



## Principals' Letter – Spring Term 2020 Week Ending 24th April 2020

Dear Passmores Family

It is quite hard to believe that we have only missed 15 school days so far! However, a lot has changed in that time and we are trying to share as much info as we can as soon as we understand it ourselves.

Today we received confirmation of the laptop scheme that was mentioned last weekend by Gavin Williamson. The students that will be eligible to receive a laptop (at some point that we have not been told yet) are:

- Care leavers
- Children with a social worker (including pre-school children)
- Children in Year 10, ahead of GCSEs next year (that have no other means to access online support).

We have filled in all the forms etc and have been told our allocation is likely to be less than 30 devices. Obviously, we are not certain of when the devices will arrive but will be trying to work out the list of those that are eligible and would benefit.

As you can see from later on in this letter, we are receiving some great feedback on the activities being completed and teachers have loved receiving them through email, SMHW etc as we are missing the contact with the young people a great deal. If there are any issues with not having received the home learning pack (I know we had an envelope stuffing issue where a few of you didn't receive the maths pack in the envelope for instance) or the children are staying at a different address please get in touch via [datateam@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:datateam@passmoresacademy.com)

Parents/carers of Year 11 received some information earlier this week. We have held a series of online meetings with heads of subjects this week to prepare for having to enter the vast amounts of data the government are requesting. We are sure there will be worries and we have set up an email address where you can send your questions/concerns. Please don't expect immediate responses as we will be collating the questions as I'm sure many will be similar that way we can formulate a 'frequently asked questions' document to send to you for the more general worries and then have the capacity to talk to individuals with student specific concerns. The email address will be [GCSEs@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:GCSEs@passmoresacademy.com) and it will go live on Monday.

Hopefully those of you holding offers from Harlow College will have already had, or will soon, some information from Harlow College about some activities to do to prepare for next year that is course specific.

We are very aware that some of our Passmores family have lost really important people to this virus over the last few weeks and we want to send you our deepest condolences and wish we could be there to support you and your children through it. However, we know that this is impossible, but it is important for us that you know that we are thinking of you all.



**Word of the Week Beginning 27th April 2020: OCCUR**

OCCUR (verb): happen. Example: When Nessa says "What's occurring?" she means "What's happening?"

To turn this into a noun it becomes an occurrence (something that happened or a particular time that it happened). Example: Thanos' snap was a major occurrence in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It was one of many occurrences where heroes got beaten in these films.

Hidden within: curren(t) - one particular time: NOW! Spelling: Notice the double R in any of the noun forms. Avoid an A in occurrence.

**A message from the Pastoral Team:** Last week our theme was #GetActive and we hope you all managed to access the video on our Passmores Academy YouTube, hopefully it gave you some motivation to be more active on a daily basis. This week our theme is #TrySomethingNew.

Have you ever looked around you and thought '**How is that done?**' We know, before these unprecedented times most of our focus was on family, friends and especially work. Over the past five weeks, we have all had the opportunity to look up, look around and take in some of the incredible things around us. We have looked in magazines and online at objects of beauty. These times have allowed us to ask one simple question '**How is that done?**'

Do you remember when you first tried to speak? What about your first steps as a baby? No, neither do we, but what we do know is that we probably weren't very good at it! We have spoken to many people over the last couple of weeks about trying something new. The vast majority of people have indicated their reluctance as they didn't know what to do or how to do it. Think back to those first words or those first steps, even to something you are passionate about now. Were you good at it when you first started? Were you an expert when you first started? NO! Give something new a go!

