

Jan 2021

Wreake Valley Academy & Bradgate Sixth Form



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Newsletter - Lockdown Times Issue 2

A Message from the Headteacher

Having been off isolating for ten days, it has been wonderful to get back into school this week.

I really struggled with the virus and relied on our incredible staff to pull things together in my absence. The speed with which the remote learning offering has got up and running has been really impressive and it has been great to see the examples of excellent work that staff have shared with our students.

Alongside the plans for remote learning, we have also been tasked with setting up our Lateral Flow Testing. Mrs Morland has led on this and it has been a huge undertaking, thank you to the many people who have volunteered to be part of this process when we are able to scale up the testing to allow students to return.

There are lots of unknowns about what the summer term might look like. Please be assured that we will tell you as soon as we hear anything definitive, especially about exams and assessment for this year.

The main thing we can all do for the foreseeable future is pull together and make the remote learning work well. We will blend the types of learning that are offered as although live lessons are important, they aren't always the best or most effective method on their own. Please ask for any additional support that you need and encourage your child to try and engage with as much of the learning programme as possible.

It is really important to remember that for learning to be effective you need time to rest and recharge away from screen and books. Students will be set 5 hours of learning per day. Please spend no more than 5 hours per day on the work. Just as in school, if you don't finish everything on the day just pick it up in the next lesson.

I look forward to running an assembly next week.

Tim Marston
Headteacher



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A Message from the Deputy Headteacher

Thank you for bearing with us as we have moved to online learning for the vast majority of our students. We thought it would be helpful to clarify what you can expect from the lessons.

All lessons will be uploaded onto Show my Homework. Students will be able to access all the resources and links they need for each of their lessons.

Lessons will be a mixture of online lessons, recorded lessons and live lessons.

- In an online lesson students will be asked to work through a series of tasks. This could, for example include completing an online quiz, working through information and tasks on a PowerPoint presentation, watching a video or completing off line tasks in the work books that students have been provided with. Staff will make it clear which pieces of work students need to upload and how they should do this.
- A recorded lesson may consist of a link to a pre-recorded explanation of the main concepts, a narrated power point or a link to a pre-recorded lesson on another site such as Hegarty Maths or the Department of Education's Oak National Academy.
- Live lessons will be accessed through Microsoft Teams. Staff will make clear through Show my Homework whether a lesson is a live lesson and will put the link for the lesson on the Show my Homework page. We had hoped that we would be able to publish a timetable of when lessons will be live but unfortunately, we are not in a position to do this. Not all lessons can be live lessons as teaching staff are continuing to come into school to work with students.

We hope that you find this information useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any support.

Show My HomeWork queries – SMHW@wreake.bepschools.org

Hegarty Maths queries – catherton@wreake.bepschools.org

General queries – admin@wreake.bepschools.org

Nicola Morland
Deputy Headteacher



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Calling All Students

We have decided to take over next week's school Newsletter.

We are asking fellow students to contribute articles on what you have been up to whilst working from home this time round.

Maybe you want to write a review of a book you have been reading, films you've been watching or a new game you've been playing. Maybe you have some good tips for working from home, have a piece of work you're proud of or a recipe to share. You could write an update on your favorite sports player or team.

We'd also love to include photographs so be sure to send some along with your article.

Whatever you come up with, send it to be included to

mtoon@wreake.bepschools.org

Here's a piece written by our Year 9 girls.



We were really excited to welcome Beebee, Mr Marston's new 12-week old puppy to our school today. We couldn't wait to meet her and find out all about her. She is a border collie and was really well behaved although apparently she is only half trained at the moment and still has a few things to learn but she seemed very well trained to us. She had to come into school as there was no one at home to look after her. We were pleased to see her and she seemed pleased to see us so we hope she'll be attending the school a lot more.

We asked about Beebee's likes and dislikes and what she does with her day normally. Beebee likes to walk and roll in the mud. She does not like lorries and cars and is scared of them. She enjoys eating her dog biscuits and her schedule is pretty much: eat; sleep; play; sleep; play; eat. When she was born she had 7 siblings and we were glad to know that Mr Marston has had a dog before so knows how to look after them. Beebee seemed very well looked after.

We hoped you've enjoyed our article.

By Holly, Sapphire and Lilly-Ella



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Drama—Blood Brothers

Mrs Connolley - Head of Creative Arts and Technology was very impressed with a piece of work uploaded by Sophia Bruce in 10LMo.

