www.childline.org.uk

A mental health charity for children & young people that has a wide variety of helpful videos, games and articles. They have a free telephone helpline (0800 1111) and message boards where young people are encouraged to share experiences and support each other in a positive way.

## Papyrus

www.papyrus-uk.org

A mental health charity dedicated to preventing young suicide by providing support and resources for young people and their families. They have their "Hopeline" (Call: 0800 068 4141 / Text: 078600 39967 / Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org) for children and young people who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, or for anyone concerned for a young person that could be thinking about suicide.

## **Calm Harm**

An app to help teenagers manage/resist the urge to self harm by providing a wide range of distraction techniques.

## Combined Minds

This app contains psycho-education for parents, families & friends with practical advice on how to provide mental health support to children & young people.

## Cove

A relaying musical app that helps people try to capture their mood and express it by making music within the program and capturing it in a journal format. Note: you do not need to know how to play an instrument to use this app.

## Stem4

www.stem4.org.uk

A charity that promotes positive mental health in teenagers as well as encouraging them to build resilience and manage difficult emotions via online resources.

## YoungMinds

www.youngminds.org.uk

A mental health charity that gives help and advice for young people, as well as encouraging them to get involved in fundraising/campaigning to raise awareness for children & young people's mental health.

## Samaritans

www.samaritans.org

A charity that offers mental health support & information online for everyone. Their helpline is free and available to all ages. Call 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org 24/7.

## **Child Bereavement UK**

www.childbereavementuk.org/young-people

A site which has resources for young people who are grieving, as well as providing information & advice to families/professionals on how to best support a young person who is bereaved. A helpline is also available on 0800 028840.

## Clear Fear

An app to help children & teenagers manage anxiety through distraction & helpful activities.

#### Calm

A mindfulness app that includes various relaxing sounds to listen to as well as "sleep stories" & some guided meditations.

## Headspace

A mindfulness app that has more of a "podcast feel" to it with various talks, guided meditations and helpful videos available.



## National Apprenticeship Week February 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Febraury 2021

Apprenticeship opportunities are growing, not just in the traditional trades and occupations but also with Multi-National companies and professions such as lawyer and Police officer

Nest week Is National Apprenticeship Week and lots of different organisations have prepared workshops and presentations with different companies to show young people and parents the different careers and professions that can now be started with an apprenticeship

More information can be found on Start Profile, the careers website the school uses to find about apprenticeships:



Start - Workbook - Module (startprofile.com)

The following events are on next week

SIMPLY CLICK ON IT TO

REGISTER FOR THE EVENT.

ASK Apprenticeships have worked with the school before and are putting on lots of virtual events for students and parents. Below is a programme of events. I have sent out a PDF version to students and parents which allows you to click on the event and register for it.

	Monday 8th Launch Day	Tuesday 9th ASK an Employer	Wednesday 10th YAAN Day		Friday 12th Graduation Day	Saturday 13th Parents and Carers D
9 am - 10 am					Registration Workshop with Donna Drian	Presentation and Registration/Employability Salls Wartshop
10 am - 11 am					9:30 am - 10:20 am	9:30 am - 10:30 am
11 am - 12 pm		The Big Assembly 11:10 am - 11:30 am			Strengths Workshop with Navjoyt Kaur 10:30 am - 11:30 am Boost your Employability with Navoyt Kinz	
	Apprenticeship Awareness Presentation with Donne Dean					
12 pm - 1 pm	11:30 am - 12:30 am				11:30 am - 12:30 pm	
		Employer Workshop with JCB Combuction				Presentation and Registration/Employability Skills Workshop
1pm+2pm		12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	APRIO Financial Services Audit Apprenticables and Standar Kno	The Open University Apprenticeships with Grace Duffald		mith Margoyt Kasa 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
			fpm+t45pm	1 pm + 645 pm		
2 pm - 3 pm	Apprenticeship Awareness Presentation with Daniel Hirch 2 pm - 3 pm		JCB with Mind 2 pm - 2:46 pm	Brote Phrosing Assistant Approximation with Alexander 2 pm + 2 of 8 pm		Preentation and Registration/Employed/Eng SAIBs Workshop with Tire Potel 2 pm + 2 gm
3 pm - 4 pm		Employer Workshop with Autify Organi 3 pm - 4 pm	MHS Apprenticeships with Daniel Birch 3 pm - 3:45 pm pm		Continuous Personal Development for Teachers with Tina Potel 3 pm - 3:45 pm	
Evening Events	Parents Awareness Presentation with Tine Poses A Superior species experior to the second of the seco	Employer Workshop with Geding Barough Council - Apprenticability Services 6 pm - 7 pm				

pprenticeships





Young Professionals have a series of talks after school on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February. See details (left) to register and the timetable above)

