

Oldbury Wells

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 2
FRI 15TH JAN 2021

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Welcome

Welcome to our weekly newsletter as we come to the end of our second week of Distance Learning within the current National Lockdown. Thank you for the feedback that both students and parents/carers have provided which has lifted everyone where praise has been given; and enabled us to respond to any issues as we adjust to new daily ways of working. Last week we worked hard to ensure that everyone working from home had the technological systems to enable them to access work online; this week we have been focused on supporting those students who have needed some additional help to organise and self-manage their school day from home. Well done to everyone for the response given.

We are aware that earlier in the week there were some technical issues due to a number of significant updates with our main ICT provider; although not ideal, these will support all users moving forward.

As we look ahead to next week, we will be further focusing on all student's general wellbeing, re-enforcing the importance of physical activity as outlined within core PE lessons, alongside providing feedback on how to best manage at home. We will also be giving all students the chance to feedback on how they are finding their experience at home; this will allow us to consider and widen the support they may need.

We have received some questions about Year 8 Options which would normally begin to be introduced at this time; like so many aspects within all schools at present, this is something we are considering and will feedback shortly to those students and families who would normally go through this process this year.

Well done to those students who have completed vocational exams since the start of term; it was great to see students in school who although were clearly concerned about how their examination year will evolve, have continued to study hard across all their subjects; a message we have outlined is so important for all students.

Keep working hard everyone, remember to be resilient in all you do and most importantly stay safe!

Mr. Tristham

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DISTANCE LEARNING

School timings

A quick reminder that we have changed the timings of the school day as shown. The sessions highlighted in yellow are to support students to get organised, take a break between sessions or on occasion be involved with an activity organised by staff in school.

08:40	09:00	Planning Time
09:00	09:50	Lesson 1
09:50	10:00	Review / Planning Time
10:00	10:50	Lesson 2
10:50	11:15	Break
11:15	12:05	Lesson 3
12:05	12:15	Review / Planning Time
12:15	01:05	Lesson 4
01:05	01:45	Lunch
01:45	02:35	Lesson 5
02:35	02:45	Review / Planning Time

Please can we ask that students stick to this as much as possible. By doing so it will allow them to participate in live teaching through Teams and get the most out of distance learning.

Pupils communication to teachers should also be managed in line with these times as teachers are teaching other groups throughout the day and will find it harder to respond to pupils. Using the Teams session is the best form of communication with teachers as it mirrors the routines that would normally take place within a normal classroom environment.

Submission of work

Please can you remind your son/daughter to get into the habit of uploading their work at the end of each lesson. This can be as simple as taking a photo of the work and submitting it throughout the Satchel one app. Full instructions can be found by clicking [here](#).

It is important that work is submitted to allow teachers to review progress, but more importantly to help students working to a time limit allowing them to manage their day more effectively.



Parental Access to Satchel One

Please remember that as a parent/guardian you have the ability to see the work pupils have been set and to see whether it has been submitted. To do this you simply need to download the Satchel One app that is available in the app stores.

Once this is installed you will need to contact the school giving your child's full name and form to receive a parent code that will give you full access.

The parent code can be obtained by emailing: satchel.password@oldburywells.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

You may be aware that on Wednesday this week, the government announced their new Free School Meal voucher scheme which will be effective from Monday 18th January 2021. We have just received further guidance from them and are now in the process of preparing for this new scheme. We will inform parents of students who currently qualify for free school meals of the details as soon as possible so that this provision is organised as quickly as possible.

If you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please use the link below: [Apply for free school meals](#)

REPORTING AN ABSENCE OR ILLNESS

Please do not phone the absence line as it is not being monitored. Instead, please contact Karen Sawyer on karen.sawyer@oldburywells.com.

SUBJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCIENCE

Q&A Session with astronaut Tim Peake

On Thursday 21st January 5pm-6pm, Future Talent Group in partnership with Barclays bank are hosting a Q&A session for young people with astronaut Tim Peake. The event will take place on Youtube, you can register to take part here: www.futuretalentgroup.com/tim-peakeevent

ART

Year 8 announcement: The Pop Art 3D object competition deadline has been extended to the end of February to include the half term. Good luck to all and we look forward to your amazing entries. Details of the competition are on Satchel.