Mr Gladwin speaks about this very thing. *"I have taken on a few new challenges recently, furniture! I have looked through magazines and scrolled through the internet at different kinds of furniture and there are some really cool and funky ideas. They also come with a cool and funky price tag! I thought to myself '**How is that done?**'"*

*My biggest fear was getting it wrong and it not looking like the pictures. Guess what? It doesn't and it doesn't matter! Although it doesn't look like the pictures and I wouldn't buy it out of choice, I am immensely proud of what I have produced, and they sit proudly in my living room. I've called it up-cycling, my friends, notably Miss Conway, have jokingly called it downgrading, but again, I don't care!*

*My challenge to you all is, look around you, look in magazines, scroll through the internet and ask yourself the one question that I asked myself 'How is that done?'*

"Never be afraid to try something new, because life gets boring when you stay within the limits of what you already know". (Anon)

*It doesn't have to be something major, it could be preparing a meal for your family, it could be preparing and presenting a talk to your family, it could be making something for yourself or your family. Trying something new and seeing it through to the end has been one of the most satisfying things I have done in many, many years.*

*Early next week there will be a video uploaded to our Passmores Academy YouTube and you will be able to see a variety of staff trying something new. Have a look at some of the new things we have tried recently. What do you think? Should we contemplate new careers?"*

"If you want something you've never had, then you've got to try something you have never done". (Thomas Jefferson)

Miss Sales is also trying something new by attempting to run a marathon! On Thursday 30th April, Miss Sales will attempt to run up and down the street where she lives and in order to reach 26.2 miles, she will have to do it 45 times, turning 90 times, which won't be easy. Prior to this, the longest run Miss Sales will have completed is 13 miles and that wasn't up and down one street, so we wish her luck in doubling the distance on Thursday. Miss Sales will be raising money for UK Sepsis Trust who are supporting patients and families who are impacted by the Covid-19. We will share some footage of Miss Sales completing this challenge and we will let you know how she gets on in next week's letter.

Next week you will be hearing from Mr Shine and Miss Sales on our new theme, #TheLittleThings. Stay safe and look after one another.

**St George's Day – A message from Mr Pickering:** Wednesday 22nd April was St George's day, but who is St George? He is the patron saint of England, Aragon, Catalonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany, Greece, Moscow, Istanbul, Genoa and Venice. Saints are all people who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and live their lives according to his teaching.

This story of St George was set in Libya, which was being terrorised by a ferocious sea-dragon. Under the king's command, the people were told to give their children to the dragon to be eaten. Finally, the time came for the king's own daughter to be sacrificed. George, however, promised the king that if everyone was baptised (became Christians) he would slay the dragon. The king did as he was told, George killed the dragon and everyone was saved.

Later, Roman Emperor Diocletian ordered an attack on all Christians, but St George refused to give up his Christian faith. Some stories say he was tortured for seven years in which every conceivable horror was inflicted upon him, but he refused to give up his Christianity. Legend says he died on three occasions and was brought back to life by St Michael. He finally died when he was beheaded.

If St George was the person historians and Christians believe him to be, then he would have been upset that sometimes his name and flag is used as a symbol of hate. So maybe it's time to reclaim St George for what he represents – his beliefs and Christian values. Jesus didn't say hate thy neighbour, he said love thy neighbour.

**Bored? Would You Like Something to Read:** Renaissance Learning, who provide Passmores with the Accelerated Reader programme, are making 7,000 digital books available for FREE to all students. For the duration of the school closure, they can be accessed from this site:

<https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html>



**Year 11 Information:** New City College is following the guidance and advice from the Government and Public Health England around social distancing. They have therefore taken the difficult decision to postpone all open events for the safety and wellbeing of all visitors, students and staff. They have, however, organised for another Virtual Open Day! This will happen on 12th May 2020, from 4.30pm – 7.00pm. Students can view taster presentations, check out student’s stories, tour the campus and live chat to ask all the questions they may have. There will also be completions for the students to enter.



The poster features the New City College logo at the top right. The main headline reads 'Your adventure starts here!' in a teal box. Below this, a teal box contains the text 'Visit our live virtual Open Day for a real flavour of life on campus.' The date and time '12 MAY 2020 4.30PM - 7PM' are displayed in a teal box. A photograph of two smiling people, a man and a woman, is shown. Below the photo, a teal box lists activities: 'Campus tours, video messages, student stories, taster presentations, live chats, competitions and more...'. The website 'www.ncc london.ac.uk/open' is provided in a teal box. At the bottom, the hashtag '#VirtualOpenDayNCC' is visible.



Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard  
**Co-Principals of Passmores Academy**