

Friday 5th June 2020

Dear parents, carers and students,

Welcome to our first edition of The Link since we have been closed due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. May I begin by saying thank you for your understanding during this challenging time and the messages of thanks for the things we are getting right, which are much appreciated. Whilst I have tried to keep you as updated as possible, through letters and emails about how school is responding to the changing Government guidance, I understand that many of you have missed the 'normality' of Friday's edition of The Link. We will try, therefore, to now maintain the weekly service accordingly.

Currently, we are working hard to prepare for the return of Year 10 students to school, with recent communication from Mr Longhurst explaining how the first step will be taken in week commencing 15th June. Thank you to parents and carers for your understanding as we take this first tentative step, with the safety of all as our priority. Following this, we will publish an adapted timetable for Year 10 for the remainder of the summer term, to offer an increased amount of face to face time with teachers. There will be much more detail associated with return to school that will be sent to Year 10 before their return, so that all know how to stay safe. Please do look out for this soon Year 10, as whilst there are so many things to do to ensure that you and staff are safe, we are really looking forward to seeing you again!

Whilst not in school, Year 10 students along with years 7-9 will continue with remote work set through Go4Schools. Thank you for supporting this and for the numerous messages of support and thanks, which have been passed to staff accordingly. We are, though, aware of some frustrations regarding why school staff have not provided 'live streamed' lessons to students. Despite problems including physical access to reliable and robust technical kit (for staff and students), unreliable connections and the absolute priority to ensure safety for all, please trust that we are trying hard to get things right. We have already spent significant time trialling such an approach, using Microsoft Teams, which offers a secure system to suit the need along with students also already having a suitable school email account, making inviting class groups to a lesson more straightforward.

However in all cases, whilst we have learned something new and constructive, we have encountered many technical difficulties. We are determined not to be beaten and will do our best to reach a point where we are able to supplement Go4Schools work with some live or recorded learning. Please see the article from Dr Wood, who has been coordinating the work on this to date for further information.

Our preparations for students returning involve some changes to the school site. We have a full deep clean of the school buildings taking place throughout next week. We will then be providing trays for staff use in classrooms, with antibacterial spray and wipes. Toilets for students will be prepared so that doorways from the corridor will be permanently open, to reduce hand contact with door handles / push plates (please don't worry - student toilet cubicles are not visible). We are re-configuring classrooms to try to spread a reduced number of desks, as far apart as possible. Furthermore, we are liaising with school transport, who will only be able to transport 25% of their capacity on each vehicle; marking social distancing lines on the external paths or using tape to do so in corridors and classrooms; setting up one-way systems to support safe movement around school; displaying social distancing signage; trying hard to have wall dispensers for hand gel fitted; installing retractable barriers to zone off areas of school and ensuring bins with lids are available around site and in each classroom for 'catch it- bin it-kill it' purposes, to name just a few of our efforts. I must at this point thank our Site Manager, Mr Coleman and Assistant Site Manager, Mr Brayne for their continued hard work to prepare - thank you!



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Finally this week, some news of staffing changes. Firstly, we are saying farewell at the end of summer term to Ms Kitson, who has made the decision to retire at the end of this year. Now isn't the time to say any more (I will say more!), but I think that we'd all like to say that Ms Kitson will be very much missed. We hope that we find some time when we can say farewell as a staff together.

Secondly, we say congratulations to Mr Ward, who has gained a promoted position as SENCo and member of the senior leadership team in another secondary school in Telford. With a heavy heart therefore, Mr Ward will be leaving us, but we are very pleased that his new school has agreed to allow him to remain with us until October half term 2020....phew! So - more also at a later date about Mr Ward, but I am sure that you would like to join me in saying well done!

For now, have a good weekend and stay safe.

Best wishes
John Parr
Headteacher

PREFECTS

Just before the Easter holidays I emailed all year 10 students giving them the opportunity to apply to be a prefect. It is an important role within school and students needed to write an application explaining why they believed they would make a good prefect. I am pleased to say that 44 students emailed me applications and I believe that we have the makings of a great prefect team for next academic year!

