



Principals' Letter – Spring Term 2020 Week Ending 10th April 2020

Dear Passmores Family

First and most importantly we hope that this finds you and your loved ones well. As you can see from this letter despite being closed for three weeks now our community continues to try and work together to support each other. We understand that for many of you the health of your family and your ability to earn money are really big worries. We have seen the impact of the virus on many families across our school community. Some people have already lost loved ones, and more will sadly follow, so it seems almost disrespectful to focus on the positive things that are coming out. However, having recently watched 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood' I was struck by a quote by the lead character, Mr Rogers:

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of 'disaster,' I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world."

This is most definitely true over the last few weeks and we thank you for doing your best to help. Helping by looking after your children at home so we can focus on those that cannot do that. Helping by staying away from others. Helping by being a care worker or delivery driver. The fact is that we can all help in our own unique ways.

To highlight this the link below is to a tribute that the staff did for our NHS workers across the country and put together by Ms Hutchinson. <https://youtu.be/cX3o5rQYiIU>

As we said last week parents/carers of young people in Years 7-10 will be receiving more information regarding home learning in the post next week so please make sure you email datateam@passmoresacademy.com if you think we may have the wrong address.

With regard to the position with Year 11 we continue to wait for the full government guidance especially around the practical subjects such as drama, art, design and technology etc. So please be patient and we promise to inform you of any new information as soon as we can.

Please do all that you can to stay well.

A message from the Pastoral Team: The previous weeks have seen some outstanding acts of kindness from our local communities. It has been heart-warming and reassuring to see all kinds of good things happening on social media and even in our local neighbourhoods. Not a day goes past without something popping up where a community member has found something that might be of use to others, making a donation or offering time and volunteering to do even small things for their communities. Acts of kindness seen so far:

- Those having birthdays, setting up a charitable cause donation bank asking those that would usually celebrate with them to donate their 'celebration money' to a chosen cause, supporting favourite charities
- Supermarket chains encouraging communities to help their neighbours by picking up shopping for them and reducing the number of people out and on the move during lockdown, helping on two fronts with this simple act

- Children offering to do complete chores so that everyone is making an equal contribution to the house and parents can maintain their work routines as much as possible
- Taxi drivers offering NHS staff free fares while they work so hard to keep as many of us as safe and healthy as possible
- People and businesses making donations to hospitals for NHS staff that aren't getting the chance to do basic day to day things. Pubs and restaurants have been donating food for NHS staff to either take home or have on their breaks

The list is very long, and we hope it stays that way. Now, more than ever, there is an opportunity to really show others how easy it is to give that little bit of extra care or thought to others. A reminder that we need to look after each other because that's where humanity really shines.

Here's a personal account from Miss Banks of her activities over the last few weeks....

#BeKind

Before this all became a surreal reality, my life was busy with work, socialising, attending the gym and holiday planning. I lived in my little 'bubble'. The current situation has really made me realise how lucky I am to have family members nearby so that I can spend time with them and call on them if I am ever in any need. I understand I am very lucky in this.

Since the world changed, I have realised there are a lot of people who are very vulnerable and lonely in their everyday lives, and society's shift into self-isolation has made that loneliness even more pronounced for so many of them. This realisation promoted me to write letters to my neighbours, who previously I may never have spoken to except to share a smile or quick 'hello' when doing my day to day jobs around my home and garden. As a result of 'reaching out' via my letters, I now help two couples that need to maintain their isolation due to serious health issues; I collect prescriptions from the pharmacy, deliver newspapers and shop for food on their behalf. Even now, as I sit here writing this, I have just had a phone call from a relative to say she needs help because her neighbours are ill and they usually help her, and I am more than happy to help her while this usual support has buckled in these trying times.

Throughout all this it is important we remember that nobody is invincible, and everyone needs help at some point, and I consider it a privilege to be able to offer that help. We need to do these acts of kindness while we can and once this is all over, continue with the kindness that we are currently displaying. This tragic, social situation has put everything into perspective in what has become a materialistic world. Initially, I was gutted about my holiday to India this month however, in the whole scale and scheme of life, it is very trivial and selfish. Do something soon that shows you care, whether it's helping at home or sending a letter to a neighbour, these little things will go far and be appreciated. We all have to pull together, things will get better, we just need to be patient and stay kind.

