

Oldbury Wells

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 1
FRI 8TH JAN 2021

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- Distance Learning on the website and some tips
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Welcome to the first addition of our weekly newsletter which we will be circulating towards the end of each week throughout lockdown. We are aware that as parents/carers you will have pressures at home supporting your children with their work, alongside managing your own work commitments. We hope that by co-ordinating any global announcements weekly, using the opportunity to celebrate students work and efforts from home while giving out important announcements, it will allow you at one glance to take a look at some key messages.

Parents will still receive some communication which may be specific to their child's year group, and we will continue to promote the use of our social media platforms to push out key information.

Facebook: Oldbury Wells School

Twitter: @oldburywells

Instagram: @oldburywellsschool

A Message from Mr Tristham.

At the end of a turbulent week, can I thank all members of our school community for their efforts, commitment, and support during what has been an unprecedented few days. The impact of COVID continues to affect all our lives and leaves us all having to respond and react to government announcements which are made to keep us all safe. Engagement with Distance Learning has been amazing across all year groups, with students clearly adjusting and becoming even more organised at home. The experience of working at home can never be compared with being in school full time, although our efforts will focus as much as possible on recreating as many school experiences both within formal lessons and beyond.

I have been extremely impressed with the maturity of students in Year 11 & 13 in response to the announcements regarding their formal examinations. Although I understand that there will be obvious concerns and the need for schools to be given further detail, the headline is that examinations in their normal format will not happen and teachers in school will be asked to finalise any marks. The message therefore to all students is that everything now counts, remain focused, stay calm and do your very best with everything. There is clearly more information to follow which we will further update parents on when we receive notifications.

Communication into School

We understand that all families will have lots of questions; this week our focus has been on ensuring that all students have online access from home so that they can engage with all lessons. We hope at this stage that despite some technical issues, alongside general internet access issues due to the significant increase in national demand, most issues are resolved. If you do have questions, please be aware that staff in school are delivering continuous lessons throughout the day and so will not be able to respond immediately. Staff will however be available for students to speak with during their timetabled lessons.

If when e-mailing school you can include your child's **full name** (First Name and Surname) and **Tutor group** this will also make managing communications much quicker as it will allow it to be directed to the appropriate member of staff.

Reporting Illness

Should your child be ill at home and unable to work, could we ask that you contact our attendance team via e-mail (karen.sawyer@oldburywells.com) as the normal phone line is not being monitored at this time. We will then be managing this in the same way as we would have done before lockdown. For any COVID related issues please use covid.support@oldburywells.com

Looking to the future!

Our priority is that every student continues to make excellent progress while working at home. We aim to ensure that both their educational experience, welfare and personal wellbeing are continually supported. Staff will proactively be acknowledging and rewarding the fantastic work and effort we know students will produce, will make contact with home if there are concerns, and most importantly are available should you feel that more support is needed. The coming weeks are a journey, we must work together to ensure that everyone remains safe and remains positive about what the future can bring.

SCHOOL DAY UPDATE

Following students voice work completed in school at the end of last term and having reviewed Distance Learning provision over this week, we have made the decision to amend the timings of the formal school day. Our objective has been to make the day more manageable for students and staff, providing appropriate breaks throughout the day and allow any organisational work to take place between lessons. From Monday 11th January and throughout lockdown, the structure of the school day will therefore be as follows :

09:00	09:50	Lesson 1
09:50	10:00	Short Break
10:00	10:50	Lesson 2
10:50	11:15	Break
11:15	12:05	Lesson 3
12:05	12:15	Short Break
12:15	01:05	Lesson 4
01:05	01:45	Lunch
01:45	02:35	Lesson 5

Students should still start preparation for the day from 8:40 and may on occasion be asked to be involved with discussions with staff via TEAM's from 8:40 onwards, this will be communicated to students when required with appropriate notification.

Please note that our ICT system will not allow these times to be changed midyear and so some timings shown in Satchel One may differ, it will be clear however which work is for what lesson as Staff are asked to ensure that work for each lesson on any given day is clearly identified in the title.