Mr Longhurst

Virtual Choir



During Lockdown, Mr Mould has setup a virtual choir. Students from many year groups and even some staff have been taking part. They have released two recordings which are available to listen to via the school web site. Please take a look, the page will be up dated with new recordings as they are completed. The recordings can be found on our website under Students\ Virtual Choir or by using the direct link below.

<http://www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk/virtual-choir#>

Student Journalism Success.....

Huge congratulations to our budding journalist Lucy Poole. After deciding to explore the idea of student journalism Lucy decided to submit an article to the **'Love Shrewsbury' publication**. Much to her delight they chose to publish her **article all about "Teenage life under lockdown"**. You can read the full article using the link below.

<https://www.loveshrewsbury.com/pete-white/teenage-life-under-lockdown>



Teenage life under lockdown
Love Shrewsbury This is a guest article by Church Stretton student, Lucy Poole. For many people, myself included, 2020 was going to be 'the year' where I went out with my friends more often, the year where I am going to turn 16, the year that was supposed to be full of a lot of fun.



Online Learning

- An update

Thank you to those who wrote in to tell us about Microsoft Teams as a platform for delivering video sessions. We have in fact been using Teams in school amongst staff since the lockdown started in March, although we had not used it at all before then. The plan has always been to deliver some sessions by video, but not in an ad-hoc manner or with little thought for the medium to long term planning. As the situation has developed it has become more obvious that some of the changes we needed to make will become longer term gains for our school and will help us to deliver not only video sessions now, but a smarter way of working beyond this dreadful predicament we find ourselves in.

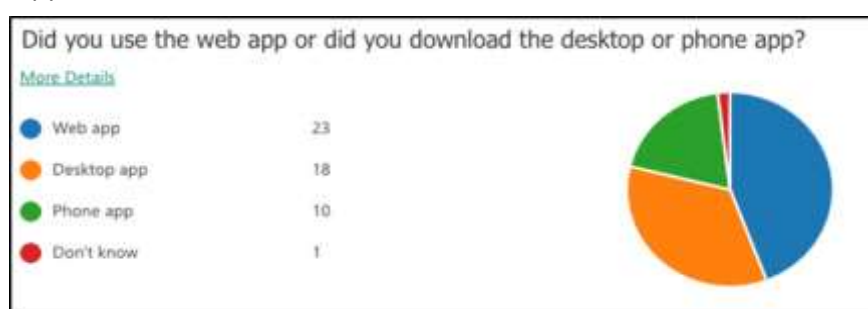
It is a steep learning curve and we have overcome a large number of obstacles so far to get to the point where MS Teams is functioning relatively well for staff meetings and has enabled us to offer a consistent approach to altering the curriculum and, not least, in arriving at the most efficient way to support home learning for a sustained period of time. Working, and managing, remotely was new to all and arrived almost without warning. On top of this we have changes to our home circumstances to contend with and the repurposed nature of the school building itself as well as preparations for the eventual re-opening still ongoing.

Since early April we have been running trials with some students to explore the functionality that MS Teams offers and put the necessary safeguarding arrangements and policies in place. This will eventually allow us to deliver some quality video sessions to all and rapidly increase the level and quality of feedback to students at the same time.

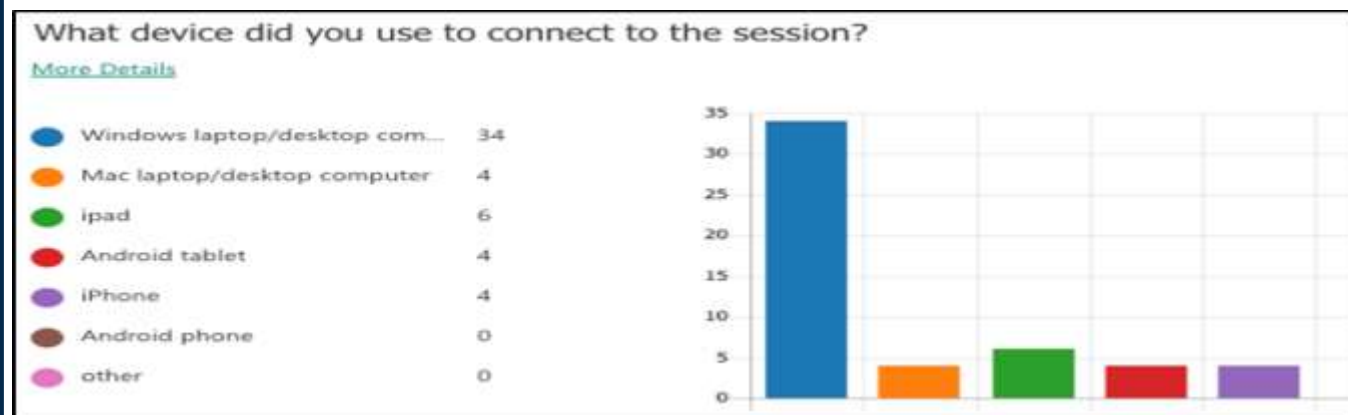
We salute the earlier pioneers from Years 7-10 who encountered countless problems and fought their way through the obstacle course of MS Teams, hindered only by technical and physical capacity of devices and internet connections beyond their control. They came through the other side smiling and successful. Students from all year groups have been involved, but the most extensive trial, the precursor to a full launch, is running right now.

