



Principals' Letter – Spring Term 2020 Week Ending 15th May 2020

Dear Passmores Family

Another week has gone by and we hope that you are all managing to stay healthy. This week has been a busy one in the school and in the media talking about schools. Hopefully you have seen throughout this that we have been trying to communicate what is happening now and what will happen next as soon as we know. This week has been rather challenging on that front! The announcement by the government last Sunday regarding schools having more students in had changed by Monday morning in their communication to us and changed again at 7pm last night. We received a letter from the local authority asking us to share information with you as follows:

“I am sure that many of you will have watched the Prime Minister’s address to the nation on Sunday evening and read subsequent details either online or in the media about the plans to begin to re-open schools more widely.

You will have heard the Prime Minister indicating that the government believes that as well as schools being open to the children of critical workers and for vulnerable pupils, it may be in a position to implement a phased re-opening of schools from 1st June at the earliest, starting with pupils in nurseries, reception, year one and year six. This will be in addition to accommodating children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils.

Secondary Schools and Alternative Providers are considering their approach to offering some face to face time for pupils and we are working with Special Schools on their plans to gradually increase the number of children and young people on site, again from the 1st June at the earliest.

This is part of the government’s conditional plan which it says will remain under regular review, which is yet to be finalised and will only happen if the level of new infections continues to decrease and the government’s other conditions are met.

We know that you will understand that the safety of everyone in the school community is paramount. We all want to get more pupils back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. However, in supporting schools to re-open in a phased and gradual way, the first priority to consider will be the health and well-being of all pupils and families and the staff.

The guidance made it clear that it is not compulsory for parents to send their children to school at this time and there will be no penalties if you choose to keep your child(ren) at home.

All schools will continue to provide a home learning offer to all pupils not accessing support on site and will also keep in regular touch with the families of all pupils, whether or not they are attending school.”

As you will be aware the only year group being spoken about returning is our current year 10. We have also received the following from the British Medical Association:

“The BMA’s Public Health Medicine Committee (PHMC) has considered the evidence available on the reopening of schools and has found it to be thus far conflicting, which is perhaps unsurprising given the relatively small amount of research available and the uncharted territory we find ourselves in. A paper from New South Wales found very little transmission associated with schools and suggested that children were much less susceptible to serious illness but were more likely to have asymptomatic infection. Conversely a more recent paper from Berlin,

looking at viral loads in children suggests they are just as likely to be infected as adults, and may be just as infectious.

We, therefore need to know more about the infectivity of children. In light of these studies, however, the view of the members of the PHMC is...we should not consider reopening schools.”

The short version of this advice from one of the leading associations for medicine in the country is that children may have it and may pass it on but not show symptoms.

Therefore we have to balance out the impact of children not being in school on their educational progress and mental health against the impact of them being in school on their, and your, anxiety, the likelihood of the virus being passed on child to child with you not knowing they are now carrying the virus and the chances of staff catching it and infecting their own families.

To be blunt, it isn't an easy thing to get right. In light of this and the fact that things will undoubtedly change again we will be phoning every family in year 10 to gauge their opinions on the matter. Of course, as has been the way throughout this time, we will not please all of you with whatever decisions we make but please understand that we need to balance so many different, and difficult, issues including making a decision that ultimately could lead to the death of a student, a member of staff or a member of both groups' families.

Some of you may well have already received the next envelope of home learning but rest assured they are on their way. Please remember to send us back anything you would like us to look at in the envelope we have provided. If in a couple of days time you haven't received it or something is missing please do email the usual address - datateam@passmoresacademy.com . Please remember that you can always find them on our website too along with links to further learning -

<https://www.passmoresacademy.com/page/?title=Home+Learning+During+Lockdown&pid=89>

A small number of you requested that there was more work to do so please remember the 1000s of hours worth of learning that is available online. There is nothing on the school platforms, that you have access to, that is not on the normal schemes of learning so feel free to get your child busy with these.

If you haven't yet had chance to see the latest video by staff to our community about the little things we are enjoying and the things we are missing you can see it here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwt0LuwYbcc>

We are really sorry that we have written so much but we feel that giving you too much is better than too little. Please enjoy the rest of this letter as it is full of the remarkable stuff going on in our community.

As the video says family comes in many forms and we are really proud to be part of the Passmores family with you all and really cannot wait to see the young people (and you) again but only when it is safe and right to do so.