We want our students to consider some of the small things they could be doing for others to help make this challenging time a little less stressful and a little more lovely for everyone they are sharing their lives with. If they are struggling with ideas, just have a look at the Passmores Challenge Project that students will receive after the Easter holidays and encourage them to pick a few from there. They will be amazed how good it makes them feel!

We will be sharing more stories on what other people have been doing to demonstrate kindness in our community. This will be sent out via SMHW and Twitter. Next week you will be hearing from Mr Elston and Miss Danaher on how to get active during lockdown.

Calling all Artists: If you would like to get involved or have created a rainbow masterpiece already please send a photograph of your work to Miss Hutchinson at a.hutchinson@passmoresacademy.com and she will collate them all into something creative over the Easter holidays.

The Art department wanted to share some amazing art work which has been sent in by some of our students. We think you will agree Passmores have some very talented artists.



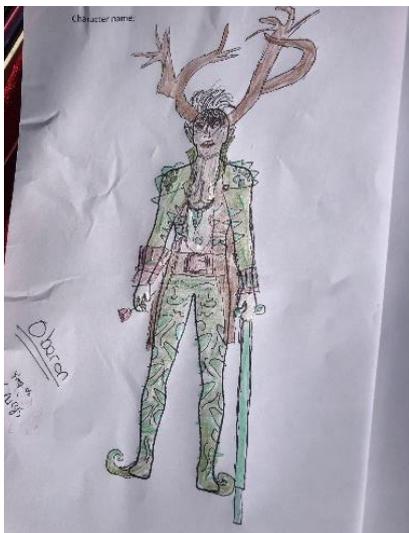
Tech News: Ms Rosson has been busy using her sewing machine skills to make face masks for local care home workers. Well done Ms Rosson, keep up the good work! The Tech Department have also lent our 3D printers to a local company who are using them to make 3D printed face shields for NHS staff.

This amazing bird table was made by Oliver Allen and his sibling (who doesn't go to Passmores yet). Well done guys. Great job!

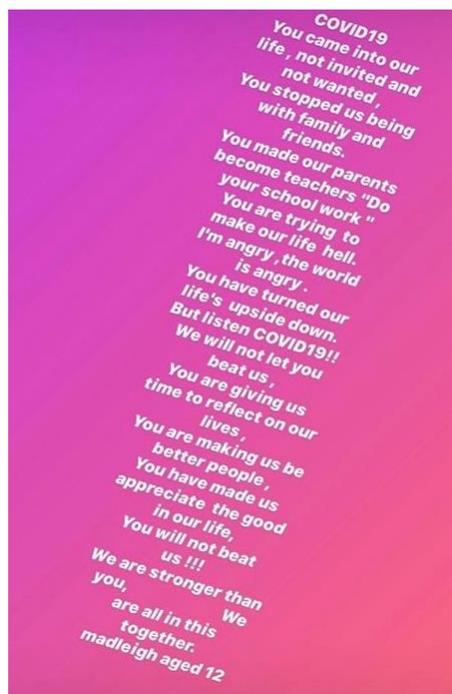
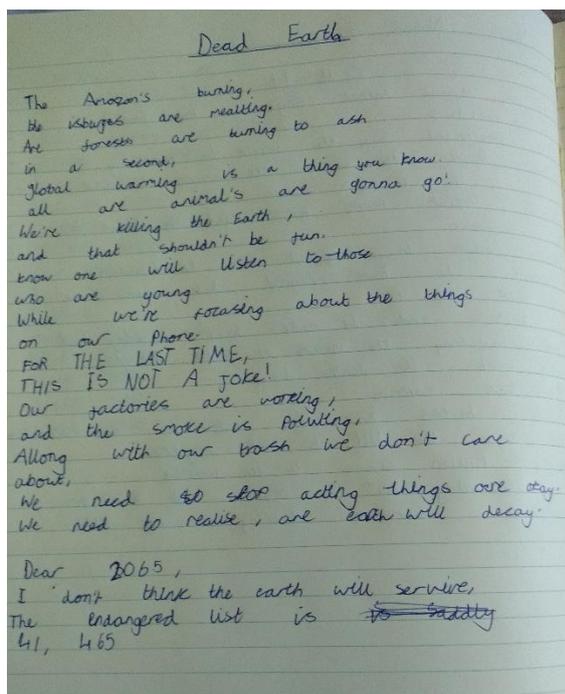


