

UPDATE FROM NE29

Whilst the majority of you get used to working at home for the foreseeable future, for students of key workers school has continued as normal. Over the last two weeks they have been working through some of the same work as the rest of you, but have also been involved in some more creative

work, such as the rainbows and messages in the windows shown above. It goes without saying that we support all Key Workers who are keeping the country running at the moment, and want to show messages of hope to people through the rainbows displayed in our windows.

DONATIONS TO SUPPORT OUR NHS



If you have been watching the news over the past week, you will know that one of the biggest challenges the NHS is facing at present is getting enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for frontline NHS staff, to protect them from contracting Covid-19 from the patients they are working with.

Following the latest guidelines for NHS staff, the school was contacted this week by NHS Northumberland to see if we had anything that could be donated. Mr Keys has so far organised the donation of 215 pairs of safety glasses and 100 pairs of surgical gloves, while Mr Dickinson has been in the CDT department, 3D printing the frames and straps needed for the production of full face shields. A fantastic use of the technology and resources we have in school.

FROM MR WATSON

We hope you are all well, and are coping with, if not thriving, in this new world that we are currently living in.

The past two weeks have been a steep learning curve for teachers, students, parents and support staff, and we will continue to review how we are working in the coming weeks to ensure that everyone can achieve their potential during this difficult time.

As I wrote in my recent letter, the next two weeks, which would officially have been our Easter holidays, will be an opportunity to catch up on work for exam classes, but also a chance to take a breath before the official start of the summer term on Monday 20th April.

For some sense of normality, we will be producing regular updates on some of the work that is being done across our school community. If you would like to submit anything for a future update, please send it to alogie@stmacademy.org.uk. Any outstanding pieces of work that are produced, but also any examples of community spirit, sibling cooperation or family life that might bring a smile to people's faces would be welcome.

For the moment stay safe, look after each other and keep in touch.

- Mr Watson

LOCKDOWN

by Amelia Cerisola, Year 7

Lockdown, what has it brought upon us?
Hitting us hard, yet touching us lightly,
Cooping us up, yet letting us explore.

The feelings it brings upon us are different.
We are happy, no school,
but we don't get to see our friends.
Free time to do what you want!
but we still have to work.

We know that this is different,
something we have never experienced before.
It is an interesting way of life,
but do we like it or do we not?
Will it ever end?!

That's it, isolation is over! The answer is yes!
Children running out of their houses,
Shouting screaming and celebration.
Jumping up and down so hard to make sure he is
dead,
Lockdown is dead.

Back to a normal life,
Back to school,
Back to sports,
And back to seeing our friends!

We are here again, back to where we should be.
But will he ever come again?
Will the isolation monster ever be back?

I guess we will have to wait and find out.

A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

I got anxiety okay and it's not fun. Just this week I have two papers due in and three revision packs. It's a struggle, but if I can do it so can you. Most teachers have given us a lot of work to do, and some of us have a lot of other things going on in our lives.

I get how stressful it is.

Don't get me wrong most teachers get it but I want you to know that it's okay to not be okay at the moment. We aren't good at sitting around and doing nothing all day but there are so many people who want to support us.

At this time it's impossible for us as students. We are all in the dark on this but it's okay. It's going to be okay. We are resourceful and we can achieve a lot when we put our minds to it.

It always gets better. I can only imagine what everyone is going through at the moment but stay safe, wash your hands and keep your head up. - Year 10 student

THINGS TO DO DURING ISOLATION

1. READ!! If you have any books that you've never got around to reading, give them a go! Reading has expanded my vocabulary, educated me on many different things and changed my perspective on almost everything!

2. TUNES!! Take the time to make a new playlist, or listen to your old ones. Get your favourite tunes on blast with your headphones on. There's 'nowt' better than music!

3. ART!! Grab all your old paints, pencils, crayons and go radge! I've decorated old bottles and painted on pages of worn out books. When you go out for your daily exercise, collect some stones or shells, then use them to get creative later on! If you have photos of you and your pals, why not make a scrapbook?