Mrs Connolley said the piece of work was, “well researched, showed era appropriate costumes that showed a thorough understanding of the text.

Fantastic, thank you for making the effort with this work, it has been an absolute pleasure to mark.” Sophia has kindly agreed that we can share her work with you.



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Bradgate Sixth Form — Week 2



The last two weeks have been a really busy time for students in Bradgate Sixth Form! Year 13 students have now completed their UCAS applications and our first Oxbridge (Oxford and Cambridge University) applicants have now completed their interviews and assessments. Many students have applied to Russell Group universities for courses such as Accountancy and Finance, Aerospace Engineering, Astrophysics, Digital TV Production, Drama, Human Physiology, Law, Medicine, Politics and Zoology to name just a few!

Our Year 12 Elephant Group students are well underway with their Elephant Access Programme. Students have been given the opportunity to take part in AccessEd's Research-Based Curricula (RBCs) programme. RBCs are short tutorial coursebooks which are based on real research in unique subject areas, each written by a PhD researcher who is an expert in their field. Completing one of these coursebooks is a really rewarding opportunity for students. Students are able to explore different subjects, gain academic 'stretch' experience and build independent research and learning skills.

Year 12 students not enrolled onto the Elephant Access Programme have applied for various widening participation programmes and virtual experiences. A number of students have applied for the 'Pathways to Medicine Programme' which is run by the University of Leicester and The Sutton Trust. This programme looks to inspire and support students to explore a range of careers in medicine. All Pathways students are also offered a work placement, mentoring and networking opportunities.

Year 12 students have also been given the opportunity (through HSBC) to take part in a range of virtual experiences. HSBC have created a series of virtual events which aim to give students confidence on employment prospects and target key employability skills, giving students an advantage when looking for a career. There is no doubt that Bradgate Sixth Form students are being kept very busy at the moment!



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Bradgate Sixth Form — Week 2

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sarah in Year 12 who has been successful in her application to be part of European Youth Parliament UK. Its mission is to inspire and empower young people to be open-minded, tolerant and active citizens. I look forward to Sarah sharing with you the work that she has been involved with over the coming weeks.

Finally, we have now received over 120 applications for Bradgate Sixth Form for September 2021 which is fantastic! Students who have applied will now be enrolled onto the B6 Growth Programme. This programme has been developed to support students in refining and mastering the skills required for success in their current GCSE studies. This is a really exciting time as students begin their first steps on their future pathways.

Year 11 students can still apply to join Bradgate Sixth Form on our website: <https://www.bradgatesixthform.com/> or students can email admin@bradgatesixthform.com for further information.

Katie Johnson Head of Bradgate Sixth Form

Year 11 students who have already applied for Bradgate Sixth Form



An important form has been emailed to you which requires completion by Monday 18th January, this confirms your place at Bradgate Sixth Form.

If you have not yet applied for a place with us and would like to do so please contact admin@bradgatesixthform.com



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Contacting Us through the Lockdown Period

During the lockdown period our telephones lines will be open from 8.30am – 2.30pm each day, if you need help with anything please call us on 0116 264 1080 or email us at admin@wreake.bepschools.org

If your child is unwell and not able to work online please notify us in the usual way by emailing studentabsence@wreake.bepschools.org

If your query is specific to one of your child's subjects you can contact the Head of Department directly on the following emails:

Special Educational Needs Coordinator - Jeanette Knowles.

Jknowles@wreake.bepschools.org

Head of English – Genevieve Lovegrove glovegrove@wreake.bepschools.org

Head of Maths – Carl Atherton catherton@wreake.bepschools.org

Head of Science – Nick Rowles nrowles@wreake.bepschools.org

Head of Humanities – Emma Spargo – espargo@wreake.bepschools.org

Head of Creative Arts and Technology – Carla Connolley – cconnolley@wreake.bepschools.org

Head of Languages – Sandra Ward – sward@wreake.bepschools.org

Head of PE – Faye Sibley – fsibley@wreake.bepschools.org

Free School Meals

Reminders of the letters and the important updates that we have sent out to parents about how Free School Meals will be provided during the lockdown period can be found on our website <https://www.wvacademy.org/free-school-meals-during-school-closure/>

To apply for Free School Meals see the Leicestershire County Council webpage below. Please scroll to the bottom of the webpage for the application form.

