



Principals' Letter – Spring Term 2020 Week Ending 26th June 2020

Dear Passmores Family

What a sweltering day and week we've had. It was fantastic to see so many new faces from Year 10 in the school this week; it was a really uplifting feeling to see something approaching 'normal'. We are really pleased that some of you have now seen what is happening and have decided to also send your Year 10 young person in. If you have changed your mind please make sure you let us know in advance or there will be no staff or space available. As always getting the balance right so as to support but not put additional pressure on our community is a challenge and no doubt things will continue to be changeable. We appreciate your continued partnership as we plot our way through the best we can.

We were a bit sad this week as it was due to be a really busy one with Mersea, Community Day and Sports Day (we may have struggled with the heat mind you). Our biggest disappointment was that it should also have been Year 11 prom. To mark this we have put together a little video from their last day with us to let them know that we are still looking forward to seeing them again in the not too distant future. As none of us knew the lockdown was coming we missed many things we would have wanted to say and to celebrate together. Let's hope we can get a date for a belated prom night soon. Here's the little reminder of our last day with year 11 before lockdown - https://youtu.be/7-HbleUV_IE



Class of 2020

To our Class of 2020, this one is for you. Things may not have ended as we all would have planned, but remember the amazing memories that we share from your ...

[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/7-HbleUV_IE)

You may be hearing lots of different things about what schools are going to do in the media. One or two of you have been in touch to ask about the various government announcements regarding everything from providing free school meals over the holidays to laptops and £1 billion of support for extra tutoring etc. I'm afraid to say that asking about them is a bit of a waste of your time as we have been letting you know everything we know as soon as we possibly can. So please take this in the spirit it's intended - we'll let you know when there is something happening on these fronts. The update on the additional funding that's been promised is that so far we have been told that we are losing almost £30000 from the 'Year 7 catch up funding' we all used to get but not been told how much we will now get from the 'new national catch up funding'. Sadly it could well be less than we've lost. We will update you as soon as we can.

Finally, it has been so sad to see and read about how angry the world seems to be whilst coming out of lockdown. The number of incidents involving group violence, assaults and even worse has been awful this week. Obviously being in lockdown and living in such close proximity to each other has been difficult but being angry rarely solves problems. Please look after each other and do all you can to get through the next few weeks safely as we gradually return to some sort of normality.

A Message For Our Year 11s:: So on the week of Prom we finally get to say goodbye to you all. We may well have missed out on all the exam cramming, the highs and lows of revision and an eternal period 6 but we still got to see you off with our quick fix Celebration Assembly on 20th March.

During the five years you have been with us you will hopefully have taken as many of the opportunities offered as possible. Some of you were regular faces at each and every school event and show, helping out, having fun and making Passmores the wonderful place it is.

Don't throw away the memories of the various trips you may have attended, starting way back in Summer School with outdoor pursuits in Chelmsford. Then, in Year 7, East Mersea – a real highlight for every student that goes and a first chance for you all to realise that your teachers are as mad as the rest of you when it comes to high ropes, assault courses and zip lines! Some of you will have taken the chance to visit Ypres on the history trip to Belgium in Year 8, where many of you first realised the gravity of war and the price that every country pays when diplomacy fails. Who can forget Year 9 and the Ardeche trip? It may well have been the wettest the South of France had been that year, but it was certainly exciting (and a bit cold sometimes)! All of these wonderful experiences have contributed in some small way to helping you build your personality so far. With the daily experience of Passmores alongside this, we hope your memories are fond and cheerful and even though your final year has been cut short, we're not done with you yet! Keep your ears and eyes peeled for Prom news from Ms Conway. We will see you again and then we will say Year 11 is finally over!

A new chapter is beginning in your lives, a chapter that we hope we have prepared you for. To be the confident, knowledgeable and mature individuals we know you can be and go out into the world and show them what you can do.

We know it is a 'cliche' and every adult ever always says it (and what do they know?), but.....your school days are without a doubt the happiest, most carefree time of your life. Even with the usual drama of growing up and all the stresses and anxieties that can go with it. Know that your teachers cared about you and supported you as much as was possible, then realise that you can probably do this for yourself and friends now you're a bit older. Pay it forward, be the positive change in someone else's life.

You have been shaped by a tragedy that we hope future generations will never have to endure. This has given you experience and wisdom, the knowledge of having to do things differently in difficult circumstances. You will be amazed at how positively that has prepared you for the future.