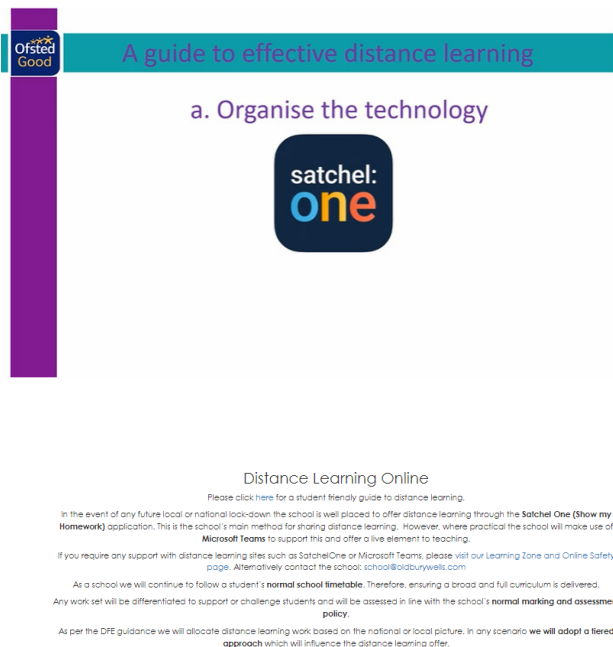
For those students who are working in school, we are currently speaking with our bus providers and will update parents accordingly following any change of service times. Following feedback, any questions should be sent to Mr White (jamie.white@oldburywells.com)

DISTANCE LEARNING

Our distance learning webpage has some helpful information about carrying out effective distance learning at home. There is a short video on the page which outlines some great points, here are some key takeaways:

- **Be organised** - make use of the softwares available to download on your devices: SatchelOne, Office365, Microsoft Teams etc.
- **Establish a routine** - follow your normal school timetable, attending Teams lessons or completing classwork set on Satchel One.
- **Remove all distractions** - put your phone in another room to avoid distractions!
- If you're stuck or need further help, **contact your teachers** in SatchelOne, Microsoft Teams, or by email!

On our distance learning page you will also find our Remote Education Provision information which outlines what you can expect during this period of distance learning.



The screenshot shows a webpage with a purple header bar containing the text "A guide to effective distance learning". Below the header is a sub-heading "a. Organise the technology" and the SatchelOne logo. The main content area is white and contains the following text:

Distance Learning Online
Please click here for a student friendly guide to distance learning.

In the event of any future local or national lock-down the school is well placed to offer distance learning through the **Satchel One (Show my Homework)** application. This is the school's main method for sharing distance learning. However, where practical the school will make use of **Microsoft Teams** to support this and offer a live element to learning.

If you require any support with distance learning sites such as SatchelOne or Microsoft Teams, please visit our **Learning Zone and Online Safety page**. Alternatively contact the school: school@oldburywells.com

As a school we will continue to follow a student's **normal school timetable**. Therefore, ensuring a broad and full curriculum is delivered. Any work set will be differentiated to support or challenge students and will be assessed in line with the school's **normal marking and assessment policy**.

As per the DfE guidance we will allocate distance learning work based on the national or local picture. In any scenario we will adopt a **tiered approach** which will influence the distance learning offer.

Please find overleaf a letter regarding mobile data support:



Our Ref: SW/kmd/mobiledata

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Increasing mobile data to support distance learning

As you may have seen recently in the news with all students now operating under a remote learning model, the need for reliable internet connections to engage with learning has once again become paramount. Central government has recognised this and the Department for Education (DfE) has introduced a scheme to support children using mobile devices at home to engage with learning, who might be at risk of running out of available mobile 'data' or incurring additional fees. This scheme would involve schools making requests to mobile phone operating companies to temporarily increase mobile data allowances for devices being used by children to access learning resources. The service providers currently participating in this scheme are:

- Three
- Virgin Mobile
- Tesco Mobile
- Smarty
- EE
- Sky Mobile

Full details of network offers can be found [here](#)

The bill payer is eligible to request support if they:

- Do not have a fixed broadband at home
- Cannot afford additional data for their devices
- Are experiencing disruption to their face to face education, such as a lockdown or isolation period and are using an existing mobile phone package with a 4G/3G data connections.

Please note that only schools can make the request to the relevant telecoms provider to temporarily increase data allowances on a given mobile device, as this request is made through an online DfE portal to which only schools have access. If you feel that your child meets the eligibility criteria above and their device operates on one of the networks above please can you complete the information on the attached Microsoft Form. This will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence and will ask for the following details:

- The full name of the account holder
- The number of the mobile device (e.g. 07xxx xxx xxx)
- The mobile network of the device (e.g. Three)
- Whether you pay monthly or pay as you go (Pay monthly or PAYG)

Please complete the online form by clicking [here](#). This will need to be submitted by Wednesday 13th January.