CELEBRATING DISTANCE LEARNING WORK

SCIENCE - MARTHA JONES RECIEVES BRONZE I IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

We are delighted to announce that one of our Year 13 students, Martha Jones has been awarded Bronze I after participating in the British Physics Olympiad Competition back in November. This competition is only open to the top 1600 students in the country, so to achieve this result is fantastic. The BPhO is designed to stretch and challenge top achievers, requiring good preparation, perseverance and applied knowledge.

We are extremely proud of Martha, well done for your hard work.

ART

Year 12 have been working on a new technique through distanced learning to develop their Art skills. The focus was working with contour lines to create form and structure within images, linked to their theme based on 'identity of people, places or things'. As you can see below, they have created some amazing work so well done to the Year 12 Art and Design group.



Joel Burgess



Georgia Hallez



Poppy Elwell



Sarah Horton



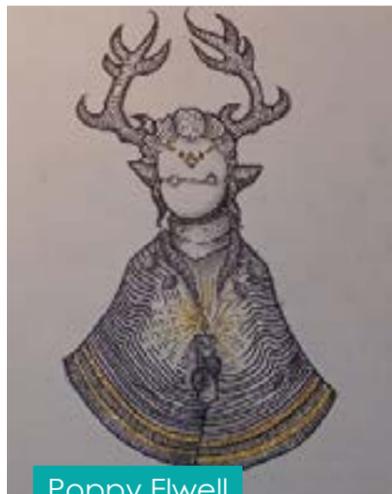
Evie Fleming



Holly Rogan



Georgia Hallez



Poppy Elwell



Addison Parton-Bill

ART

Year 10 were working on using new media and techniques in class before distanced learning and were given some oil pastels to use as part of their GCSE Coursework portfolio studies. They have been using this new medium to develop artwork at home as you can see from the sample of work here on their different personal themes. I am sure you will agree they have produced some fantastic work showing confidence with quite a difficult medium to use. Well done Year 10 and continue with your hard work through distanced learning. Mrs Wycherley