A Message from The Pastoral Team: We hope you are all well and that you are remaining positive during these uncertain times. If you haven't already seen our weekly videos, please go to YouTube and under Passmores Academy there are a number of staff videos that should help you feel connected. Over the next four weeks there will be House videos, we are particularly looking forward to these as students can also get involved. Please remember to contact your Deputy Head of House if you want to take part in your House video. Below is a message for Griffin House, and their video will be out next week.

To our wonderful **Griffin** students, parents and carers

We hope this message finds you and your family healthy and staying safe in these strange and challenging times. It is hard to believe that almost eight weeks ago we said goodbye to you all, for what we had hoped would have been a short period of time. However, now more than ever, we must remain positive and know that this will not last forever. These are very challenging and unusual times and one day, when this is all over, you will be telling your children about the time our wonderful community overcame a huge challenge, how we stuck together to help care for one another and showed kindness and compassion towards our neighbours, friends and loved ones.

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Mr. Elston and I have been overwhelmed with the number of messages we have been receiving about all the wonderful things you have been doing, not only for your families and siblings, but also for our community. These kind gestures show us what we already know about you; that you are strong, resilient, compassionate and kind young people. And this thought fills us with so much pride. Your tutors have been in contact with you to see how you are getting on and how you are spending your time in lockdown. Please do respond to them as I know they miss you all and cannot wait to hear from you. Even if it is just a short response, I know it will mean a lot to them.

At school we may be divided by our houses and we take great pride in representing Griffin House. However, that being said, there is one thing that I have learned during this crazy time; no matter what house we belong to, when times are difficult, we are united as one family and one community and I could not be prouder to be part of our wonderful community and Passmores Academy. The phrase, four houses, one family sums us up nicely, I think!

Please know a few things going forward during these challenging times; we care about you and we miss you. And yes, this is tough, but we will get through it!

This is not the school year we had envisaged for you when we greeted you back in September, therefore know that we are doing whatever we can to make the rest of your school year the best it can be. Regardless of what it looks like.

Continue to be the amazing young people we know you are, talk to adults about how you are feeling, be positive and patient with your family; if they seem sad, tell a funny joke and flash a cheeky smile to cheer them up. You know, the ones you use when you try and get out of trouble in school. We miss these very much! Stay connected with your friends, call them, don't text. Take this opportunity to learn a new recipe, read a book or watch that movie you have been meaning to. Most importantly, use this time for you. Be kind to yourself and appreciate the simple things in life and around you. History is being written now and we hold the pen. So, let's write the best story ever!

Keep sharing your work with us and follow us on our social media platforms. @Griffinhousepa1 on twitter and passmorespastoral on Instagram.

In the meantime, be kind, be hopeful and keep in contact with those that love you. We miss you and hope to see you all very soon.

Love Miss Danaher and Mr. Elston #missiongriffin #proudoypassmores #4houses1family

Next week you will be hearing from **Dragon House** so until then stay safe and look after one another.

Show My Homework: Students may have noticed that ShowMyHomework has been replaced with a different icon if you have downloaded the app onto your phone or device. It has been replaced with "Satchel One". No need to worry, they have just merged with a different company but all of the services should work as normal. You may have to log on again so here's a reminder how: -

1. Log on via Office365 only (the banner is at the bottom of the page)
2. Your username is your school login with @passmoresacademy.com at the end
3. You will then need to enter your password (this is the one you use to log on at school)

If you have problems logging on, remember to email the data team datateam@passmoresacademy.com

Water Awareness Challenge: This week is National Water Awareness which looks at ways of saving water, which in turn saves money. This is an important environmental message at a time when people are at home, using more water than usual. There are many good tips at the following website <https://waterwise.org.uk/> about saving water, especially given how dry April was and that many of us were probably watering the garden more than usual! So why not set your young people a challenge to try and save as much water as they can over the

next 7 days. If anyone wants to let us know the sorts of things you tried then why not email Mr Pickering with some details or a picture for next week's newsletter at l.pickering@passmoresacademy.com.

Waterwise

Waterwise is an independent, not-for-profit UK NGO focused on reducing water consumption in the UK. We support and challenge governments, industry, customers and others to be innovative and ambitious on water efficiency. We are the leading authority on water efficiency in the UK. We receive funding from Waterwise Supporters and Affiliates ...

waterwise.org.uk

VE Celebrations: Mr Pickering has two further pieces of artwork for the VE75 anniversary from **Pedro Pinto** and **Yulia Cachia**. These look great, well done to both of you.



