

Edition 1 Friday 22nd January 2021



Welcome to our first edition of our brand new weekly newsletter Connect. It is a celebration of all things Outwood Academy Shafton with contributions from students, parents, staff and our local community. Enjoy!

Principal's Blog



I write to you on a day which marks the end of my third week as Principal. What an interesting three weeks we have had! From lockdown, to snow and now the impact of storm Christoph. I hope you are all managing to stay safe and well through the difficult times that we are living in.

All this said, my first weeks at Shafton as Principal have been amazing. Teaching staff has done so well delivering remote learning to our students. It has been fantastic to see students engaging in learning from home. Feedback so far from the students and the community has been so wonderful to read. Teachers have been innovative and creative and really stepped up to the challenge of teaching remotely and our students' engagement has been excellent. We are constantly supporting students that are struggling with this new way of learning, making phone calls, offering top tips and providing laptops where they are most needed to remove any barriers to learning.

Please remember to keep checking our website where there is a dedicated link for anything Covid related and we are constantly updating our site with new information.



Parents of Year 11. I appreciate how difficult this time must be for you and your child. It is absolutely vital that all students in Year 11 continue with lessons and learning and do not make the very wrong assumption that Year 11 is over. I delivered this message clearly to our students through an assembly last week. Year 11 are still doing an amazing job with this and their focus is great, please discuss this with your child. Although we are not clear what the process for the Summer will be, we do all know that continued student engagement is absolutely vital.

We have amended our student praise focus to support virtual learning and this newsletter will share all our different praise initiatives. I am so proud to have the wonderful opportunity to be Principal of such an amazing school, this newsletter celebrates the dedication of both our students, staff and community. We want to stay connected and hope that this helps us to all celebrate together.

Take Care Mrs McQueen

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A snippet from our socials!



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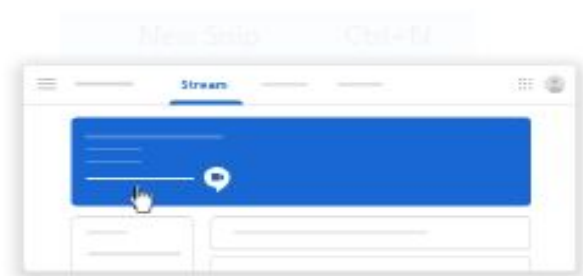
Online Learning tips from Mr Eccersley



As our lessons will have a live element to them, we suggest having Google **Classroom**, **Meet**, **Slides**, **Docs** and **Jamboard** downloaded to ensure pupils can access materials and contribute to the lesson. These can all be downloaded for free from the app store (only necessary on a mobile / tablet)

Joining a live lesson

At the time of your lesson, make your way to the correct Google Classroom. At the top of the page, you will see a link to the live lesson (on a phone this will be a video camera icon). This link will only be accessible when the teacher is ready and the session is recording, so please be patient. Once in the Meet, please have your cameras turned on (teachers like to see their pupils!) and microphones muted unless you are contributing to the lesson. Remember to use the 'Raise Hand' button if you need to ask a question or want to contribute to the discussion.



Getting the most from your live lesson

It is important to remember that you are registered for each live lesson, and engagement is measured on how you interact with learning. We recommend the following:

- Ask questions. Use the 'Raise Hand' button or ask your questions in the Chat. You can also do this if you would like to contribute to a discussion or answer a question given to the class. This is a great way to show the teacher you are engaged.
- When the teacher uses Jamboard or other online learning tools, always follow the link and any instructions given.

Submitting your work

At the end of a lesson / project / task, it is important you submit or 'Turn In' the work you have completed, this means the teacher can check you have fully engaged with the learning (if you couldn't log on the live lesson and explained the reason to the teacher) and the teacher can then mark or make comments on your work. You can also add extra attachments here, such as pictures if you have written on paper. Not all pieces of work will be marked, but staff will make clear which will or will not be marked, so you can look out for any feedback given.



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Hi everyone, Mrs Taylor here.