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>



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Lockdown Virtual Events - Higher Education and Careers Support - UK University Search



I am pleased to let you know we will be running two virtual fairs during the lockdown period.

UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair - Wednesday 27th January

The first of these events will be the UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair which will take place between 12 and 6pm on the 27th January. This free virtual event for students in years 11, 12 and 13, will feature a diverse range of exhibitors and vital webinars. Students and parents can find out more and at <https://ukuniversitysearch.vfairs.com>

Meet the Russell Group Virtual Event - Wednesday 10th February

Our joint event with the Russell Group Universities will also be returning on February 10th from 12noon to 7pm. This spring's event will see all 24 universities once again, as well as a new line-up of webinars and virtual tours from each university.

You can find out more at <https://russellgroup.vfairs.com>
Please see <https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com> for the warm-up webinars which will accompany the event on Weds 3rd and Mon 8th February.



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Volunteers Required

It has clearly been a very different start to 2021 at both Wreake Valley and The Roundhill Academy. We are currently working through the plethora of information from the DFE regarding Lateral Flow Testing for Covid-19 for school staff and students.

We are confident that we will be able to commence some testing from next week, which will be for onsite staff and those students accessing the building for face to face provision.

When we open more fully, **we will need to recruit a small group of community volunteers** to add to our own 'in school' volunteers and to provide support in a number of workforce roles, including; *test assistants, test processing and day-to-day administration of our testing site.*

Training will be provided for anyone that signs up and at this stage we do not know how long we will be expected to provide this service for, but any help that you are able to provide even in the short term would be greatly appreciated. We are particularly looking for anyone with a medical or administrative background who feels that they can help us with what is quite a complex undertaking.

The situation is dynamic and guidance to schools is constantly changing, we will inevitably need to rely on volunteers to assist and support, as people's availability and the demands of the testing programme may change throughout this term and beyond.

How do I register as a volunteer?

To volunteer your time at either school please complete the simple registration form which can be found [here](#) Registration closes on Sunday 17th January.

We understand that this is a big thing to ask people to sign up for but we would love to hear from you if you think you can help. Thanks again, for your continued support throughout this period.

If you have any queries about volunteering at either of our schools please contact rboyall@wreake.bepschools.org marking the email '**Covid Testing Volunteer**'.



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Old IT Equipment Donated to Africa

We were really pleased to be able to donate our old IT equipment to IT Schools Africa based in the UK and Africa. We are so happy that instead of this going to waste or landfill, it has been able to be refurbished and can be used to educate others.



IT SCHOOLS AFRICA would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** for your recent donation of IT equipment.

Your equipment makes a huge difference both in the UK and in Africa.

Our UK programme is integral to the overall success of the charity. We are able to provide pathways into training and employment for our volunteers who come from various backgrounds. They might be long-term unemployed, people suffering from mental or physical disabilities, special need students, school children as well as HM Prison Service. We welcome over 120 volunteers through our UK Programmes every year who carry out the invaluable work of testing, refurbishing, upgrading and packing the equipment before it is sent to our NGOs in Africa.

Our TECH Connect Community Programme was set up to bridge the inequality of access to technology in an effort to increase digital inclusion in our local community. We support deserving local UK community projects by donating refurbished IT equipment and supporting learners with improved digital skills through our Digital Champions Network.

Achievements since 2004

100,000 computers and laptops collected in the UK

1,000 volunteers welcomed at IT Schools Africa

33 new school e-Learning labs in Africa

5 million children given access to IT in Africa

We are also always in need of IT equipment and financial support to sustain and increase the work we do in the UK and in Africa. If you were able to help or sponsor us in any way we would be so grateful.

IT Schools Africa, Unit 8, Mead Road, Cheltenham, GL53 7EF

Tel: 01242 228800 | Email: contact@itschoolsafrica.org | www.itschoolsafrica.org

Patron: Jonathan Dimbleby | Reg. Charity No: 1146157



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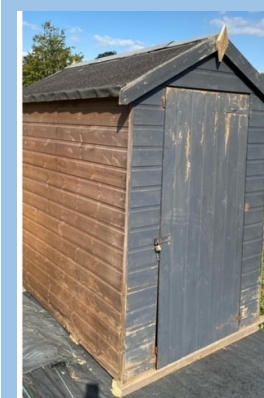
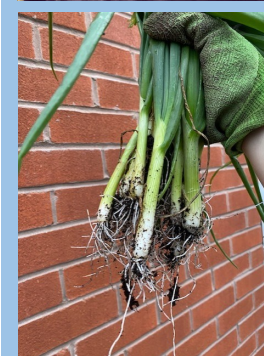
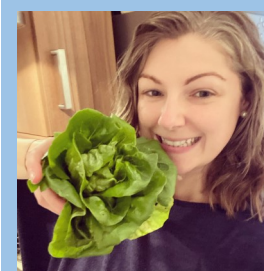
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Miss Pole's Lockdown Allotment