Every student in Year 10 has had the opportunity to be involved in video lessons this week. Our students are a credit to us all as they have shown great resilience and fortitude and overcome frustrations as they have tried, sometimes in vain, to connect. They are using a myriad of devices, on variable speed connections to the internet, in order to further their learning without complaint. They deserve a huge pat on the back.

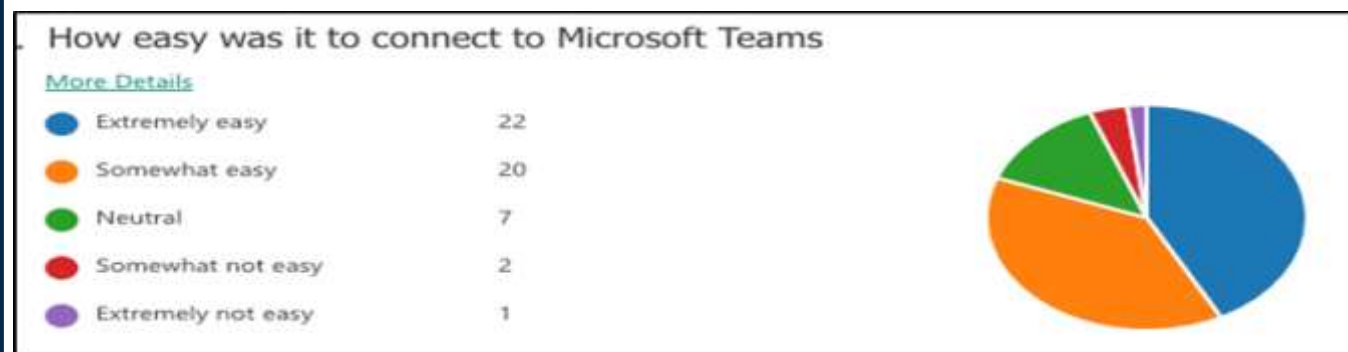
We have not forgotten that a significant number of students are simply unable to engage in online learning at present as they share devices in the family or don't have a means of connecting at all or have circumstances at home that prevent them from joining in. We have been working on solutions to all these problems, the much-needed devices promised by the government are yet to materialise and will be too few in number even when they do arrive. We continue to seek answers and will therefore continue to set the work in the same manner as now or provide hard copy work to those unable to connect at all.



At each stage of our trials we have sought feedback from students, this is where most of the charts are from throughout this article. We have encountered a range of technical issues and steadfastly worked through individual technical problems, often late into the night. Mr Morgan, Mr Bird and Dr Wood have shouldered most of the burden here, but many other staff are making valuable contributions daily of course, and all are working extremely hard to make the switch to online working a richer experience for our students.



One thing we have found is that there are approximately 7 different types of device in use by students when accessing the internet, although there are sub-categories within each type which present MS Teams in a different way to the next. Each device presents its own technical issues and barriers to overcome of course and this has been the major source of frustration by far. It's a credit to the students that they are so resilient, but they have in reality under-reported the difficulties they had in connecting and joining in to sessions in the survey questions.



We currently have 7 different user guides that we are preparing for when we roll out to all year groups, as well as staff training taking place and user staff user guides to consider.

