

2nd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

First and foremost, we hope you and your families are well. We know these are difficult times for everyone which makes belonging to our special school community all the more important.

As ever, it has been an incredibly busy and successful term since we returned following the Christmas break. Our Year 11s worked hard during their mock examinations in January, we are confident they will be successful and go on to fulfil their potential in the next stage of their education.

Our Year 10s enjoyed one of our most successful work experience weeks ever. They returned to school highly motivated, committed to their success and having done themselves, their families and our school very proud.

Year 9 have secured their option choices for GCSE. They were extremely mature, asking lots of sensible questions to make the best possible choices for their futures. Thank you for your support in that.

Year 8 had the opportunity of developing a broad range of personal skills and qualifications during either the Y8 residential or through work with the University of Manchester on a special personal development day.

Year 7 had their EPR Dream Day event which involved people from different faiths talking to them, allowing them time to develop their knowledge around different beliefs and hone their reflection skills.

We are always impressed by our school community and the richness of the experiences enjoyed. This term has seen a broad range of activities, events and competitions - to name but a few: foreign language cinema trips, a range of sporting fixtures, an inter-house baking competition and a visit to Jodrell Bank. We know how much these opportunities add value to our students' understanding of life, learning and the wider world.

We have quite the reputation for high quality school productions. This year has surpassed all expectations with an outstanding performance of 'Beauty and the Beast'. All members of the cast and crew shone over the two nights of the production. Both nights were sold out and everyone left smiling, having enjoyed a wonderful evening. If you were able attend, thank you for joining us.

We are delighted and proud to announce that we have been awarded ECO schools bronze status. This is only start of things to come with this group of talented and dedicated young people. Looking after our environment is important to us all and our students are pioneering in this way.

Thinking of others and showing acts of solidarity and kindness are things at the heart of all we do. Our Year 10 Young Enterprise students have been both charitable and business-minded in the development of their companies producing a range of products which would support someone with memory loss or dementia.

We all know the importance of reading. Our World Book Day events celebrated the students' and staff's commitment to this; there were competitions, book sales and a fair promoting reading. Everyone enjoyed the programme of activities. In these challenging times, reading is just one activity you can enjoy with your children. On our website, there are a range of exciting Easter Activities for the whole family to stop anyone from getting bored.

We would like to thank you for all the support you have shown our school community over the last term but especially over the last few weeks. We encourage you to keep up-to-date with what is happening by visiting our website regularly.

At the time of writing this letter, we are unable to say when we will be able to return to school. As soon as we have that information, we will share it with you.

During these unprecedented times, online safety has never been more important. It is likely that any screen time limits may have to be relaxed during the next few weeks as students try to complete work remotely from home as well as looking out for news and entertainment, but parents are worried about how to keep their children safe whilst they are on line.

To support you with this we have put together some resources for parents here <https://levenshulmehigh.co.uk/parents/esafety> and tried to pick out some useful links and videos.

Through the 'Digital Parenting' link, we have looked at 6 key questions:

1. [Do you know what your child is doing online?](#) – where we have given you some links to help you understand the apps and sites they are on
2. [Are there rules about when they can use their device?](#) – where we have suggested some family agreements and some tools you may want to use
3. [Do they know what to do if something goes wrong?](#) – where we have put some links to some help reporting your concerns
4. [Can they keep themselves and their information safe?](#) - where we have help on privacy settings
5. [Are they careful about their own digital reputation?](#) - where we have posted some video content about how you child needs to think about the digital trail they are leaving behind
6. [Do they know how to decide if something is true or if someone is genuine?](#) - where we have posted some ideas about exploring the topic of 'fake news'.

The most important part of online safety is for you to have the conversations with your child on a regular basis and encourage them to share their concerns with you.

In the meantime, please read carefully the information sent home about home learning after the Easter break and keep promoting physical activity.

We wish you and your families a safe, healthy, peaceful and happy Easter break.

Yours sincerely



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a member of the
EDUCATION
and
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