'In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks' – John Muir
Being in nature, or even viewing scenes of nature is known to reduce anger, fear and stress and increases pleasant feelings. Exposure to nature not only makes you feel better emotionally but it can also reduce blood pressure and heart rate and improve your overall physical health.

During the first lockdown I was able to snag myself an allotment plot 10 minutes from my house. I was able to begin preparing it to grow winter crops and I was really excited to grow my own food, I bought a second hand shed and spent time painting it, I built my own raised beds and started to grow leeks, onions and lettuces. Before I knew it my mental health had improved massively, just being outside in the fresh air calmed me down and I was able to forget the big issues in the world for a little bit.

As we are now in the Winter the ground is pretty hard and there is less to do on the allotment – although spring will soon be here and I have lots of plans! When we found out that we were facing another few weeks at home as we try to get the pandemic under control I decided to begin walking every day, my aim is 10,000 steps a day, and at the end of the school day I put my coat on (whatever the weather), stick a podcast or audiobook on and walk around my village. Sometimes it's dark but I stick to well-lit paths and it clears my head so that when I return home I feel like I have physically 'reset' myself, fresh air and gentle exercise is working wonderfully for me.

So this week try to get outside even if it's just into your garden for a walk around. Look at the trees and you'll notice they are covered in buds, by March we'll have longer days and brighter mornings and nature will be coming back to life and so, hopefully, will we.



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The "Covid Kitchen"

Here are this week's culinary masterpieces created in the homes of our students.
Well done every one!

KS3 have been mixing up in the kitchen! They have been practising their pastry skills and made some delicious cheese and onion triangles. If you want to join in, remember that optional practical's are on Show My Homework every week, and I will be uploading a new recipe every Monday. If you cannot make the dish that week just save the recipe for a time you can. Please remember you will need an adults permission!

Year 10 have been practising their high level skills! Both Aijay and Kieran have presented their skills in the kitchen with some yummy desserts, they've been mixing and separating eggs for some Soufflés! A dish even Gordon Ramsey says can be difficult to get right!

Next Weeks recipe to be put on Show my Homework is Pizza Wheels!
Miss Lad, Food and Nutrition Teacher



Aijay Kanani 10DC
Chocolate Soufflé



Kieran Taylor 10TC
Soufflé
Food & Nutrition



Mackenziemay Hayes
7SMM



Rosie Betts in 9MSH



Matthew Jelley 7SWA



Jake Collins 9MSH



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Introducing our New Remote Learning Lead

Hi all,

I am the new Remote Learning Lead at Wreake Valley Academy and The Roundhill Academy. You will get to see me virtually over the next few weeks as I will be scheduling some live English and Maths lessons across all the year groups. I will also be sharing some stretch and challenge work for those of you that really want to push yourselves in 2021, some project work for those that like to get stuck into something and a variety of learning videos and activities for those that just want to ease some of the boredom that 'Lockdown 3' may be bringing.

I look forward to working with you all in the very near future - feel free to get in touch if you require additional materials to support any of your learning.

My email is akhanna@bepschools.org

Kind regards

Avina Khanna
Remote Learning Lead



If you have an iPhone or iPad you actually have a scanner!

If parents or students are planning to scan any work to teachers or if teachers are scanning work, you can use the 'Notes App'.

Open a new note, press the camera button, the option to scan document will pop up. Once the document is scanned you can email it easier than a photo, plus you can add notes to the scanned doc.