On receipt of these details, the school will use the DfE online portal to request an increase in data allowance. Please note that by providing the personal data above, we will use the information solely for the purposes of making the request for additional data allowance and that you will be deemed to have consented to us storing and processing the personal data for this purpose. The full privacy policy can be found by clicking [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Scott Wycherley
Deputy Headteacher

Aspire • Enjoy • Achieve

E SAFETY







Visit our Learning Zone and E Safety page for helpful links to distance learning. There are links to videos which detail how to set up parental controls on your devices - important in protecting your child online.

There are also links to the platforms that students may need to use whilst learning at home, and a number of useful links which will help with installing the programme or app, logging in, and navigating around them.

The page has links to various websites that may be of interest to you. In the coming weeks this page will be updated to provide more in depth information around e-safety, in light of students spending more time online.

[Click to access Distance Learning](#)

To help you to complete your distance learning from home, please see the links below to access sites, and view help guides for installing software, logging in, and support in using distance learning sites.

					
Guide: Accessing your school files from home	Guide: Installing Office 365 for home use	Now called SatchelOne Guide: How to use the app and login	Guide: Getting Started with Teams	Guide: Logging in to Matterwatch	Guide: You can access this webpage here. You will find some useful videos how to use GCSE pod and how to login.
	Guide: How to login to Office 365	Guide: How to submit your work online	Code of Conduct: Conduct when using Teams		
	Guide: Accessing your schoolwork using Sharepoint	Video: How to login and use SatchelOne	Video: Guide to using Teams		
		Web: Further support for SatchelOne	Video: Student and parent guide to Teams		

Setting up Parental Controls on your devices

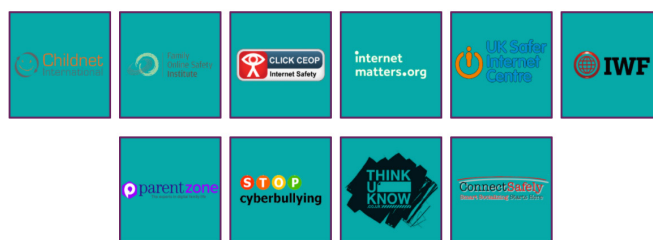
Setting up parental controls on your devices is quick, easy, and allows your child to browse safely and independently online. Parental controls lets you specify which sites your child has access to, and can be activated on any device: PC, laptops, tablets, smartphones, consoles etc.

Click the button to access videos on setting up parental controls on your devices at home, tailored to your broadband provider.

Internet Matters is also a useful site in explaining parental controls, and tailoring instructions to your various devices.



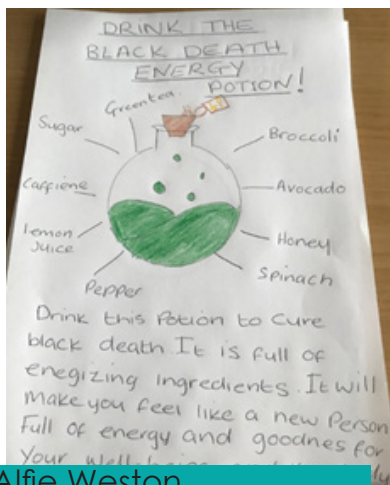
(Please note these are external links and not affiliated with Oldbury Wells School)



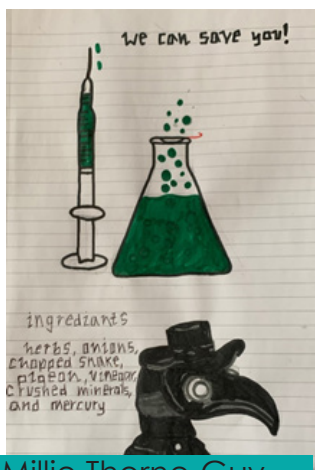
CELEBRATING DISTANCE LEARNING WORK

HISTORY

7SPA investigated how people in medieval times tried to cure the plague. They came up with some of their own treatments using these ideas and produced some great work!