With all of the technical difficulties we have alluded to above, including the school building IT infrastructure itself undergoing a review, we have been working on a solution to many of the technical problems since lockdown began. You may recall that we sent a link home to a survey about the use of school ready devices to use in school and at home?



This is still under investigation and we hope to bring some exciting news on this very soon. Below is the response to the survey question: 'I would consider obtaining (leasing/purchasing) a school ready device....' Out of 263 responses 201 of you said yes against 62 who said no.

We will continue to update you through The Link as to the progress we are making with our online learning and look forward to being able to report that all students have had the opportunity to engage with a teacher through video sessions this term.

More to school life....even in lockdown!



Kahoot!.....

Homework Club at Church Stretton School always finishes with a Kahoot quiz. The winner wins a prize and receives it ...eventually If you ask the regulars at the club, the likelihood of Mr Overton remembering the day after is low, in two weeks time suddenly something clicks but prizes are always delivered. Social distancing will not stop the quiz. The first remote Kahoot went live the week before half term. Well done to Wilf Turner in Yr 7 who won the first quiz and will get his prize when we return. The second quiz is now live. All students have been sent the PIN and link via email.



Miss Sollars and Mr Wright created a scavenger hunt for students.

Results of the Scavenger hunt .

The quickest winners who got all 12 correct (and were the fastest) were:

1st: Rosie and Mrs Carr (impressive speed)

2nd: Erin Robinson

3rd Lydia Naylor

4th Cody Price

5th Aidan Thomsett

This year saw the 75th anniversary of VE day which

75th anniversary of VE day

led to peace in Europe. To celebrate this event, the nation was asked to put up bunting and hold (virtual) afternoon teas. We ran a competition for both staff and pupils to showcase their efforts.....



1st Place
Connie
Woodhouse



Accelerated Reader



Lots of students have done really well to continue with their reading doing the "lockdown" and I have been particularly impressed by those who managed to reach their targets.
So congratulations to those Year 7s and Year 8s listed below.



Year 7

William Doley
Ella McFarlane
Beth Perry
Sadie Singleton
Amber Sakari- Brown

Alexandre Santiago
Joseph Buckingham
Lily Jardine
Daisy Jones
Clara Powis

Eleni Ward
Freddie Westall
Jessica Davies
Serena Vickery

Year 8

Lizzie Creffield
Ben Holdsworth
Beth Hunter
Annabelle Kirkwood
Wiola Sewry
Jack Parr

Erin Robinson
Finley Walker
Annabelle Kirkwood
Erin Robinson
Daisy Swain

Ben Willis
Iwan Faulkner
Grace Dalglish
Evie Jackson
Morgan Gray

My apologies if I have missed anyone, e-mail and let me know if you think you reached your target and I missed it.

Year 8 Postcard Competition

During the Travel Writing Unit of work the year 8s were challenged to write a persuasive postcard about their favourite place and then the pupils themselves were asked to vote for the winner.

The results were: In 8Y
Joint Second: Grace Dalglish,
Evie Gerrard, and Daisy Swain
And the winner was Jack Parr
with this postcard about
Malham in the Yorkshire Dales.



In 8Y

In third place: Edward Prosser

In second place: Bonnie Kinsey

And the winner was
Amelie Northwood.

Come to Croatia, its array of perfect, golden beaches blows your mind as the bright intense sun beats down on your shoulders, the cool refreshing water splashing up our legs, drying in the light breeze. You can go snorkeling to see bright, colorful fish dancing in the waves. The forestry covers the steep picturesque hills in every shade of green there is. And the transparent, turquoise waters sparkling under the sun. This is the perfect holiday destination as there is endless amounts of things to do from walking up Rocky Mountains, to swimming in the radiant seas, to having dinner on one of the many beach restaurants, watching the sun set over the horizon and turning everything into a crimson and blood red colour, reflecting on the glass-like sea, slowly setting everything into a fluorescent, inky blackness.



Student of the Week



Dear Students and Parents

We are delighted to bring back Student of The Week! Lots of our students have been working really hard at home, and we know it's not easy so we're really proud of you!

