



## Principals' Letter – Spring Term 2020 Week Ending 5th June 2020

Dear Passmores Family

We hope that you are all doing ok. Obviously things have started to change for schools as some primary children have returned and we continue with our plans to see Year 10 students; we will be in touch next week with lots more details of how we are going to do this whilst keeping people as safe as possible.

We have spoken a great deal about what we are doing for our young people as teachers and worried about how they are coping. Today we'd just like to talk to you parents/carers about how you are doing and to encourage you all to speak up if you are finding it a struggle at the moment. Too often, as adults and parents, we think we need to have all the answers and this puts us under pressure when we are going through this for the first time too.

It is quite natural to be worried and nothing to be ashamed of. There are so many things that can cause us, as adults, to feel anxious; the health of elderly relatives, our children missing school, the impact on our jobs from lockdown etc. These are real life issues and understandably play on our minds. If you are feeling that things are getting on top of you please get in touch with someone. The hardest thing to do is to be honest about how you are feeling and to let someone know. There is no 'how to' guide on being a parent/carer in these circumstances; to be honest we could do with a 'how to' guide on being headteachers too right now! There are many fantastic support organisations out there and this is the link to the NHS web page on mental health –

[https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/?WT.tsrc=Search&WT.mc\\_id=MentalHealthGeneric&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIqgDkzO\\_q6QIVxuJ3Ch3bNA66EAAAYyAAEgLkAvD\\_BwE](https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/?WT.tsrc=Search&WT.mc_id=MentalHealthGeneric&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIqgDkzO_q6QIVxuJ3Ch3bNA66EAAAYyAAEgLkAvD_BwE)

and here is a link to the many helplines available –

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/> . The helplines listed cover just about everything imaginable with over 25 different organisations on it.

We have been so thankful to you all for being part of our school family and doing your very best whilst in lockdown; we could ask no more of you so please make sure you are looking after yourselves as well. There is a good reason why you must put your own lifejacket on first – you cannot help anyone else if you are not making sure you remain healthy too.

Today was the premiere of the Lion House video and it is such a treat to see so many familiar faces. If you want to see it you can click on this link - <https://youtu.be/PLQL5NcDNNQ>

We are really missing seeing you all and will be back in touch soon with our next steps in this quite bizarre time.

**A Message from The Pastoral Team:** To our Unicorn family - **Stronger, Better, Together.**

If ever a motto had specific 'time' relevance, then our motto certainly has that right now. No matter how long we have lived on this planet, the vast majority of us have NEVER had to experience a time even remotely as strange as this.

It really has been a physical, mental and emotional test for all of us. I desperately hope that when this is all over, as a society, community, and family, we will remember the sacrifices we have made, the relationships we have forged, and spirit that the majority of us have forged to be **stronger** people; **better** people. I can assure everyone who is reading this that when we start to get back to whatever the 'new norm' looks like, we will all be here to support, not just the Unicorns, but all students. We will do this **together**: school, student and home. **Together** we will create an environment, like the one we previously had, that ensures that each and every young person in our buildings is provided with the tools to succeed.

During lockdown, the Unicorns have become even closer as a family. I know each Unicorn Tutor has loved being in regular contact with each tutee and their families. This time has offered us all the chance to be able to speak with home regularly and forge even closer relationships with you all. The Unicorn teachers have created their own WhatsApp group (some of us can use technology!). Those of you who have watched the Netflix documentary of The Tiger King may recognise someone in the video!

We have all loved seeing the amazing work that you have completed during this period; keep sending this to your teachers and tutors. You can also share them with everyone on Twitter. Use @UnicornHouse2 and show us what you have achieved.

Finally, I know we are opening our doors in a week's time to some of the Year 10's, but we will not see the majority of you until September. Make the most of this time with your families. None of us will have this prolonged period of time again with our loved ones. Make those special memories - these will last a lifetime.

Stay safe everyone. Miss Richards and Mr Gladwin.

**PACKS PACKS PACKS:** We have been thrilled with the packs received back from students in Years 7-10 in the last week and a half and a team of thirty staff have been assiduously working through them to provide feedback for students. This will be dispatched in written form along with Pack 3. Please do check out our Twitter feed where we have been sharing some great examples of work this week. There is still plenty of time to send Pack 1 back if you have not already done so.

**WORD OF THE WEEK:** Process (noun)

a series of actions taken in order to achieve a goal. This links to the words procedure and proceed from last week. Sometimes we need time to process our thoughts (Process here is a verb). We are just doing the same - working through steps in our mind to come to a goal (understanding or acceptance).

**Year 11:** The Year 11 Careers and Further Education page has been updated this week, with important information, including some work for Year 11s to do, from Presdales, Hockerill and NCC Academy (London). Please check this page regularly to ensure you keep up with the expectations from your new destination.

<https://www.passmoresacademy.com/page/?title=Year+11+%2D+Moving+On+Resources&pid=97>

**What have our student's been up to?**

**Shelby Patterson** has been busy making these lovely items for her passport challenges. Well done Shelby.



**Lucy Martin** Year 7 L3 has made this lovely cake for her passport challenge. Well done Lucy.



**Daisy Hamill** had a bake off at home and won. Well done Daisy.



This lovely quiche was made by **Keanu Barnsley**. Well done Keanu.



This is another picture from **Evie Matthews**. Well done Evie.



*Natalie Christie* *V. Goddard*

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