Alfie Weston



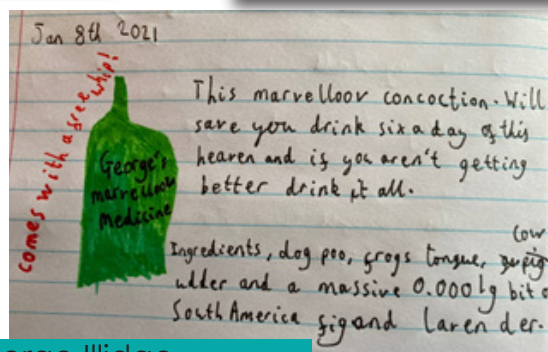
Millie Thorne-Guy



Mischa Gallon



Sophia Adlington



George Illidge

MUSIC

Huge congratulations to Toby Large who is in Year 12. Toby is a tremendous singer and he receives vocal lessons from our vocal tutor Bev Wightman. Shortly before Christmas in spite of all the uncertainty surrounding external music examinations due to the pandemic, Toby prepared for and took his Grade 8 vocal examination - and he achieved a Distinction, the highest accolade in a music examination. What a fantastic achievement for Toby and we wish him all the very best for his continued vocal studies which will include a Diploma in vocal performance. We look forward to hearing you sing again soon Toby.

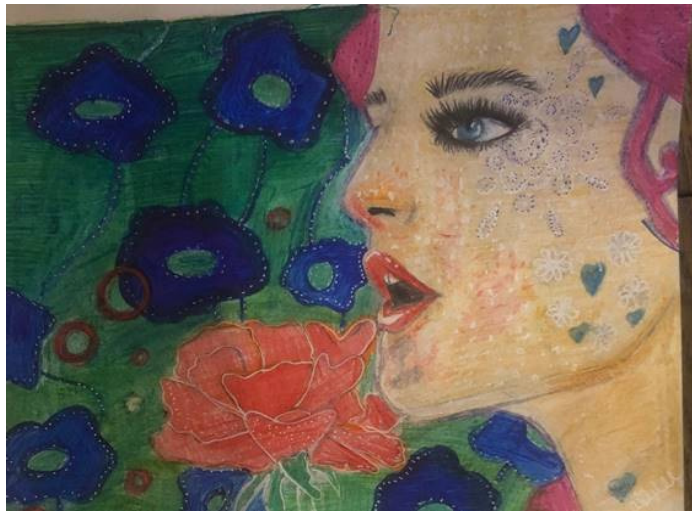
Miss Dangerfield



ART

Recognition for the art work of Romy O'Toole in Year 9, who has produced this piece of work in just two lessons of distance learning. The piece is part of her Artists Research - Artists Copy which was started on Monday. Well done Romy for your hard work during this time.

Mrs Laurie



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Year 7 were set an additional optional task over the winter period, carrying out creative work on Winter Festivals and the Jewish Festival of Hanukkah. Students made cards for Hanukkah, stars representing the Star of David, and Dreidels. It was fantastic to see some really creative work submitted that captured students understanding and showed their commitment to learning by completing this optional task, and brought learning to life. Mr Hailes



WELLBEING

We know that studying from home and time spent indoors can be difficult. If your mental wellbeing needs a little support, our website is a good place to begin. Our Emotional Wellbeing webpage has a multitude of web links and resources that provide further direction and support in improving your wellbeing, especially during Covid. If you are following our Facebook and Twitter pages, we will also be posting some wellbeing prompts throughout the week.

Having good wellbeing is the first step to being productive and engaged in school work. Some tips collated from across some wellbeing resources are:

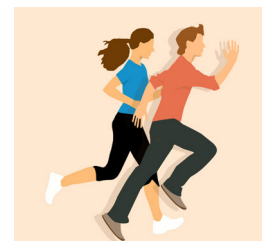
- **Workspace** - Keep your work space and chill space separate from each other so that you can focus when needed, but also appreciate the downtime.
- **Schedule in time outdoors** - even for a few minutes at lunchtime, fresh air can help to clear your mind and reset for the afternoon.
- **Exercise** - keeping active boosts your mood, helps you to feel more productive and keeps you healthy! There are some great videos online, and even some celebrities are getting involved.
- **Less screen time** - with lessons now being held online, in your down time take a screen break and use your time more positively - start a new hobby or continue an existing hobby.

Some helpful websites that have some Covid-specific wellbeing advice are:

YOUNG MINDS



What can you do to boost your mood?



Always remember
 You are *braver* than you
 believe
 and *stronger* than you
 seem
 and *smarter* than you
 think

- A.A.Milne