We wish you all the best in whatever path your life takes, stay in touch and keep us up to date with what you are achieving.

Good luck, Class of 2020.

Word of the Week: Specific - relating to one thing and not others.

- *The money needs to be used for specific reasons.*
- *Is there anything specific you want from the shops?*

This comes from the Latin word Species (having a particular feature) and is linked to words like specialism (your teachers have a (one) subject specialism).

Thought of the Week: This week has been National School Sports Week and we would have been building up our own annual Sports Day if we were all in school. However, that doesn't mean you can't still do something yourself to help keep fit or to learn a new sport. There are so many sports out there waiting for you to try them, and who knows it might be the one that you end up being a champion at. You just don't know until you give it a go! Keeping fit is especially important when life is very different to how it normally is. So why not go to <https://www.youthsporttrust.org/coronavirus-support-schools> and click on the secondary school section for some ideas about sports you might want to try. Mr Pickering

WHAT HAVE OUR STUDENT'S BEEN UP TO?

Sam Howard (Year 8) has been swimming 800m in the dirty, freezing water at Redricks Lake! He normally swims every single day before school. This is so impressive Sam, well done!



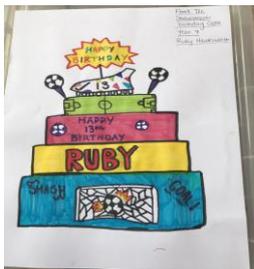
Jack has been doing some "keep ups" with different balls. He said the football was definitely the best.



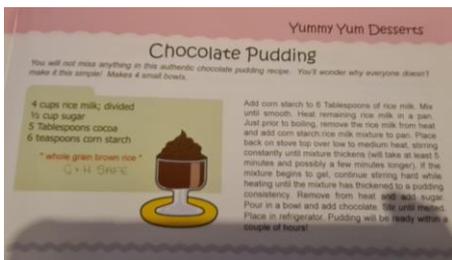
This maths work has been sent in by **Narece Barnsley** in Year 7. Very impressive Narece.



This great picture of a cake has been designed by **Ruby Hawksworth**. We think anyone would be happy to get a cake like this. Well done Ruby. The second picture is of some fantastic cookies which were made by **Zara Man** for her family. We hope they tasted as good as they look. Well done Zara.



Harry Franks has been making allergy free chocolate pudding for his whole family to enjoy. Well done Harry.



Maddy Allen completed this shark project. It is well presented and very informative. Well done Maddy.



ARE SHARKS TERRITORIAL?

THE TRUTH IS ONLY 32 SPECIES OF SHARK HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO ATTACK PEOPLE OR BOATS, SHARKS MAY ALSO ATTACK FROM A TERRITORIAL DIVE, WITH NO INTENTION TO FEED.
HERE IS THE TABLE WITH THE 32 SHARKS:

Species	Number of Attacks	Number of Fatalities	Number of Non-Fatalities
Rhizoprionodon taylori	1	0	1
Sphyrna tiburo	15	0	15
Trachinotus obesus	5	0	5

WHY DO SHARKS ATTACK HUMANS?

WELL THEY ATTACK BECAUSE EVEN IF THE SMALLEST BIT OF BLOOD IS SENSED FROM A MINOR CUT, SCRAPE OR BRUISE WILL LEAD THE SHARK TO GO INTO A FRENZY WHERE THEY JUST WANT THE BLOOD SO THAT MAY LEAD TO THEM ATTACKING. ALSO IF THEY FEEL THERE TERRITORY IS THREATENED THEY WILL ATTACK.

FUN FACTS!

- DID YOU KNOW?** Sharks live up to about 20-30 years.
- DID YOU KNOW?** Only 30% of the ocean has been discovered.
- DID YOU KNOW?** Sharks don't have any bones.
- DID YOU KNOW?** Most sharks have really good eyesight.
- DID YOU KNOW?** Sharks don't sleep.
- DID YOU KNOW?** Sharks have a special receptor organ.

Some great photos here from **Teddy Heath** of an object at different angles.



This lovely piece was made by **Louise Lai** to celebrate Pride Month. Well done Louise. The stone was painted by **Oscar Shead** for pride as well. Well done Oscar.



Year 11: There will be a Virtual Degree Show at University of Central Lancashire on 9 July 2020. If you are interested in this, save the date – Thursday 9 July, 10am – 6.30pm. There will be more information to follow.

Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard

Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard
Co-Principals of Passmores Academy