Another helpful piece of information is that BBC Bitesize is to be free for BT and EE customers. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55616959>



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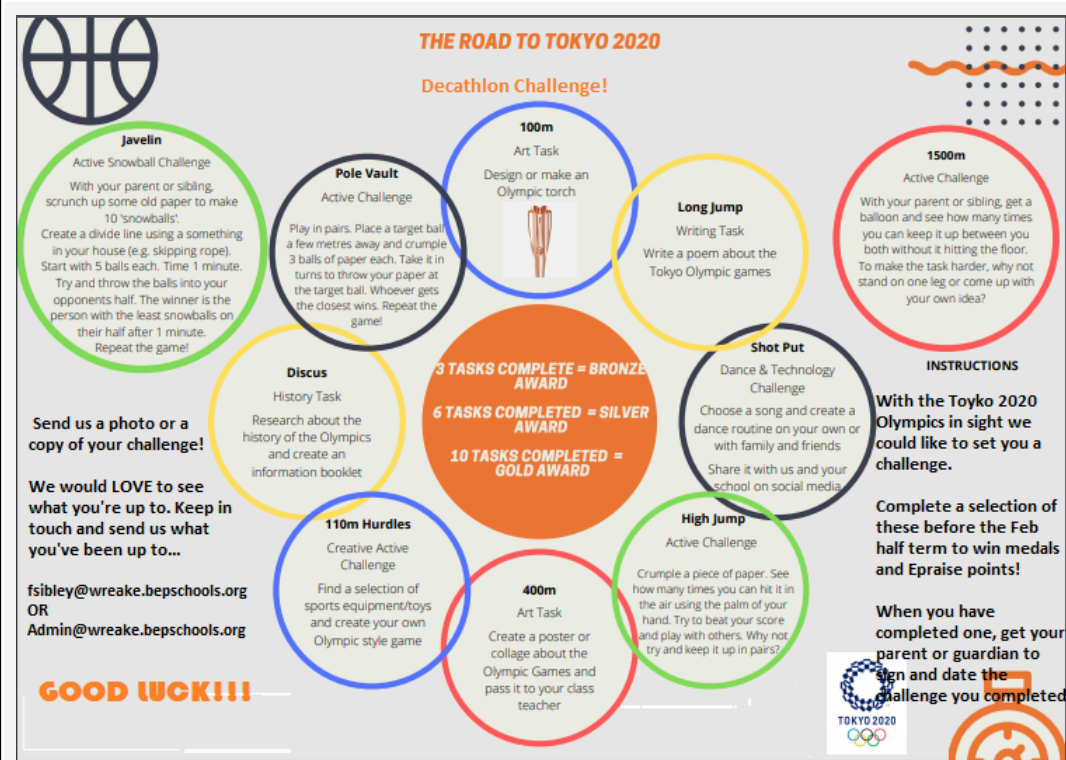
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PE Decathlon Challenge



Deadline for submissions is Fri 12th Feb (last day of term)

Here are some photos of one of our exceptionally talented Year 7 students, Isobel Connolly. Here she is working on her ballet skills. Isobel attends Goscote Dance school, she competes at a very high level and wins lots of awards. She takes her dancing seriously putting in hours of practise a week.

A star, not even in the making, a star now!



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Wreake Valley Readers Delivery Service

This was our exciting debut week for our new book delivery service 'Wreake Valley Readers' whereby students order books for home delivery! The books were sorted and packed by our Librarian Mrs Nita Patel, the route planned by Year 11 student Connor Dyke and delivered by our Head of English & Media, Ms Lovegrove.

Books ordered this week include 'Batman – a visual history', 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' and 'Wonder'. Hopefully, the student who ordered Stephen King's 'Misery' isn't feeling too down-in-the-dumps and we're sorry that the book 'Don't Wipe Your Bum With a Hedgehog' is out of stock. One word of warning though, we do not advise wiping any part of your body with any animal, spiky or not!

Students order their library books online by logging onto Wreake Valley's Reading Cloud using this link <https://u007992.microlibrarian.net/> followed by their user name (which is the student's school email address) followed by their password (which is their date of birth in 8 digits, e.g. 11th of June 2006 would be 11062006).

Students can also browse the catalogue without logging in. Simply email the title and author of your chosen books with your name and tutor group to library@wreake.bepschools.org with your book requests.

Reserve your books by the end of the day each Wednesday and books will be delivered home. Revision books for all subjects can be ordered via WisePay on the WVA website.

ALSO: You can borrow ebooks AND audiobooks for free from Leicestershire libraries using the link below.

[Digital Library Leicestershire](#)

[Services : eBooks | County Council](#)



If you are logging on to Accelerated Reader you will need this link:

<https://ukhost-ed26.renlearn.co.uk/2242548>



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