Your teachers and TAs have been asked to nominate anyone who they have been impressed by – it might be for an amazing piece of work, or because you have worked hard all through the lockdown, or for any other reason you deserve to be nominated. Each week there will be two winners from each house – one from Key Stage 4 (Year 9 and 10) and one from Key Stage 3 (Year 7 and 8).

Winners (who are chosen at random) will have a certificate emailed to them, plus their names in The Link. All nominated students will also be published. If your name appears more than once, then you were nominated more than once, which is even more brilliant as you have a greater chance of winning.

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

Mrs Mackechnie



WINNERS



Year 9 and 10:

Caradoc:

Aiman Soussi-Dahdouh - 2 nominations

Nominated by Mrs Scott and Mrs Davis DT for outstanding effort in Maths and making improvements to work following teacher advice in DT.

Hazler:

Sam Davinson

Nominated by Mrs Richards for his outstanding attitude to remote learning.

Lawley:

Lucy Poole - 3 nominations

Nominated by Mrs Davis (Eng), Mrs Davis (DT) and Mr Clarkson for outstanding effort and making improvements to work following teacher advice in DT.

Ragleth:

Korda Roach

Nominated by Mrs Fletcher-Tyrie for outstanding creativity during lockdown.



Year 7 and 8:

Caradoc:

Erin Robinson - 3 nominations

Nominated by Mrs Scott, Mrs Hough and Mrs Jones for outstanding effort, perseverance and focus.

Hazler:

Freddie Westall

Nominated by Mrs Davis for his fabulous Top Trumps game in English

Lawley:

Annabelle Kirkwood

nominated by Mrs Scott for her resilience and perseverance in Maths

Ragleth:

Martha Wynne

Nominated by Mrs Davis for passing her Accelerated Reader target.





Nominations for Student of the week.....

KS3 Students

★ Student	★ Staff	★ Subject/reason	★
★ Annabelle Kirkwood	Mrs Scott	resilience and perseverance	★
★ Erin Robinson	Mrs Scott	outstanding effort and perseverance	★
★ Erin Robinson	Mrs Hough	perseverance with French tasks	★
★ Tate Crippin	Mrs Hough	completing work with limited use of technology at hand.	★
★			★
★ Daisy Jones	Mr Basnett	very conscientious in English	★
★ Isla Skelly	Mr Basnett	very conscientious in English	★
★ Eleni Ward	Mrs Davis (English)	Top Trumps	★
★ Freddie Westall	Mrs Davis (English)	Top Trumps	★
★ Bonnie Innes	Mrs Davis (English)	Top Trumps	★
★ Wilfred Turner	Mrs Davis (English)	Top Trumps	★
★ Joe Buckingham	Mrs Davis (English)	Top Trumps	★
★ Aris Kokinos	Mrs Davis (English)	Top Trumps	★
★ Santiago Alexandre	Mrs Davis (English)	Top Trumps	★
★ Martha Wynne	Mrs Davis (English)	AR Target	★
★ Harley Davis	Mr Clarkson	Consistently demonstrating his work and prep for quizzes in Physics	★
★			★
★ Issy Carter	Mr Clarkson	Checking (so politely) understanding of tasks in CS	★
★ Lily Atkin	Mrs Richards	Outstanding effort in remote learning	★
★ Daisy Jones	Mr Charles	Excellent work, checking answers and asking	★
★			★
★ Daisy Jones	Mrs Fletcher-Tyrie	Outstanding creativity during lockdown	★
★ Sophie Mackechnie	Mrs Jones	always being bright and sunny whilst putting huge effort into their work to ensure they understand - even when they don't like it or sometimes don't 'get it'. Well done!	★
★			★
★ Rosie Carr	Mrs Jones	always being bright and sunny whilst putting huge effort into their work to ensure they understand - even when they don't like it or sometimes don't 'get it'. Well done!	★
★			★
★ Grace Daglish	Mrs Jones	always being bright and sunny whilst putting huge effort into their work to ensure they understand - even when they don't like it or sometimes don't 'get it'. Well done!	★
★			★
★ Erin Robinson	Mrs Jones	working hard, keeping focused and keeping me on track! Well done!	★
★			★
★ Jack Parr	Mrs Jones	working hard, keeping focused and keeping me on track! Well done!	★
★			★
★ Ruby Williams	Mr Clarkson	for beautiful work on operating systems	★



Nominations for Student of the week.....

KS4 Students

A special shout outTo all year 10, you have been fantastic in the trial for video lessons with Dr Wood and Mr Bird this week. Incredibly patient, resilient and enthusiastic.

Student	Staff	Subject/reason
Sam Davinson	Mrs Richards	Outstanding attitude to remote learning
Aiman Soussi-Dahdouh	Mrs Scott	Outstanding effort in Maths
James Tipton	Mrs Scott	Outstanding effort in Maths
Chris Davies	Mrs Scott	Outstanding effort in Maths
Katie Howard	Miss Sollars	Persistence and achievement in History
Ella Singleton	Miss Whitcombe	Outstanding effort and work in PE
Felicity Davies	Miss Whitcome	Exceptionally well written piece of coursework in PE
Lily Abram	Mr Basnett	Thorough, accurate and efficient English work
Lucy Poole	Mrs Davis English	Outstanding effort in English
Chris Davies	Mrs Davis English	Outstanding effort in English
Sioned Morris	Mrs Davis English	Resilience despite technical issues!
Laura Brian	Mrs Davis English	Outstanding effort in English
Bryn Wright	Mr Clarkson	Sharing independent coding work
Lucy Poole	Mr Clarkson	Quality of and effort into independent work in Physics
Ella Singleton	Mrs Pugh	Perseverance with the work set and constantly challenging herself
Maddy Cumberlidge	Mrs Pugh	Perseverance with the work set and constantly challenging herself
Cody Price	Mrs Pugh	Perseverance with the work set and constantly challenging herself
Thomas Mapp	Mrs Mackechnie	Perseverance with the work on trigonometry
Ria Marland	Mrs Mackechnie	Perseverance with work on percentages
Maddy Cumberlidge	Mrs Mackechnie	Outstanding attitude to remote learning
Georgia Davies	Mrs Mackechnie	Outstanding attitude to remote learning
Reuben Peters	Mrs Mackechnie	Communication and perseverance with work set
Eva Spurling	Miss Sollars	Dedication and motivation to catch up
Ed Bowen Yr 9	Mrs Bowler	Consistent positive approach to work
Cerys Jones	Miss Sollars	Motivation and getting ahead of the game!
Lucy Orme	Dr Wood	Exceptional independent learning skills
Chris Davies	Mrs Jones	ensuring that they have understood work and completed work over the lockdown period so far. Well done!
Maddy Cumberlidge	Mrs Jones	ensuring that they have understood work and completed work over the lockdown period so far. Well done!
Georgia Davies	Mrs Jones	ensuring that they have understood work and completed work over the lockdown period so far. Well done!
Aaron Northwood	Mrs Jones	ensuring that they have understood work and completed work over the lockdown period so far. Well done!
Korda Roach	Mrs Fletcher-Tyrie	Outstanding creativity during lockdown
Aiman Soussi-Dahdouh	Mrs Davis DT	Fantastic DT work!
Lucy Poole	Mrs Davis DT	Fantastic DT work!
Francis Davies	Mrs Davis DT	Fantastic DT work!
Georgia Davies	Mrs Davis DT	Fantastic DT work!

Careers At Church Stretton School

In the last few years Church Stretton School has been excited to have built an engaging careers programme in line with the Gatsby Benchmark (a set of standards schools are expected to work towards) but also to engage with students across the school in all years to inform and inspire. The programme will still be running but now in a socially distanced way.

Year 10 work experience



Unfortunately Work Experience has had to be cancelled for our Year 10 students this year. I would like to thank all the students, parents and carers and employers who worked so hard to put everything in place. The Careers and Enterprise Company, a nationwide Government agency that helps schools promote careers education across the company and Oak National Academy, the online classroom resource have put together a programme called

My Week of Work

This week long event will use distance learning resources and Live Learning Q&A webinars to look at employability skills, CV building and leadership as well as focusing on 5 different sectors. Those are:

Monday: Construction

Tuesday: Health and Social Care

Wednesday: Engineering and Manufacture

Thursday: Renewables and Energy

Friday: Creative and Digital

The Careers and Enterprise Company has secured speakers from various NHS Trust, RAF, KPMG, Microsoft and NatWest amongst others to give students an insight into various careers. These are optional. You can register and watch the talk through Live Learning. Question can be asked but are moderated. This is optional but may well be worthwhile. I would recommend that students look at least one. The link for Live Learning is below

<https://learnliveuk.com/my-week-of-work>

Year 10 next week will be using the resources from Oak National Academy to look at Employability Skills during PHSE.

I hope to bring you opportunities for virtual work experience sessions with a local graphic design company and a multinational engineering firm in the next few weeks.

A resource secured for Church Stretton School: Skillsbuilder



Church Stretton has secured, through industry sponsorship access to Skillsbuilder for a second year. The career programme would have introduced our students to the 8 essential skills for employability (working again towards the Gatsby Benchmarks) through tutor times and PHSE lessons. Skillsbuilder use small exercises and activities to help build up the soft skills needed to do well in whatever area of work our students may wish to enter. At the moment Skillsbuilder is running a Home Learning Hub Daily Activity. As part of the students

careers education programme all Year 7,8 and 9 students will be asked to sign up to this. Hopefully this will be interesting and allow students to familiarise themselves with the eight skills before the new academic year.

Guidance will be shared via Go4schools next week but if you want to take a look before the link below will take you to Skillsbuilder <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homelearning>



Aimhigher has been working with Church Stretton School for the last 3 years. They have helped funded coach travel to colleges and universities, visitors coming in to school to discuss medicine and university life and for the past 3 year funded Positively MAD. Representatives from Positively MAD have come into the school to deliver workshops about memory and revision

skills as well as looking after mental health when under stress. They have developed a package of resources to help our students for the current crisis and in the future. Anna Jenkins from Aim Higher has secured funding for these resources for the school and they will be put on Church Stretton SharePoint next week. I hope to bring you more careers education in the coming week.

Mr Overton



AIMHIGHER WEST MIDLANDS PRESENTS...

ART IN ISOLATION COMPETITION!

HAS SOCIAL DISTANCING MADE YOU THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?

DO YOU WANT A CHANCE TO WIN A £20 OR £50 AMAZON VOUCHER?

DO YOU WANT TO GET CREATIVE AND EXPRESS YOURSELF?

Aimhigher West Midlands would like to challenge you to express how you have kept motivated, inspired or have changed your ambitions for your future career through art!

In each year group, two runners up will win a £20 Amazon voucher and the winner will receive a £50 Amazon voucher!

Interested?
See next page for more information...

Aimhigher are running a competition called Art in Isolation. All students in Year 9,10 and 11 have been sent the flyer with competition details and rules. This is across the entire West Midlands region. There are several prizes of £20 Amazon vouchers for the runners up in each year group and a £50 voucher for the winner. Entries need to be in by 21st June.

Good luck



WHAT CAN I CREATE?

Your art piece can be ONE of the following...

- PAINTING
- DRAWING
- SCULPTURE
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- COLLAGE

It must be in line with the themes of aspiration, motivation and inspiration.

HOW TO ENTER:

(YOU MUST BE IN YEAR 9 - 11)

SEND YOUR ART PIECE TO:
ncop@bcu.ac.uk

SUBJECT TITLE:
Art in Isolation Competition

TO INCLUDE IN THE MAIN TEXT:

- Your name, school and year group
- Title of your art work
- Choose ONE of the following to submit your entry via email:

1. Attach a short video showing and talking through your piece (make sure to get a close up of your piece!)
2. Attach a photograph of your piece and a written narrative (200-400 words. You can write it in the email or attach it as a document!)

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY:
SUNDAY 21ST JUNE 2020 8PM

WINNERS ANNOUNCED:
MONDAY 29TH JUNE 2020

Yr11 Apprenticeship Opportunity

Mick Boulton, from Boulton's Travel has contacted me to discuss an exciting opportunity. He is looking to take on one or possibly two people to work for the company. That could be either in the yard, looking at maintenance, mechanics and in the future driving or in the office with administrative skills and office management. There is not a specific job but he wants the right employee. If you are interested in this opportunity please email me and we can set up a meeting, virtually at the moment of course.

Mr Overton lee.overton@csschool.co.uk