

18th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to say that the Year 10 and 12 girls have responded incredibly well to the strange and rather intimidating experience that is a socially distanced WGGs. We are grateful to you and the Head Girl team with their infomercial, for helping the girls understand how they should respond to the challenge, which has made it so much easier for the staff to focus on the important teaching element of the face-to-face sessions. The view from my office of the 'lunchtime bubbles' has made me both sad and joyful; schools are made for children to inhabit and finally we can hear laughter in the corridor but the journey we are on is arduous and continuing. The number of girls attending is very high and we have been delighted that many girls that had not initially intended to come into to school, have chosen to do so.



Government guidance has suggested that schools may wish to bring Year 7 to 9 pupils on site for one to one meetings, to 'check in'. The essence of this is fortunately something we feel we provided as part of our Reading and Review Week that took place in the week of the 4th June, every pupil being given the opportunity to be contacted by a member of staff, via either a phone call or personal email. As a follow up, form tutors will be using the Teams platform to have small group chats with their tutees over the next few weeks to maintain pastoral contact. Teachers are also completing reports that will be issued in due course that provide an assessment of how each girl has responded during the school closure and for this reason, we will not require pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 to come on site. The government has not relaxed the number of pupils we can bring on to site, that being 25% of Year 10 and 12, and any other pupils would have to be at the expense of the face to face provision for those students. Given the success of current on site provision, we are loath to decrease the numbers of girls that can take advantage of this valuable experience. If you are a Key Stage 3 parent and you do have concerns about your daughter's progress, please email her form tutor.



Next week the PE Department will be celebrating [National School Sports Week](#). The focus will be on the **Five Ways to Wellbeing** so each day will have a different focus but it all links back to the value of sport and being active, with a live stream workout on the Friday. Please do encourage your daughter to get involved!

I have included invitations from **Supporting Links**, the charity that has successfully delivered Parent Workshops on the school site for the last two year. They are now offering two workshops that will take place online in the Autumn Term, on **Talking Teens** and **Addressing Stress and Anxiety**. Those who attended were very positive about the experience and volunteered the following responses:

"Very clear and the examples were helpful."

"It was good to hear other people's experiences and challenges."

"The role play acting by the trainers showed a great example of how to avoid or escalate an argument. This was delivered with some humour which will help me remember this."

"Thought it was brilliant, thank you so much."

Biology Photography Competition 2020

'Our Changing World' is the theme of this year's Royal Society of Biology (RSB) Photography Competition. Life on Earth is dynamic, and we invite you to capture these transformations. The competition has two age categories, each with a cash prize: 18 year olds and over (£1000) and anyone under 18 years old (£500) so submit your images by 24th July 2020.

RSB Outreach Activities at Online Festival

Families will now be able to take part in some RSB simple hands-on science activities as part of the Hullabaloo At Home festival 2020. The festival runs from June 20th to June 21st and would normally take place on the Isle of Wight but will now be an online event for everyone. The festival features the arts, sciences, and Isle of Wight heritage, including an online carnival with seaside traditions - all of which can be accessed from the comfort of your own home.

Student Fundraising Efforts

Well done to Abbie Guest (10B) and Katherine Vandy (10B) who have raised over £1300 for the Rwandan Sisterhood since the pandemic caused schools to close.

Mental Health Assembly from the Duchess of Cambridge

Today, the Duchess of Cambridge will lead an online assembly for the Oak National Academy during which she will speak about the importance of mental wellbeing among children. The theme of the Duchess' assembly is 'Spread a Little Kindness' and is based on a lesson plan which is available on the Mentally Healthy Schools platform. This platform was developed in collaboration with children's mental health charity Place2Be and encourages children to explore ways in which they can show kindness and recognise the benefits of kindness to others.

The Mentally Healthy Schools platform can be accessed here:

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/>

Best wishes,

Sylvia Tai