4. EXERCISE!! If you want to eat ice cream and binge watch during isolation, that's fine as long as you do get out for a walk every day! But if you want to stick to a fitness routine, then follow a fitness DVD, an app, a YouTube channel or do your own thing. Go out for a big run as your daily exercise and make the most of it!

5. SOCIALISE!! We now have an opportunity to use 'social' media for its actual purpose, to keep in touch with each other. Messages, phone calls, FaceTime, Snapchat video, Houseparty or Zoom. It's important to check in on each other at this time; many people will be struggling at the moment so get in touch and have a laugh with each other!

6. DE-CLUTTER!! Doesn't sound fun but I don't mean tidy your room, I mean have a look through things you never look at, bag old things up and keep them safe so you can donate them to charity at a convenient time.

7. TV TIME!! We now have the chance to catch up on our favourite shows, or start something new! If you have Netflix, Now TV or this new Disney thing then go ape! If you're really enjoying a show/film, recommend it to your mates.

8. FOOD!! Get the cook books out and give the family something to look forward to in the evening. Personally, I like to get cheap bags of alphabet chips instead of normal chips so I can spell out funny words on my plate; very childish but it still amuses me. Still try to keep healthy, if you're bored and wander over to the fridge like everyone does, try to grab some fruit rather than making a toastie; 9 times out of 10 I'm usually bored, not hungry!

9. FAMILY TIME!! Try getting out those board games you never play and have a bit of a laugh. If you have siblings, take an interest in what they do in their spare time.

10. WRITE!! Writing can help with mental health issues. Keeping a book with all your thoughts in helps to de-clutter your mind. Even if you don't want to keep the book, write things down and then tear them up, whatever helps! Articulating your thoughts in written form usually helps the mind to process them better.

- Amy O'Neill, Year 13

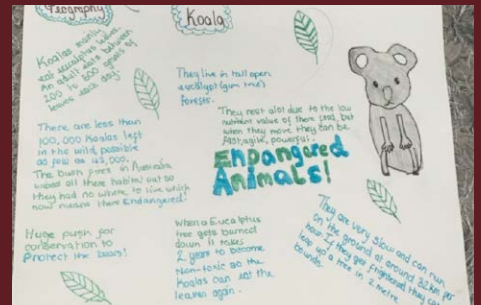




AMAZING WORK!

Some students have been producing incredible work during their time at home. On the left is some Textiles Design work from Jasmine Loxton, Year 9, and on the right is a working volcano made from sand, gravel, sodium bicarbonate and vinegar, made by Holly Hersey in Year 7. Below it is an Endangered Animals project, started before the shutdown then studiously completed at home by Isla Laing, also Year 7.

In school, students have been working to support each other using their talents, and particular credit has to go to Pedro Lucas Goncalves Queiroz in Year 7, who made and posted an instructional video to teach other students how to use Google Classroom.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY

Amy McClarence, Year 8, has been helping out with her brother's Year 4 Maths work, showing great sibling support with the home-schooling! Alex Kelly, also Year 8, has possibly taken advantage of the fact that Mr Flynn won't be on his case about his hair, and has agreed to let someone at home cut it, with dubious results thus far! Some of the staff have also been getting in the community spirit, celebrating the last week of the Spring Term with a charity coffee morning via Zoom.



NEXT ISSUE IS OVER TO YOU...

These updates are a chance to bring together the whole school community through stories of what is going on in people's homes as well as at the school, so the next issue relies on you submitting those stories. Any stories of hope, examples of community spirit or tales of working together in times of difficulty would be very well received.

Email Mr Logie on alogie@stmacademy.org.uk.

Check stmacademy.org.uk/coronavirus-updates for the most up to date information from school on the Coronavirus. This includes all letters to parents, information on work for all yeargroups, plus links to lots of useful websites.

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