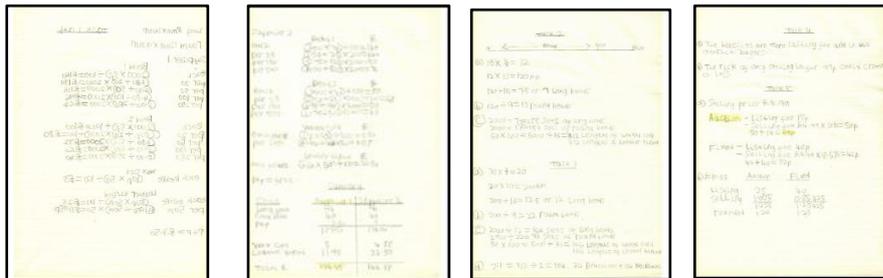
These photos have been sent in by **Jack Groom** in D4. He helped with his family's VE day celebrations and he learnt a little bit of his family history at the same time. Well done Jack!



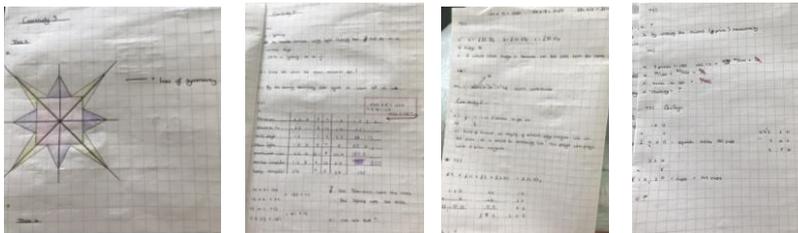
These photos have been sent in by **Jess Ascott** who made these for VE day celebrations and her grandad's 80th birthday. Well done Jess!



Maths Department: The Maths Department would like to share some great work from **Kyran Ackerman-Mond**. There have been many hours spent on this, well done Kyran!



This work has been sent in by **Abi Dukes** in Year 7. Well done Abi, great work.



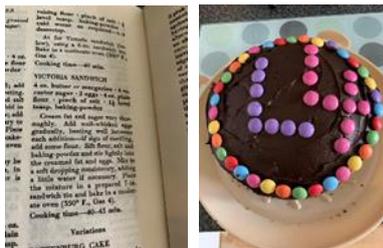
Science Department: The Science Department have received some great work from **Adam Filipek** in Year 8. It looks like a great board game, well done Adam!



Cooking for the Family: We have received some great photos of **Jack Groom's** cooking. He has obviously been very busy, well done Jack!



This cake picture was sent in by **Aaron Peirce**. The recipe for the cake was from his great great grandma's cookbook. Whow!



These photos have been sent in by Ella and Grace's mum. Ella is the cake baker here, but Grace has also been making profiteroles. These look amazing, well done!



Technology Department: This lovely mouse teddy was made by Megan Norris in Year 7. She made it for her baby cousin because she was singing 'Hickory Dickory Dock' and was asking where the mouse was. He is lovely Megan, well done!



Expressive Arts Department: This great album cover has been sent in by **Jamie Rowlett** in Year 7. Well done Jamie!



This rap has been sent in by Aimee O'Connor in Year 7. Well done Aimee!

*The world is getting destroyed
It's turning into a void
Of doom and despair
Lifeless trees, there's no repair
Pollution to global warming
Where was the world's warning.*

*Factories, Cars, Planes and Trains
Are all the same
Releasing Carbon Dioxide
Like it's gonna subside
We need to do something now
Otherwise the world will overflow.*

*We need to stop now
Or the world will become extinct
There's 41,415 species on the IUCN red list
Sea levels are rising and icebergs are melting
The coral reefs are dying and little are helping
Did you know that they keep the ocean alive
This started back in 1985.*

*Do you know that there's more plastic in the oceans than fish
Soon we'll be eating it as a dish
We've destroyed all they need to survive
So instead they're eating plastic to keep alive.*

*Our forests are turning to ash in a second
80% of forests are gone due to deforestation
The amazon rainforest is burning and falling
The amount of tree loss is flying and soaring.*

*By 2050, 90% of corals will have died due to bleaching
And the number of trees will be rapidly decreasing
Half of the animals could be gone if we don't stop this
We need to stop now
Or the world will become extinct.*

English Department: This has book review has been sent in by **Aaron Peirce**. It makes a very interesting read but watch out for the spoilers. Well done Aaron!

