



Principals' Letter – Spring Term 2020 Week Ending 8th May 2020

Dear Passmores Family

Today is a really important day for our country. The day that marks 75 years since Victory in Europe (VE Day) was announced. At a time when we are all feeling a little bit hard done by it is even more important to use today for a bit of perspective. I'm sure many of you have relatives that remember this day 75 years ago; if you do we'd love some of our young people to write up their memories or do an interview like or write like it was a news story that actually happened today. The staff have put together our tribute to those that sacrificed so much for us all; you can find it here - <https://youtu.be/Z2tEVo3l5Y0>

We are obviously awaiting the update that has been promised for Sunday like everyone else and we won't speculate too much about what might be said but we are not expecting a return to school in the near future. Therefore, staying in touch and trying to get some sort of routine is vital. The staff have all reported how lovely it was to speak to you all over the last week or so. We are not checking up on work being completed or anything similar we just wanted to let you know that we are still thinking of you all and really miss the young people particularly. If you haven't had a chat with someone from Passmores yet it may well be that we have tried your numbers and cannot get hold of you; if that is the case for you please drop an email to the form tutor or to datateam@passmoresacademy.com with the number we can now get you on.

Obviously, we continue to work on getting our Year 11s the grades they deserve for their GCSEs and are working through the government guidance. Please remember that we are unable to give you specific information about grades nor are we able to write to future post 16 providers to support any young person's case. The guidance from the government is clear on this aspect at least! If you are a Year 11 wondering if there is anything you could be doing to prepare for next year here is a list of work, compiled by Mr Chadwick, being posted online by post 16 institutions nearby and some A level maths information produced by Mr Hegarty.

Herts & Essex:-

<https://www.hertsandessex.herts.sch.uk/sixth-form-transition-packs/60227.html>

Leventhorpe:-

<http://www.leventhorpe.net/sixth-form/introduction-to-independent-study-in-the-sixth-form.aspx>

Hills Road in Cambridge:-

<https://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/sixthform/how-to-apply/summer-work-2020>

I could not find anything for Boys High, Epping St John's or Harlow College.

I have just found out that Hegarty Maths has produced some special videos to prepare students doing GCSE for A-Level maths. Normally, you can only access them with a subscription but this has been waived which is excellent.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxHVbXhSvleR5tntP2FxYBJCoY5-pD_Z8

Finally following the survey completed last week these are the headlines -

- 75% of parents prefer the home learning packs.
- 85% of parents said that these were easier to access and understand.
- 70% of parents said that the packs had helped to relieve stress and anxiety
- 71% of parents agree that the packs have helped to reduce screen time

Thank you for the additional comments, we are using your feedback to make changes and adaptations for the next round of work. More information will be sent in a letter next week. The new packs will be posted by the end of next week and inside will be a stamped addressed envelope to return any work; also the Passmores Challenge page.

We wish you all the very best and please stay safe

A Message From The Pastoral Team: We hope this message finds you and your families well. It has been a long seven weeks and although we have managed to adapt, it doesn't stop us from missing school, especially our students. One thing that has helped us during lockdown is hearing from students and their families, whether its sharing work, photos, telling us about their kindness and well-being challenges or just general feedback. As a school, we value our home and school partnership and just because the building is closed, it doesn't mean we can't stay connected. Families will receive contact from tutors or a member of the pastoral team, this is to maintain positive relationships and to get any feedback on how we can support each other during these uncertain times.

Year 11- There has been queries on whether we are still going to have a Prom and although we are unsure of when it will be, we are planning on having one. Everyone in Year 11 is welcome and it will be the first year that we haven't used the Year 11 Passport to Prom. Tutors have been in contact with students to see who is interested in attending, so please let them know if you want to attend so we can add your name to the list. Also talk to friends and get them to contact their tutor.

Well done to our Deputy Head of House, Miss Sales, who successfully completed a marathon up and down her street in an impressive four hours and 19 minutes. Her target was £200 and we are pleased to say that she raised a staggering £2771 for The UK Sepsis Trust.

Well done to **Gracie Doye** (Unicorn House) who has also been raising money for charity. Last month Gracie made the decision to shave off her hair which is a very brave thing to do when you have hair as long as Gracie. Over 112 people supported Gracie by donating and we are pleased that she smashed her original target of £250 and raised a massive £1760 for NHS Charities Together.

During the next month, our weekly themes will be Houses; each House will be creating a video to their House song. If any student would like to feature in their House video, then please contact your Deputy Head of House by Monday 18th May. Griffin will be the first House video, so their deadline is slightly earlier on Wednesday 13th May.

Dragon s.sales@passmoresacademy.com

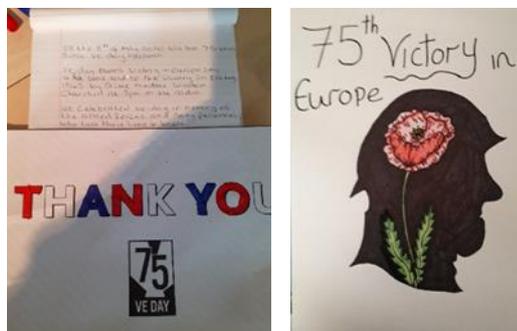
Griffin e.danaher@passmoresacademy.com

Lion s.banks@passmoresacademy.com

Unicorn n.gladwin@passmoresacademy.com

Our staff video on 'The Little Things' will be out at the beginning of next week. Our theme this week is VE Day and staff have payed tribute by singing 'We'll Meet Again' by Vera Lynn, remember our weekly videos can be seen on YouTube under Passmores Academy. We hope you enjoy watching them as much as we enjoy making them. We will leave you with a message from our humanities department on VE Day.