I hope you are all coping okay with the new challenges we are facing with online learning and staying in our homes. Each week I am going to provide you with some tips and ideas for how to look after yourself and your families during this time. The most important message I want to give to you all during this first issue is that it is okay if you are not okay. Life has changed a lot over the past year and it is important to recognise that sometimes we need a break and time to recharge ready for the new week ahead. Take the time to talk about your feelings and reach out if you want any additional support, school will always be here to support you. The wellbeing website is still up and running for advice about a range of issues with details of our Mental Health trained staff also on the main page:

<https://sites.google.com/shafton.outwood.com/wellbeing/home>

It is okay
to show that
you are not
okay

Screen time



A big issue facing all of us working from home at the minute is the increase in our daily screen time. You can check out our twitter page @OAShafton for tips shared using the #screenfreedom tag. Try to make sure that you spend your lunchtime and two break times each day away from all screens - that's an hour a day to try something new or connect with your family! Over the next week, why not try to coordinate your lunch break with whoever else is at home with you? One of you could make a cuppa whilst the other makes a sandwich - you might even learn a new skill at the same time! One thing I have been trying to do is having a phone free weekend. I've found it has been really beneficial in helping me feel refreshed at the start of a new week

Leila's tip of the week:

Make sure you stick to a good sleep schedule! It is really important to make sure you are getting enough sleep each night otherwise you will be tired during your lessons. The NHS recommends teenagers have 8 - 10 hours sleep each night. If you want more info about good sleeping habits, I recommend looking up the Chilypep Sleep toolkit



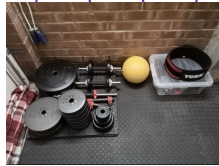


CONNECT

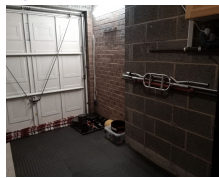
Celebrating our Community

What has Team PE been getting up to?

Mr Jepps attempting to snowboard after a crazy day of snow! #gnarly



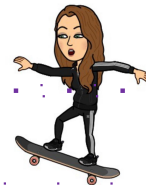
Mr Cutts has created a DIY home gym to keep him busy and fit during lockdown!



GYM-TIME



Mr Mckinney has been keeping fit through skating on her longboard!



Enrichment at home this week

We are now a full 3 weeks into lockdown 3.0, where has the time gone! I hope we are all starting to get to grips with this new style of remote learning!

It's been great seeing you all active and engaged in PE lessons this week and sharing plenty of pictures with us on social media which we all love to see, keep it up!

Next week we will be launching a new version of 'Enrichment at Home' where you will be able to select whichever subject you'd like and have a go at their enrichment!



#ActiveShafton

Home Challenge for Y9-11 & Staff

Walk or run between 1-5km from 25th-29th January

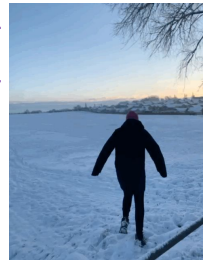


Submit your efforts using the following link:

forms.gle/gi3shxuAkTPAJo...

#wellbeing #walkingisbrilliant #fitness #mindfulness @OutwoodShafton

1:23 PM · Jan 20, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone



LET'S GO!

There are lots of different ways in which you can keep fit and healthy whilst at home:

PE with Joe Wicks @thebodycoach live on Youtube and you can also catch up on these videos anytime, no equipment needed.

Just Dance, which is very popular within Fitness lessons, why not get your whole family involved 'throwing some shapes'.



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The Form Programme

Here at Outwood Academy Shafton form time is really important.

It's important that students have an opportunity to have contact with their tutor who plays such a vital role in making sure that their time at school is as productive and happy as is possible. That is why we try to make this time as structured as possible. We want this time at the start of the day to be one where students are developing good learning habits, discussing with their peers and hearing any information that is vital to their learning that day.

In order that the experience of every student in form is a high quality and consistent one, we took the decision a couple of years ago to launch all form activities through a website. This means that tutors know exactly what to deliver each day and that all the resources and guidance for this are in one place.



We took a decision at the start of the lockdown to make Form time a session that would be streamed live to all students via their own form tutor. This means that our young people are able to catch up with their form mates and are hearing the same messages about the day ahead.

VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

The form program consists of a Monday assembly that is recorded by a member of staff and placed on the site to be presented to all students at home. The content can vary enormously from week to week but always has a focus on the social, moral and cultural development of our children. Tuesday is always an activity that encourages students to reflect on that assembly and discuss with their peers their own views. On Wednesday and Thursday, our students take part in Votes for Schools. Each week there is a topic for discussion and students are presented with opportunities to improve their understanding of that issue. More importantly to vote each week on a question related to that topic. The following week they can view their own views with those of tens of thousands of students up and down the country who are also participating. But Thursday is also where we celebrate all of our amazing Proud Thursday winners. Students' work is entered for this award every week. Proud Thursday gives recognition to all of this hard work. Friday is a kind of 'wild card' day where the activities can vary enormously and tend to be tailored to the needs of each year group. Again though we end the week in form with a celebration of student achievement with our Learning Stars.

All week teachers are busy nominating students for this award to show appreciation of the hard work our students do. Last week there were over a thousand nominations. So plenty to celebrate.

Form Time is to the school day what breakfast is to eating. It provides our students with the structure, stimulation and support that will set them up for the day.



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Mrs Littlewood has nominated the first winner of our Community Heroes award. This will be awarded to a person or group of people who have gone above and beyond for their local community. The first winner is:

The Community of Lundwood!

“I was travelling home through the torrential weather last Thursday when, like many others, I got stuck in Lundwood. I made little progress in two hours as the road became blocked when a number of vehicles had got stuck in the snow. It was so amazing to see the whole community come together to help the stranded drivers and offer support. I saw a number of our students helping parents to push cars, spread grit salt, provide updates for the weary drivers and I was even offered a driveway to leave my car if I needed. What a fabulous team effort”

If you would like to nominate a Community Hero please email e.littlewood@shafton.outwood.com

Attention Year 7 students!

We here at Outwood Academy Shafton are extremely proud of all of the hard work that our students are putting into to their online learning and would like to take this opportunity to say a massive well done to you all.

This week we are excited to announce our new Year 7 **Lockdown Legends** competition.

Students will need to collect one 'key' word per subject throughout the week to unlock the different levels to achieve **Lockdown Legend status**.

Level 1: English, Maths, Science, Geography, Art

Level 2: History, Music, DT, PE

Level 3: French, Drama, Computer science, Life



Your teachers will share the keyword with you in each of your lessons next week so look out for the Lockdown Legends Logo. All you need to do is remember each word or make a note of each word and complete the online quiz each Friday to be entered into the **Lockdown Legends Prize Draw**.

The link to the quiz will be given to you by your Period 5 teacher on Friday.

This week's lucky winner will be rewarded with a £5 voucher and Jenga - delivered to your house on Friday after school.

Good Luck!

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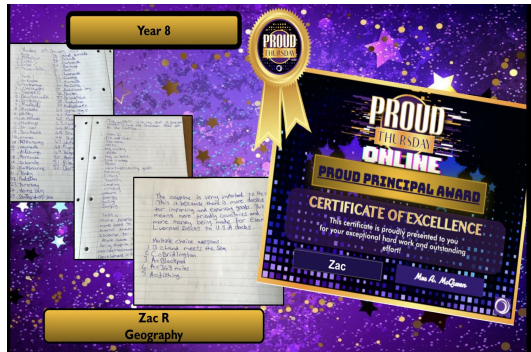
Learning Star and PROUD update



Well done year 7 for being top of the leaderboard with the most nominations for Learning Stars. 295 this week! AMAZING!



Our PROUD winners for this week!



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Super STAR

Shafton Superstars - Each week staff will nominate outstanding students of the week. Here are this week's winners!



Erin has been Nominated by Mrs Wragg for her punctuality to form and continued engagement in all online learning -



Marcus and Aiden have both been nominated by Mrs Smith for their consistent effort and positive contribution in live lessons.

Outwood Academy Shafton Careers Event – LIVE

The link for the YouTube live stream will be available on our website on the night. See you there!

**Thursday 25th
March 2021**

16:30 – 18:00

Open to all year groups!
You will hear from **local colleges** and providers, **HeppSY, universities** and a wide range of **employers** from the local area

