



## Principals' Letter – Summer Term 2020 Week Ending 10th July 2020

Dear Passmores Family

Officially we have a week until the end of term and year! Obviously, this is a year like no other and the things we would normally do in assemblies and in tutor time are missing. At the end of every year there are staff that leave/arrive and this one is no different.

- **Donal Conway** is retiring after 10 years supporting the lettings that provide a vital income to the school.
- **Thomas Dalby**, one of our science technicians, is off to university.
- **Leanne Bayford**, one of our always hard working MDAs, has a new opportunity
- **Reynand Dumala-on**, from our science department, is moving closer to home.
- **Helen Twigger** has secured a promoted post closer to home.
- **Alex Crook**, from our humanities department, is starting an overseas adventure - as soon as he's allowed in to the country!
- **Gemma Faley** has been one of our cover supervisors but has now secured a full time teaching post.
- **Marcus Hunt** has led resistant materials with a passion and has been successful in gaining a further promotion at a new school.

Both Marcus and Gemma are fantastic examples of staff that went to school at Passmores and came back as adults to work here - we have quite a few these days. We wonder how many of our current young people will become key members of staff in the future?

We will miss all these staff and wish them the best of luck in their new endeavours.

We have deliberately left **Clive Benham** until last. Clive is retiring after dedicating 38 years to teaching and to the young people of Harlow. We say he is retiring but, for those of you that know him, you won't be surprised that we doubt it's the last we'll see of him! Clive, we thank you on behalf of the tens of thousands of young people you've served and helped to grow.

Of course, we are sad to see any of our staff family members leave but also delighted that they have taken the opportunities on offer at Passmores to develop in order to enable that to happen. Thankfully our staff turnover is about one third to one quarter of the average for schools in England. Long may that last in the current circumstances!

We have a busy last week and we'll be in touch with as many details as we can for September but, as we've said previously, it won't be until the middle of August until we can speak with any certainty.

Please carry on feeding back to us on anything your young people are doing; it lifts our spirits to see it.

**A message from the Pastoral Team:** Have you ever sat and wondered who you really are or struggled to understand the world around you? Every time you open a book your brain connects who you are as a human-being to the events, characters and thoughts and feelings within the narrative. This allows you to reflect upon how you would react in these situations. It allows you to build empathy towards others and to build resilience and coping strategies for any issues that you too may face in the future. Reading equips you with the emotional

intelligence that will allow you to thrive and shine in the world that we live in. They allow you to make better decisions and choices in your life. Socially, reading makes you a kinder and more resilient human. It develops and expands your emotions. It enables you to make better choices.

The beauty of reading is also that you get to experience new cultures, hobbies and learn of new past times - with every page that you read you grow in your ambitions, passions and to some extent, your experiences. Have you ever wondered what life is like in a blues bar in New Orleans? Or what life was like for women in the eighteenth century? Have you ever wondered what it is like to walk side-by-side with the majestic elephants or laugh in trees with monkeys? Books will transport your imagination there. Books allow for you to travel across the wider world and experience moments and times that may well be out of your reach, right now.

A book allows you to dance through the thick fabric of words and imagery, the beauty of the written word becomes also contagious, as you too will become more creative in your own use of language and your imagination will soar high through the clouds of possibility and dreams.

Academically reading is important because it improves your vocabulary and increases your reading and spelling ability. Books are saturated with knowledge. The more you read, the more you are absorbed into other cultures, behaviours and experiences. You learn facts that you would have otherwise not known. The act of reading enhances also your critical and analytical thinking skills. Whilst we read, our brains simultaneously process a complex array of information - this is how, as humans, we are able to relate to and understand characters. It is how we can foresee events and how we can sequence ideas together. It is also good for our health, as psychologists have proven that becoming 'lost in a book' reduces stress and anxiety, and reading before bedtime increases your ability to sleep.

Reading makes us better people. Books make us kinder, smarter, empathetic and humble. The written word links us all together: four houses, one community, one world.

**Word of the Week:** Variable - something that is likely to change.

The weather was variable at the weekend.

The -able suffix (end part on a word) means "can be" or "is able to." -ible is the same as this.

Examples: predictable (can be predicted); possible (can be done), adorable (can be loved).

**Thought of the Week:** The 10th July unites the nation for National Don't Step on a Bee Day! This year the campaign is calling for your help to protect our precious bees. The recent press surrounding the Bee Crisis has been hard to ignore. Not only do our bees help provide the honey and beeswax contained within your favourite Bee Good products, they also help to keep us all fed and watered! Without the tireless work of our little buzzing friends, over a third of everything we eat would disappear from our tables. So why not visit the website <https://beegood.co.uk/blogs/news/14795641-tuesday-the-10th-of-july-is-national-dont-step-on-a-bee-day>



*Tuesday the 10th of July is national "Don't step on a bee day"...*

*Tuesday the 10th July unites the nation for the 2018 National Don't Step on a Bee Day! As ever, we're calling for your help to protect our precious bees. The recent press surrounding the 'Bee Crisis'*

*beegood.co.uk*

and check out 5 ways you can help our Bee population (no prizes for guessing which number one is!). Mr Pickering.

Our Passmores Bee is below demonstrating for the cause.



**Jack Petchey Awards:** As most people are aware, Passmores Academy work closely with Jack Petchey and participate in their awards programme. Usually we encourage staff and students to nominate worthy winners of this prestigious award but with everything that is going on at the moment, we have been unable to nominate and choose winners for April – June. We have spoken to Jack Petchey who have agreed that we can ask for nominations via email from students and staff so everyone still has the opportunity to vote from home. Nominations should be for Passmores current students who are doing wonderful things for the community during these difficult times. If a student can think of another student (not themselves) that would be worthy of a Jack Petchey award, can we ask them to email [jackpetchey@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:jackpetchey@passmoresacademy.com) with an explanation of why they deserve this award. Please email this address as well if you have any further questions. Nominations will then have names taken out and they are given to a student body to choose a winner from the explanation. This is why the reasons should be as full as possible as the winner's name is not known when it is chosen.