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Book Review – Author - JK Rowling

Harry Potter's days at number four Privet Drive are coming to an end. As his seventeenth birthday approaches, Harry will no longer be protected from Lord Voldemort by his mother's charm. The time for hiding must stop. Harry, Ron and Hermione face a tough mission set by Albus Dumbledore, they must hunt down and destroy the remaining Horcruxes. They have little to go on and in the face of hardship and loss their strong friendship will be tested. There are riddles to be solved. Are the rumours about the Deathly Hallows true? How will a Dilluminator, a book of fairy tales and an old snitch be of any use? As they face the final fight Harry and Voldemort must face each other alone in one final, deadly duel. To finish it, once and for all.

I really enjoyed this book and could not wait to find out what happened next. My favourite part was when Harry, Ron and Hermione broke into Gringotts with Griphook. It was intense as it was a big challenge for them. I liked reading about how the three of them sneaked into the Ministry of Magic and how Ron thought it strange that they had to flush themselves down the toilet. I was happy when Ron returned and helped Harry out of the lake, I was surprised to read that it was Snape's Doe that led Harry to the lake where he found the sword of Gryffindor. The final battle at Hogwarts was great to read but I was sad that some of the characters did not survive. I was happy that Harry defeated Voldemort. I give this book 10/10

Careers for all Years – A message from Mrs Kay: At this time of year I would normally be conducting one to one careers guidance sessions with students in Year 10 to discuss what they might like to do when they leave Passmores. This is usually an opportunity for students to explore their ideas and plan their next steps. Not everyone knows what job they want to do, which is quite understandable at this age, so the guidance sessions enable them to look at what they enjoy both inside and outside of education, consider their skills and academic levels, discuss the range of opportunities and give them time to research post 16 options. As well as working with Year 10, I often get queries from younger students, especially when choosing options. I have therefore attached a handout that gives lots of useful careers websites that students can use to start exploring their futures. Both KUDOS and JED have career quizzes that can match what students enjoy doing with a list of possible careers. My email is also on the handout at the end of this letter, so please feel free to contact me if you would like further help.



Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard
Co-Principals of Passmores Academy

Starting Career Research

- **The easiest way to start** - go to www.kudos.cascaid.co.uk and enter the licence code: Jobspost98 to generate and explore your career ideas. Follow up using the in depth job profiles on the same site to get really detailed information about what jobs involve and how you can train and qualify for your chosen career. Another similar resource is JED. To use this go to www.careerssoft.co.uk, click the 'Sign in' button. This takes you to www.careerssoft.co.uk/sign-in where you can enter your Access Code, which is de92avk5.
- Another way to research your ideas is by using the internet but be very careful that the sites you use are up to date and accurate and appropriate to UK opportunities.
- www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk carries a lot of reliable and relevant information. It has a job profiles section which puts jobs into sectors.
- www.careersbox.co.uk has some really useful and accessible information including lots of short films on a range of careers.
- [www.success@school.org](mailto:success@school.org) has information on career, subject choice and much more.
- www.screenskills.com Excellent website with a wealth of information about careers in the creative industries, including film, tv, animation and games.
- www.healthcareers.nhs.uk Comprehensive information about health related careers and how to train or qualify.
- www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship A comprehensive source of information on all aspects of apprenticeships. Search for current vacancies and register for email alerts.
- www.careersinsport.co.uk - Careers in sport.
- www.bases.org.uk (The British Association of Sport & Exercise Science).
- www.tomorrowsengineer.org.uk - Engineering.
- www.targetcareers.co.uk - Construction/IT/Engineering/Law/Finance/Business/Hospitality.
- www.goconstruct.org - Careers in construction.
- www.careersinmusic.com - Information on songwriting, production, technicians, etc.
- www.caw.ac.uk/careers - Careers working with animals.

If you would like to talk further about your plans you can email Mrs Kay, Careers Adviser at j.kay@passmoresacademy.com.

Julie Kay, Independent Careers Adviser
QCF Level 6 Dip. Careers Guidance