Expressive Arts: The Expressive Arts department wanted to share some lovely creative things that some of their students have sent in.

Drama This is a costume design for Oberon from A Midsummers Nights Dream.



Music These are a couple of Covid 19 raps from our Year 7 and 8s.



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Coronavirus Rap by Sophia Atkinson (2).mp4

Kitten Rescue: Just before lockdown, Ms Le Dain received three rescue kittens from the RSPCA. They are doing well and keeping her busy as you can imagine. Here is a picture of them to cheer you up.



Book/Film Reviews from Ms Szpakowska: Whilst we are having to stay in our homes, there has never been a better time to get stuck into a good book or watching a film alone or together as a family.

Five Feet Apart tells the story of a young woman with cystic fibrosis. Stella, is a teenager who, despite her condition, excels in every aspect of her life; she has lots of friends, has a YouTube Channel and has even made an app to help other people with cystic fibrosis. However, when she meets Will, another 'CF-er' at the hospital, Stella realises that not everyone with the condition takes it as seriously as she does. Will's reluctance to engage with his life-saving treatment drives Stella mad. But, when she insists he follows her regimen, he insists they must spend time together. But, there's just one catch; due to both suffering with cystic fibrosis, they have to remain six feet apart. What ensues is a moving young-love story which shows that a condition, like cystic fibrosis, doesn't mean that young people can't have fun and live life to its fullest.

The film is also on Netflix. Similarly to other much loved films like The Fault in our Stars, teenage girls are most likely to enjoy this film adaptation. It's amusing, fun and sentimental. The film adaptation is true to the book and isn't overly long. It's well made and acted. A must-see for those that enjoy a tear-jerker.

If sentimentality isn't much your thing, see below for other book to film adaptations available now:

Most suitable for 10-12 year olds:

- Malory Towers
- The Story of Tracy Beaker
- Northern Lights

(All available on BBC iPlayer)

Matilda

Gangsta Granny

The BFG

Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle

(All available on Netflix)

Most suitable for 12-14 year olds

Five Feet Apart

Dumplin'

Anne with an E

The Mortal Instruments

Maze Runner

Twilight

Divergent

Every Day

(All available on Netflix)

Most suitable for 14+ years

Noughts and Crosses (available on BBC iPlayer)

All the Bright Places

The Great Gatsby

To All the Boys I've Loved Before

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

The Miseducation of Cameron Post

The Witcher (based on a series of Polish books as well as a video game)

(All available on Netflix)



Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard

Co-Principals of Passmores Academy



We know the current coronavirus circumstances are having an impact on everyone, and with [BBC News](#) programmes and platforms we are particularly keen to ensure the specifics of how it is affecting young people is amongst the stories we share with wider audiences.



So we have created [a special online uploader](#) to enable 11-18 year olds to contact the BBC – via [BBC Young Reporter](#) - securely by text, video or using audio and suggest a story idea or pose a question they think we should be asking the experts.

[Click here for more information about how to upload original stories](#)

For safeguarding purposes it requires the young person to provide contact details for a parent/guardian so we can liaise with them directly in the first instance.

In these unprecedented times when young people are adapting to a new normal - getting used to not being in school or college, being unable to physically spend time with friends or do wider activities, and for some the additional confusion of no exams as planned and uncertainty of what lies ahead - we want to hear their insights and unique experiences.

We hope over the coming weeks this is something you will share with your networks and encourage and empower young people to reflect on how the virus is uniquely impacting on their lives, and of wider families and communities.

With best wishes from the BBC Young Reporter team

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