This is the opportunity to nominate a student for going above and beyond. This can be something they do at school or at home. It could be for being a good role model or doing something amazing for others. It can be for any reason you like. The Jack Petchey window will close on Tuesday 14th July at 4pm. No nominations received after this date will be considered for this year.

This is a prestigious award and the winner gets a medallion, a certificate and gets invited to the Jack Petchey evening at the Playhouse (when the world has returned to normal a little bit more). Also, the student winner gets to decide a department or area in the school to spend the grant which they are awarded. Jack Petchey money has bought many great things in the school already. Happy voting.

#### GCSE Artists:



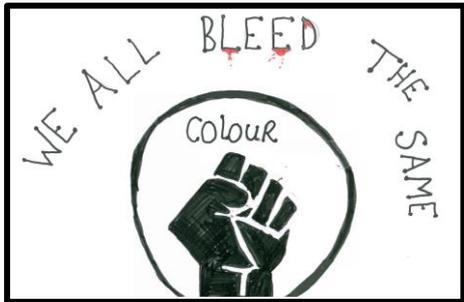
We are very proud of the creativity and artistic talent of all of our young people at Passmores. This time of year we would usually be celebrating some of our oldest Artists with a GCSE Exhibition in the Hall or Heartspace, a chance to fully celebrate artist achievement. As this isn't possible this year we have instead gone "online" to create this Virtual GCSE Exhibition.

Please take some time out to enjoy and celebrate in the incredible work that our Class of 2020 have produced. It is available to watch on our YouTube channel or over on the Art Department Instagram (@Passmoresartdept) <https://youtu.be/o5DZe3dUYr4>

**Plastics Free July: Millie Humphries** is going to change in July by using metal straws, a reusable coffee cup and a reusable shopping bag.



**Black Lives Matter Artwork: Oliver Matthews** in G4 has done this lovely piece of artwork for BLM.



**WHAT HAVE OUR STUDENT'S BEEN UP TO?**

**Oak Saunders** has been making bracelets for the NHS and produced this poster to advertise them. This started as a maths challenge, to make a business plan, so he chose supporting the NHS. It was such a good plan, that he decided to go ahead and try it! If you are interested in purchasing a bracelet, the email address is on the poster. All proceeds are going to the NHS Charities Together. To save money on postage, delivery to the school can be arranged.

My name is Oak and I have been making some bracelets to sell them in order to raise money for the NHS Charities Together.

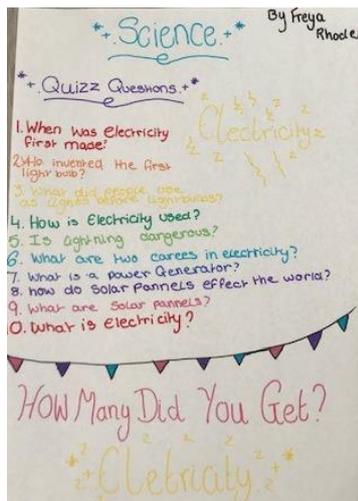
Only £3!  
Payment by Paypal or in cash if local to Harlow. If posted please add 65p for stamp.

Only £3! NHS Bracelets for sale, all money goes to NHS Charities Together.

DELIVERY  
Once payment is received we will post or hand deliver the bracelet to you.

To order, please email [rowsaunders@hotmail.com](mailto:rowsaunders@hotmail.com) or message Rowen Saunders on Facebook.

**Freya Rhodes** in Year 7 has done this lovely Science quiz. The answers are at the bottom of the letter if you want to try and give it a go.



**Libby Yeoman** has been on a home-schooling field trip. Looks like an amazing catch.



Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard

**Co-Principals of Passmores Academy**



# Big Bang DIGITAL 2020

Science, engineering & Covid-19

## The Big Bang Digital Event

**Introduce your students to the inspirational scientists, healthcare professionals, engineers, technicians and students doing incredible things during lockdown.**

**Big Bang Digital 2020 – science, engineering & Covid-19 is a free online event on Tuesday 14 July that celebrates the amazing work of scientists and engineers in a pandemic.**

**Aimed at students 11+, #BigBangDigital gives young people a front row view of the incredible contribution of people working in STEM.**

### **Announced line-up:**

- **The worldwide race to develop a vaccine (GSK)**
- **The environmental impact of staying at home (Plastic Oceans)**
- **Keeping the water flowing (Thames Water)**
- **Designing a social distancing lanyard (RS Components)**
- **Feeding the nation (Harper Adams)**

### **Check out the latest line-up**

**An inspiring day of upbeat sessions, Big Bang Digital 2020 suits students with an interest in the people or STEM behind news stories. Safeguarding measures mean they can safely participate in interactive polls, live Q&A sessions and Big Bang activities – there's also a follow-up competition.**

**Include as part of a home learning plan or stream in-school for an inspirational, uplifting look at the essential role of science and engineering.**

**Add to whole-school communications, share on social (#BigBangDigital) and with colleagues, SLT, careers co-ordinator, friends and family to help inspire the scientists and engineers of the future.**

### **Spread the word**

**For more details and the latest confirmed line-up, see [www.digitalbigbang.co.uk](http://www.digitalbigbang.co.uk)**

Science Quiz Answers:

