



Dear Hayesbrook pupils and families,

We are now coming to the end of our second week of our new school reality and indeed the end of the traditional Term 4.

As we approach the Easter break, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody in our Hayesbrook community – pupils, parents and staff - for the way that they have worked so supportively together at such a complicated and difficult time. It has been amazing to see first-hand the hard work put in by pupils and colleagues and to hear about how everybody is co-operating and collaborating to achieve some remarkable changes in a very short period of time. I have been sharing an internal Bulletin with colleagues and have been overwhelmed by the examples of work that have been shared (which your young men have been producing at home). The Technology perspective work in KS3, the example of Food Technology recipes tried and great work from Drama, History, Science and Tutor Time to name just a few.

Although the usual timetabled term time lessons will halt over the next two weeks (from Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April), we remain mindful of the fact that this is no ordinary school holiday closure. Pupils have already been at home for almost two weeks and for some of them the “novelty” may well be wearing off by now so we would like to offer a bit more guidance this year about how pupils might spend their Easter break. Firstly, it is important to rest and recover. Clearly, it takes time to adapt to a new system and we understand that this has not always been an easy or straightforward transition for everybody to make. Many will still be getting used to a new way of working and establishing new routines at home and we hope that the Easter break will provide an opportunity to rest and recharge the batteries where this is needed.

Secondly, the halt to normal lessons will also provide a useful period of time where pupils can review what they have been doing across their different subjects and, most importantly, take the opportunity to plug any gaps – any tasks or assignments which have not yet been completed can be completed over the next two weeks at a more leisurely pace. Please encourage your son / daughter to ensure that they have caught up with work due in so that they can start Term 5 feeling up to date and confident. Work should be uploaded back onto SMHW (see Appendix One at the bottom on this letter for guidance). We have sent through separate letters for Year 11 and 13 which highlighted work these pupils could be completing, please refer to these if you have a child in either of these year groups.

We want to emphasise that while pupils are working from home, we do not want them to feel isolated. At a whole school level, we are monitoring and checking to identify where pupils are not engaging with learning and contacting parents if we feel there is a concern. We also have a rota for the Head of Year Team, Student Managers and members of the Senior Leadership Team to call each of our families to touch base with you on a regular basis. If you feel there is any concern relating to your child’s work and progress or any welfare / pastoral issue that we should be aware of then please do contact us and let us know via the main school email: secretary@hayesbrook.kent.sch.uk – we are here to help. Our IT Team can be contacted via <http://hayesbrook.on.spiceworks.com/portal> if you are experiencing any technical issues accessing SMHW or other systems being used.

Year 9 Options (selecting GCSE and vocational courses to study in Year 10 and 11)

Families of our Year 9 pupils will know that one of the events that had to be postponed this Term was our Year 9 Options Evening. I will be in touch again in Term 5 with details about how this process will work this

year – sharing details of the courses on offer, how to make choices and how we will support our young men and their families with this decision making process

Keeping in touch during the closure

Even though your child may be at home we understand that you may not always be able to be with them. Please share this email with your child if they need help or advice during the closure and they cannot reach you: keepingintouch@hayesbrook.kent.sch.uk emails to this address will be regularly monitored by key safeguarding staff.

We have collated information on a number of useful websites which we would encourage parents and pupils to look at. As well as websites offering advice and information to parents and pupils about online safety. We have also included details of organisations which offer other forms of online support, tips and advice to young people and adults including practical strategies and resources to support mental health and wellbeing.

If you have a serious concern you should:

- Call Police 101
- Call 999 in the event of emergency – if you believe there is a serious / immediate danger
- Contact Kent Children's' Social Services:
During the day and in office hours call 03000 41 11 11 or email social.services@kent.gov.uk
- Out of hours and in an emergency call 03000 41 91 91

Useful websites for parents / carers and pupils – including online safety, advice and other support for young people, including supporting young people's mental health:

NSPCC

to access this website click [here](#)

Parents- Includes a range of resources to help parents keep children safe when they're using the internet, social networks, apps, games and more. Recent posts include advice and support to parents when talking to a child worried about the Coronavirus. To read the report click [here](#)

internet matters.org

to access this website click [here](#)

Parents- A not-for-profit organisation set up to empower parents and carers to keep children safe in the digital world. Their support for parents includes a range of downloadable guides covering subjects such as Vlogging & livestreaming, online gaming and cyberbullying.



to access this website click [here](#)

Parents- From CEOP and Parent Zone, Parent Info is a website for parents covering all of the issues amplified by the internet. It is a free service which helps schools engage parents with expert safety advice, endorsed by the National Crime Agency's CEOP command. This website provides expert information across a range of online harms.



to access this website click [here](#)

Parents-Offers a range of resources for families, to help them meet the challenges of the digital age, including parent guides on the latest digital trends and platforms.

OWN IT

to access this website click [here](#)

Pupils- Support for young people to take control of their online life, including help and advice, skills and inspiration on topics such as friendships and bullying, safety and self-esteem. Recent posts include “5 things to do when you are feeling down” and “Is the news making you feel anxious?”

The childline logo consists of the word 'childline' in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background. Below the background, the tagline 'ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME' is written in white uppercase letters.

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

to access this website click [here](#)

Pupils-Includes information for pupils on sexting, gaming, grooming, bullying, porn, relationships. This site also includes information on how students can access support via Childline including their telephone counselling service (0800 1111) and their 1-2-1 online counselling service. There is also an area called the Calm Zone ([here](#)) where there are practical tips for young people -breathing exercises, games, yoga exercises, “Ways to Cope” videos and more.



to access this website click [here](#)

Pupils- XenZone is a provider of online mental health services for children, young people and adults. Kooth, from XenZone, is an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop and free at the point of use, supported by the NHS. Students need to register to access. To access Kooth click [here](#). The video on the home page gives a good overview of services offered.