Further to last week's message, there are lots of good ideas about what you can do on Friday 8th May (today) to remember this important event. These can be found at <https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/> and <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/ve-day-75>. Radio and TV are also hosting lots of events that you might want to tune into, for example Absolute Radio are having one day Absolute 40s station which has 'live' updates as though it was happening 75 years ago, along with music and chat from that era. Whatever you do we hope you have an enjoyable and reflective day. If you want to email in pictures of what is happening around you (maybe a virtual street party) then please send them to l.pickering@passmoresacademy.com. These VE Day pictures are from Reggie Ellis and Grace Barker. Well done to both of you.



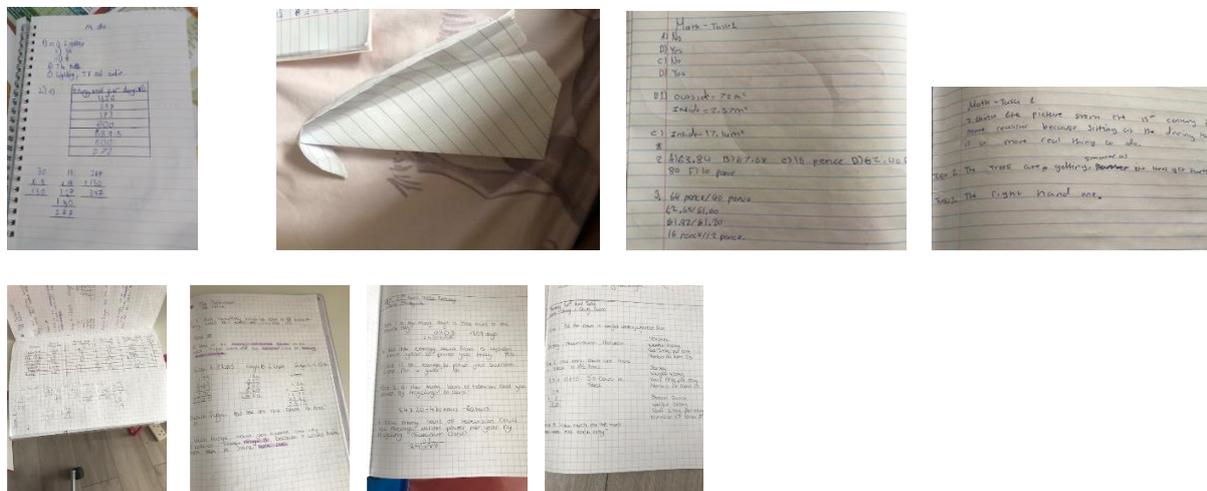
Word of the Week: Week Beginning - 11th May 2020 **POLICY**

Policy: an action or principle agreed by an individual or a group. (Principle = a rule on how things should be).

- The policy says stand two metres apart at all times.
- They took out an insurance policy against accidents.

The word can be traced all the way back to ancient Greek politeia, meaning citizenship. The link seems to be that policies are things that society agrees on; rules that bind us together. The link to police, who enforce a society's laws, can be seen.

Maths Department: The Maths Department would like to share some great work from **Alfie Liddel** and **Maddie Allen** and **Freya Rhodes**.



Kalvin Allen Year 7 has been working on his maths pack. He is really enjoying doing his maths at home.



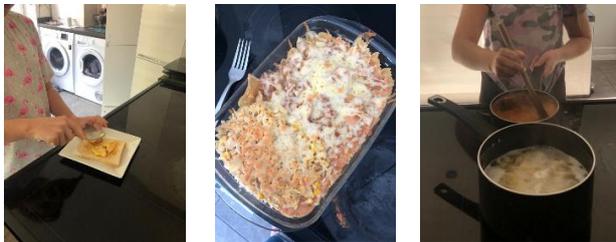
Technology Department: The Technology department have received some great examples of work this week. This is from **Gemma McAusland (L5)**. Well done Gemma.



Emma West in Year 11 has sent these pictures in. These are just a sample of her work, as all of the work she has done would take up the whole letter! She is completing work for her college course already. Well done Emma.



Grace Stevens has been busy helping in the kitchen making ice cream on toast (?) and dinner for her family.



Expressive Arts Department: These great mini-bug homes have been made by Evie Matthews Well done Evie.



Post Year 11: For those students looking for an apprenticeship, use <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> which is regularly updated with new opportunities. The following vacancies may be of some interest:

- GSK, Engineering Apprenticeship in Ware
- Busy Bees Nursery, Childcare Apprenticeship, Harlow
- S & B Commercials, Heavy Vehicle Technician, Bishops Stortford
- Various hairdressing apprenticeships

Students can run searches on the type of job they are interested in and how far they can travel and then set alerts for these searches. For any students who haven't yet applied to a college, it is not too late to do so. Although the colleges are not open at present, they are still accepting online application forms. If any student is concerned or needs help, they can email Mrs Kay, Careers Adviser at j.kay@passmoresacademy.com.

Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard
Co-Principals of Passmores Academy