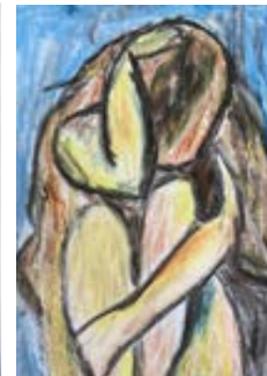
Sophie Instone



Fin Thompson



Kai Cook



Poppy Chafer



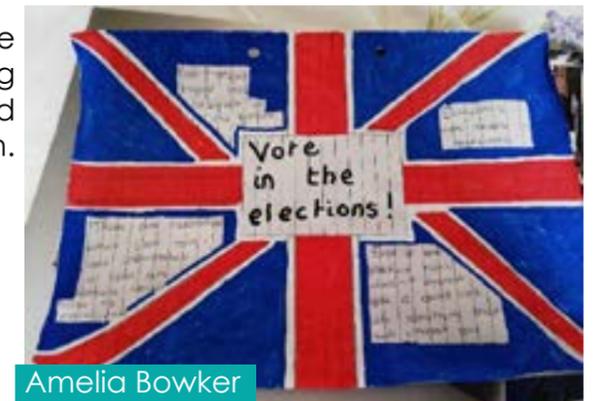
Lottie Nicholls



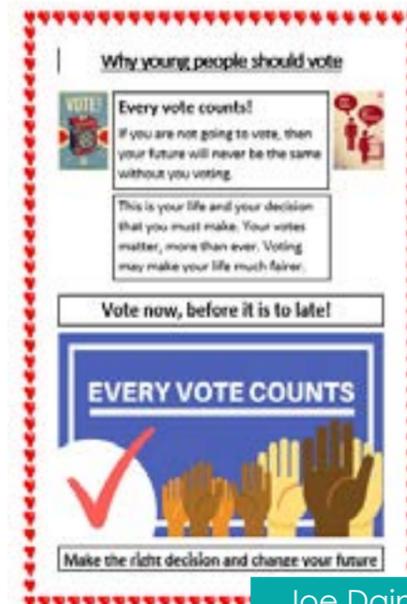
Oliver Billingham

CITIZENSHIP

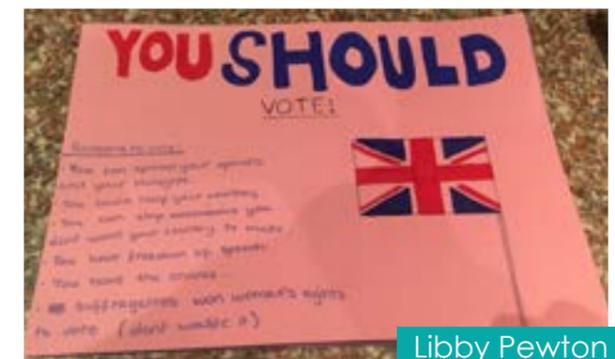
As part of their Citizenship GCSE, Year 9 have been busy creating posters, encouraging young people to exercise their democratic rights and vote, as part of their topic Life in Modern Britain.



Amelia Bowker



Joe Dainty



Libby Pewton

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 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:

YOUNGMINDS



ACTIVITY

Say what you see!

Mr Hailes has been doing these with his RC groups to get them ready for learning and to get the brain working. It's a warm up before the lesson commences. So three words what is it? Answer is at the bottom.



BARNADO'S OFFER SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

Barnardo's have developed a support hub for parents where you will find a range of resources, tools and videos to help support your child's future journey back to school. More information can be found at : <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/support-hub/back-to-school>



Due to Covid, the school nurse will no longer be in school for the chat drop in. If you have anything you would like to talk about, you can instead:

**TEXT UR SCHOOL NURSE
07507 330346**

Students can text this number to access confidential help and advice about any health issues.

JUST FOR FUN: QUIZ

Each week, Mr LaCroix will compile a quiz for everyone to have a go at. Answers will be revealed in next week's newsletter, or if you follow our social media, we will upload answers on a Monday.

Round one: Animals

1. What is the largest big cat in the world?
2. How many legs does an octopus have?
3. Yes or no? Is a dolphin a mammal?
4. What is a group of lions called?
5. What are baby goats called?
6. What type of animal is a poodle?
7. What do camels store in their humps?
8. What is the only mammal which can fly?
9. The word feline relates to what type of animal?
10. What is the slowest animal in the world?

Round two: Geography

11. What is the largest country in the world?
12. Where would you find the River Thames?
13. Which country is also known as the Netherlands?
14. In which country would you find the Leaning Tower of Pisa?
15. Where would you find the Eiffel Tower?
16. Which is the biggest desert in the world?
17. What is the longest river in the world?
18. What is the capital city of Spain?
19. Mount Everest lies in which mountain range?
20. What is the hottest continent on Earth?

Round three: Science

21. Which planet is nearest to the Earth?
22. What is the proper term for your funny bone?
23. The wire inside an electric bulb is known as the what?
24. When light bends as it enters a different medium the process is known as what?
25. What is the first name of the famous scientist who gave us Newton's three laws of motion?
26. Earth is located in which galaxy?
27. Which famous scientist introduced the idea of natural selection?
28. Botany is the study of what?
29. Is the sun a star or a planet?
30. What planet is known as the red planet?

Round four: Dinosaurs

31. True or false? The name dinosaur means 'terrible lizard'.
32. Which came first, the Jurassic or Triassic Period?
33. Was Diplodocus a carnivore or herbivore?
34. Which dinosaur is thought to have the largest bite of them all?
35. What name do we give to the study of fossils?
36. True or false. The dinosaurs died out about 65 million years ago?
37. What animal alive today is even bigger than a dinosaur?
38. What dinosaur themed book was turned into a blockbuster movie in 1993?
39. What is the name of the big dinosaur which used to stand in the entrance hall of the Natural History Museum in London?
40. Which dinosaur had three horns on its head?

Round five: Books and films

41. What are the names of Harry Potter's parents?
42. What is the name of the Snowman in the film "Frozen"?
43. In which forest do Robin Hood and his Merry Men live?
44. What sort of animal is the video game character Sonic?
45. In "The Jungle Book", what kind of animal is Baloo?
46. In the film "The Lion King", what kind of animal is Timon?
47. Which of Snow White's seven dwarves didn't have a beard?
48. What is the name of the lion in "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe"?
49. What is the name of Peter Pan's pirate enemy?
50. What does the gruffalo say is his favourite food?