YOUNGMINDS

to access this website click [here](#)

Pupils -Young Minds mental health support for young people including recent information relating to Coronavirus and tips on looking after your mental health.



to access this website click [here](#)

Pupils – Information for Young Carers on sources of advice and support. If you need help on this, click [here](#)





to access this website click [here](#)

All- The Samaritans provide telephone support on 116 123. Their website has a section on looking after your mental health during the Coronavirus with videos and practical strategies.



to access this website click [here](#)

All-A national mental health charity providing mental health support and advice for adults and young people. [Here](#) is our local branch. Maidstone MIND continues to provide a service supporting a number of our students during the school closure period. Please contact Miss Johnson, Deputy Head, via the main school email if you wish to discuss a possible referral for a student.



to access this website click [here](#)

All- Headspace is primarily an online subscription (payment) based site providing support for stress, anxiety etc via mindfulness and meditation. However, they have now made a free area available in response to the Coronavirus. This includes a variety of resources such as audio clips for relaxation / relieving stress.



to access this website click [here](#)

Calm is an app that helps you seek to reduce anxiety, sleep better and reduce stress amongst other things. You can buy the app, but there is a free section for you to access if you wish.



to access this website click [here](#)

Parents- Slideaway is a charitable organisation which works with schools in West Kent. MGS has a long standing link with Slideaway. Please contact Miss Johnson, Deputy Head, via the main school email if you would like to discuss a possible referral.



to access this website click [here](#)

Pupils/Parents –Bereavement support. Hope Again is Cruse Bereavement Care's website for young people. Cruse is a national charity that provides support, advice, resources and information to children, young people and adults when someone close to them dies.



to access this website click [here](#)

All – tips, advice and support for all on maintaining healthy relationships.

Also this from KCC:

Kent County Council has launched a new 24 hour helpline called **Kent Together** to support vulnerable people in Kent who need urgent help, supplies or medication. The helpline will provide a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help during the Coronavirus outbreak. It is a collaboration between KCC, central Government, District, Borough and local councils, the voluntary and community sector, the NHS, emergency services and other partners to ensure help is at hand for vulnerable people.

If you are vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks, or are concerned about the welfare of someone else you can contact the Kent Together helpline at www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether or by calling on 03000 41 92 92. It is a 24 hour service.

General support with SMHW

We have had a few queries about downloading resources from SMHW. Please see some advice about how to download documents if you don't access to Microsoft Office (for example Word / Powerpoint / Excel etc), you may be able to use one of Google's free alternatives

<https://www.google.co.uk/docs/about/> (the equivalent of Word)

<https://www.google.co.uk/sheets/about/> (the equivalent of Excel)

<https://www.google.co.uk/slides/about/> (the equivalent of Powerpoint)

Please do get in touch if issues persist (using the contact listed earlier in the letter) in the first instance

Work set on SMHW – thank you for your feedback about but what has been set and the quantity set in some cases. It is useful to hear from families about how this is going and the level of challenge being offered by the tasks. We have created a system for recording and responding to queries and questions and aim to be back in touch with families as quickly as we can. We will be reviewing our plans for setting work over the Easter break and will be back in touch at the beginning of Term 5

A final couple of suggestions about how you might engage our young men over Easter:

Audible is offering audiobooks free to students.

Get children listening to a story and then set a creative task: "Choose your favourite character and write their origin story", "Turn the story into a film script". Please do email in to me at the school using the secretary@hayesbrook.kent.sch.uk email, I would love to read these and share them with your English teacher, they would love to see this sort of work from you

The Rainbow Scavenger Hunt



I have borrowed this idea from something forwarded to me earlier in the week: A Scavenger Hunt in your home / garden – perhaps our pupils could complete this on their own or with a younger brother or sister. I am looking for really creative ideas!

Achievement points will be awarded to the best ideas shared by Tuesday 21 April (these can be emailed / posted) secretary@hayesbrook.kent.sch.uk

Find something red

Find something yellow

Find something orange

Find something green

Find something blue

Find something purple

Name a fruit that is red

Name an animal that is yellow

Name a flower that is orange

Name a vegetable that is green

Find something from a garden that is purple

Write an acrostic for

R

A

I

N

B

O

W

You could take draw a sketch or take a photo of the items

We look forward to the start of Term 5 on Monday 20 April, when online schooling resumes. In the meantime, I send my very best wishes to you all for a happy and safe Easter break.

Best Wishes

CNELSON

Collette Nelson
Head of School

APPENDIX ONE

Submitting my work online

Distance learning: how to send your homework to your teacher remotely

As a student you are able to submit your assignments online instead of handing them in - as long as teachers add online submission. When they do so, you will see this on your homework:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `satchelone.com/homeworks/41277996`. The page title is "Jealousy in Shakespeare's Othello" with a group identifier "13x/En1". A navigation bar includes "Description", "Results", and "Submit" (circled in red with an arrow). The task description includes a quote from Iago: "O, beware, my lord, of jealousy; It is the green-ey'd monster, which doth mock The meat it feeds on". Below this, it asks the student to write an essay about Othello's jealousy and Iago's role. In the "Other information" section, a bullet point states: "Mr J. Sinclair would like you to hand in this homework online via Show My Homework" (circled in red with an arrow).

To submit your answers follow these steps:

1. Go to *Submit*
2. Type a message for your teacher or even your full answer
3. Attach any files you need to, for example documents, pictures or presentations. You can choose files from your computer, Google Drive or Dropbox

4. Click *Submit assignment to teacher* to send it to your teacher of your submission.

If you need to, you can submit more pieces. You can also save your progress as a draft at any time and come back to finish the task later.