

Yateley School Parents' Bulletin

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Learning Together – Empowered for Life

Dear Parents and carers,

What an amazing week it has been. We're absolutely delighted to welcome the students back to school and by the looks of things they're delighted to be back too – even if they don't all admit it!

Despite alarmist coverage in some parts of the media, I am convinced that our excellent students with expert staff support will bounce right back. Some will need more help than others of course and there is plenty of intervention underway or planned. The attitude to learning and general conduct has been exemplary and I am extremely proud of how our whole school community has responded. As has been the case so far, if you have any concerns, do please keep in touch with your child's teacher, tutor, Head of House or one of the senior team.

So, to all you lockdown home tutors and all-round cheerleaders (otherwise known as parents) stand down. The tour of duty is over! I hope that any tensions and disagreement about schoolwork are largely over and a sense of calm prevails. In all seriousness, my heartfelt thanks for your amazing support. Engagement with online learning was stunning and you'll have had a massive role to play with that. As a result, most students have not suffered huge gaps in their learning and that will stand them in good stead for the future. My intention is that the best aspects of digital learning are preserved, not least the extensive use of BYOD and I believe that there would be overwhelming support for retaining online parents' consultation evenings once the country returns to normal. As the national picture changes though, we will look to reintroduce other face to face events such as Year 5 and Year 6 transition days and very importantly, a summer prom for our current Year 11s and Year 13s! More details to follow.



Testing times. This week (and next) have been dominated by testing, either of the Lateral Flow variety, or indeed the mock exam type. Both have gone exceptionally well. The LFD tests have gone like clockwork so far and the children have responded with great maturity and common sense. They can see why it needs to be done and have rapidly picked up on the regimented systems that we've got in place. I am indebted to the staff and volunteer army who have made this huge logistical effort work so well and want in particular to pay tribute to my office manager Mrs

Brocklehurst and her wider team who have been absolutely exceptional. I must also add that the Year 11 students in their mock exams have been exemplary. We have been at great pains to explain why we are running exams right now and how doing this offers such a positive platform on which to build, well before grades are decided and entered in June. The students have got right behind that message, are working extremely hard and setting themselves up brilliantly for success.

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Important information.

- I can now confirm that Monday 7th June 2021 (the first day after the half term) is now set as an **INSET day**. Amongst other things, staff will be taking time to moderate and confirm the Year 11 and Year 13 grades prior to submission.
- Lateral Flow Device home testing kits.** Your child's third test and the final one done in school will be taken on Monday Tuesday, or Wednesday of next week depending on their year group.

	Periods 1 & 2	Periods 3 & 4
Monday 15 th March	Sixth Form	Year 11
Tuesday 16 th March	Year 7	Year 10
Wednesday 17 th March	Year 8	Year 9

As students leave the test centre after their third test, they will be given **two** boxes of home test kits, each box contains three tests. They are extremely straightforward to use and all of the instructions are in the box. Please make sure that you collect the boxes from them when they get home. The procedure is identical to what has been done in school, so the students know what to do – it is just making sure that the next stage of actually testing the sample is done properly and that is where they'll need your help. The tests need to be done **twice a week** and I recommend Wednesday and Sunday evenings. If there were to be a positive test result you then have a little more time to arrange self-isolation.



- Uniform and equipment** The vast majority of students are well prepared and look impeccable. Also, understandably, some aspects of uniform have been a bit harder to source and children continue to grow. However, we are going to expect and enforce the following from the start of next week.
 - BYOD:** All students must bring in their device to school each day fully charged and ready to be used in lessons. They should also have a set of earphones to use.
 - Mobile Phones:** These should not be out or used during the school day at all unless the teacher has given permission in the lesson.
 - Bluetooth Earphones:** These are not allowed during the school day.
 - Footwear:** Students must be wearing the required school shoes. Trainers are not allowed (unless there are medical reasons or extreme individual cases where the Heads of House are already aware following communication with parents).
 - Skirts, Trousers, Tights, Jumpers, Shirts, Ties:** All expected to be wearing the normal Yateley School uniform. Leggings are not allowed. Students should have their normal school jumper and a warm coat when required (no other jumpers, sweaters or hoodies)
 - Jewellery:** No bracelets, rings or nose studs. Each ear is allowed a single small stud but nothing more.
 - Hair Colour and Cuts:** No extremes in hair colour or haircuts.
- The majority of these can be remedied immediately, although if you've had particular issues with obtaining an item of uniform, please let the Head of House know.

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Sixth Form Bake off

Mrs D'Alton (Deputy Head of Sixth Form) writes to tell me – 'During lockdown, baking has become a favourite pastime of many, it started with the shortage of ingredients in the shops but then has become a major passion for so many people. Studies have shown that baking helps you relax, it soothes stress, builds self-esteem and curbs negative thinking and it was for this reason that we decided to start our very own Bake off at Yateley Sixth Form, judged by the sixth form Team, Mr Conway, Mrs D'Alton and Mrs Ellis.'

Every week students are given a recipe to make and then send in pictures of their tasty dishes (it's a shame that in this covid world that we are not able to taste them; they look amazing!) Entries have been flooding in and it has been very hard to choose the winner each week.

Week one saw chocolate chip cookies look irresistible, followed by cheese straws, which are surprisingly difficult to get right. This week students are submitting their entries for chocolate brownies, I look forward to seeing them later on today.



I think you will agree the results look amazing.

Week one winner was Mark Smith with his chocolate chip cookies followed by Keegan Gearing with his excellent cheese straws. Winners are entered into a prize draw which will take place the week of 29th March.'

Yours sincerely

Paul German

Headteacher

WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITIONS

This is just a reminder that the closing date for the 2 competitions we have running for WBD is Monday 15th March. The competitions are to decorate a biscuit with your favourite book character or book cover and a book emoji quiz. All students have been emailed details of the competitions and they are also on SMHW. If you think your child might be interested in entering, please encourage them to do so this weekend!

Mrs Hood, School Library Manager

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Calling all students interested in Yateley School's House Drama competition

Please take a look - [House Drama](#)

As we have been unable to have our annual House Drama competition this year, we would like to give all students the chance to be involved in a remote version of the competition. This will allow the students to create a short piece of Drama- either with their friends in school/families/by themselves and enter it into the house competition.

If interested they just need to watch the clip below from the Sixth Form House Drama Captains and upload their entry to the attached link.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OA7Ssc0cq9cdK4r_qBVRcRjY1-Vo9bw?usp=sharing

The Sixth form Captains will select the top performance from each House and then the Drama department will decide on the final winner. Prizes and House Drama cup will be awarded!

Entries to be no longer than 5 minutes.

Any questions please let myself, Miss Tottman or Mrs Affleck-Cruise know

I look forward to seeing their work!

Miss S Tottman, Head of Drama

Maths Corner 14

Estate Agents Problem

Ann purchased a house for £135000.
She wants to sell it for a profit of exactly 12%.
However, she does not want to sell it herself. She wants an Estate Agent to sell it for her. The Agent must make a commission of exactly 5.5% (in addition to Ann's 12% profit). How much must the Agent sell the house for? Give your answer to the nearest Pound.

1 house point to all parents/students who presents the correct answer to their maths teacher before next weeks Maths Corner is published.

Answer to Maths Corner 13 – The Pole in the Lake
66 feet