Our Colleagues at School Support DWP also have a series of Twitter events across the week If you have any further questions please contact me via email <a href="mailto:lee.overton@csschool.co.uk">lee.overton@csschool.co.uk</a> You can follow the week on Twitter, see the school page for links.





Church Stretton School Shrewsbury Road Church Stretton Shropshire SY6 6EX Tel No: 01694 722209



Vacancy for a Part Time School Minibus Driver

Email: admin@csschool.co.uk

Start Date: 19th April 2021

Salary: Grade 4 SCP, £9.81 per hour (£18,933 per annum pro rata to hours worked)

15 hours per week

Term time only, 5 days a week

Fixed Term contract to 31st August 2021 in the first instance

The Trustees of the Academy wish to appoint a part-time, enthusiastic and committed individual, with relevant experience, to the post of school minibus driver.

The successful applicant must have experience of driving a minibus and hold a clean and valid driving licence D1 unrestricted or a PCV licence or D1 restricted care licence obtained prior to 01/01/97.

The post will be for 15 hours per week during term time only and although the hours may be flexible, the usual hours each day will be:- 7.30am-9.00am and 3.15pm-4.45pm

The successful candidate's main duties will be:

- Driving the academy minibus which includes educational visits, sports fixtures and home visits.
- Responsible for the health and safety, comfort and welfare of students and staff.
- Carrying out daily vehicle checks and basic maintenance (checking oil levels etc.)
- Reporting any vehicle defects, faults, incidents and accidents to the Site Manager.
- Ensuring the vehicle is in a clean and roadworthy condition before and after use.
- Refuelling the vehicles as required;
- Working within health and safety guidelines and other guidelines that may be issued from time-to-time.
- Attending any relevant training courses as identified and agreed.

Previous experience of working with children/young people is not essential but would be desirable. Applicants must have excellent communication skills and the ability to remain calm under pressure and have a good knowledge of the local area and be competent in basic vehicle checks and maintenance.

#### How to apply:

If you feel you have the qualities to complement our existing team then we would love to hear from you. Please note CVs will not be accepted. An application form is available on our website <a href="https://www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk">www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk</a>. Completed application forms should be returned to Mrs C Floyd at the school or by email to admin@csschool.co.uk by the closing date below.

The appointment is subject to satisfactory pre-employment clearances including references, medical clearance, and an enhanced DBS Disclosure under the "Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974". Further details regarding this check are available by visiting <a href="https://www.dbs.gov.uk">www.dbs.gov.uk</a>. This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

"The ability to communicate at ease with stakeholders and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post."

Closing date: 9 am on Monday 22nd February 2021

Interviews: Interviews will be scheduled w/c 1\* March 2021



On ine course for residents of Shropshire

## 'Understanding your brain (for teenagers only!)'

- Have you noticed changes in your behaviour?
- Do you sleep more than you used to?
- · Want to know why teenagers are more open-minded?



Your brain is changing! Fine out more!



Register on: www.inourplace.co.uk

and enter the 'access code'

INDERSTANDING YOUR CHLD

For technical support contac:: solihull.approach@heartofengland.nhs.uk or call 0121 296 4448 Mor - Fri, 9am - 5pm

DARWIN18

to gain FREE (prepaid) access where eligible



ONLINE course for residents of SHROPSHIRE Register Online and gain

FREE (prepaid) access\*

whom eligible

Part of the Solihull Approach series

14 Modules Available 24/7

Go to:

www.tnourplace.co.uk and enter the access code

## DARWIN18

To return to the course(s), go to www.inourplace.co.uk and sign in

For technical support contact solihull.approach@heartofengland.nhs.uk or 0121 296 4448 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm



Understanding your child with additional needs

www.solthullagoroachparenting.com

Solthul Approach www.inourplace.co.uk

or everyone around the child: Mums, Dads, Grandparents, friends and relations 50 SolthullAproach (Nt. 1 y)