



Principals' Letter – Autumn Term 2020

Week Ending 2nd October 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Over the last week there has been quite a lot of change, AGAIN, and lots of news stories and reports talking about how the impact of local lockdowns will affect the rest of the school year. It has been reported that 1 in 6 schools across the country has had to impose an isolation protocol and asked year groups to self-isolate; one of the reasons we are so grateful to our community for their support this week.

A major concern is obviously the potential impact on GCSE/BTEC exams. There are a few different options being discussed and it is important that we all consider the impact of them as it looks like education will continue to be affected for a while at least. The most likely thing to occur is that exam dates will be pushed back by a couple of weeks to buy a little more time.

However, discussions are taking place about what would happen this year if exams could not be sat. Exams can, of course, go ahead in a socially distanced manner better than most things we are being asked to do but contingency plans are being drawn up. It has been made clear that if exams do have to be cancelled again and Centre Assessed Grades must be used, like last year, they will ask for evidence of the performance of each young person in internal tests and mock exams. This really reinforces to our students the importance of doing as well as they can in all their work and that mock exams need to be taken seriously as they could have a real impact on the final grade received.

The Prime Minister has also been reported to be considering a two-week national lockdown around October half term. We can see no other talk of it this week, but the government has just updated the key worker list and put it in law that schools must be prepared to provide work immediately if a national lockdown is ordered.

As we hear of any potential changes we will do our best to keep you informed.

We have had a very justifiable complaint from one of our neighbours regarding the parking of cars at the beginning and end of the school day. One neighbour could not access the ambulance that had arrived, to take them for their chemotherapy, because of a car parked in front of their dropped kerb and when they were asked to move became very abusive. The young person that got into the car was in Passmores uniform. We know as the nights get darker and colder that even more of you will want to drive to pick up/drop off your children. However, if possible, can you arrange to meet your young person a little away from the school in order to ease congestion? We are often asked to 'sort out' the parking by our neighbours but we have limited power to do so therefore, we have requested that a parking enforcement officer comes to school at the start/end of the day from Harlow council. Please help our neighbours and make it safer for the children from both sides of the road by being considerate and only coming all the way to school if absolutely necessary.

We are so pleased that the introduction of compulsory mask wearing has gone very smoothly and are grateful for your support in doing it. We are currently giving out approximately 150 masks a day which we will happily carry on doing but if you are able to get your child a washable mask or some disposable ones that would be very helpful as the supply of masks may start to become an issue nationally and it is highly unlikely that we will get any financial support from the government to cover the increasing costs of being Covid safe.

Finally, if you know of any Year 6s that are still considering which school to choose for September do encourage them to look at our YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC-yfl29gsycHCTL-bbuU9A> - where they can see some of the slightly mad videos we made during lockdown and also the virtual open evening films. There will be two of these on there shortly with just the final one to go up next week.

Thank you again for your support and partnership in trying to keep our school open to every member of our family.

Black History Month: October is Black History Month and we often get asked the question 'Why do we have a month to celebrate Black History and not other groups?'. This is a good question, but it comes down to making every group within society feel included, and not excluded. Given that the majority of history taught in schools focuses on white leaders, inventors, innovators, and wars involving white people, it feels appropriate to spend a little time during the school year to throw the historical spotlight on a group that has contributed a great deal to the successes and wealth of the UK from the first Black African Moors arriving in the 11th century up until the present. In a world which is feeling increasingly divided at the moment, it feels right to promote an event that seeks to bring people together as a community and not to push them apart.

Science News: The Tassomai Champions for the last 7 days (Saturday 26th September to Friday 2nd October) are below. Well done to all these students who surpassed the basic time requirements and completed the most minutes in their year.

Year 11

Gracee Swann
Jake Abbott
Evie Matthews

Year 10

Lois Lackford
Mileina Kazlauskaite
Jack Dolling

Christmas Fair: With the current situation, our Christmas fair is now going to happen online! We are really excited about helping many small businesses that have suffered this year. If you know of anyone who has a small business that may benefit from the online fair please email Mrs Cooper on e.cooper@passmoresacademy.com with their details. The facebook link for the fair is <https://www.facebook.com/passmoreschristmasfair>. Watch this space for more information on this exciting upcoming event.

Charity Skydive: Thank you to everyone for supporting Ms Conway's charity skydive - everyone has managed to raise just over £1200, which is amazing. The charities she is supporting are No Child Without and Cancer Research UK. The skydive that was scheduled last weekend was sadly cancelled due to the weather. However, Ms Conway has managed to reschedule the skydive for Saturday 24th October and hopefully, weather permitting it will go ahead. We will keep you updated. Once again

thank you on behalf of Ms Conway and the charities for your support- it is greatly appreciated. If you would still like to contribute, the link is below:

https://www.justgiving.com/team/Rebecca-maldon?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=team&utm_content=Rebecca-maldon&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp&utm_term=c48c7dd0ab7546d5a51f7edf61d627e1

Year 11 Information:



The poster features the Writtle University College logo (1893) in the top left. A green diagonal banner in the top right contains the text 'YOUR PASSION BROUGHT TO LIFE'. The main title 'WUC VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY WEBINARS' is written in large, bold, green letters on a white, torn-edge background. Below the title, a green banner contains the text: 'In light of the Covid-19 situation we are unable to host our open Day programme for our University Courses at our beautiful campus. We have instead developed a programme of online events so that you can join us virtually in our subject level webinars.' To the left of this text is an icon of a laptop. The poster lists seven webinar topics in white boxes with green text: EQUINE HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES (Wed 21st Oct, 16:30-18:00), AGRICULTURE & SUSTAINABLE FOOD HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES (Mon 26th Oct, 16:30-17:30), VETERINARY PHYSIOTHERAPY AND ANIMAL THERAPY HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES (Thurs 22nd Oct, 16:30-18:00), HORTICULTURE HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES (Tues 27th Oct, 10:30-11:00), CANINE THERAPY HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES (Thurs 22nd Oct, 18:30-19:30), SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES (Tues 27th Oct, 14:30-15:30), and ANIMAL MANAGEMENT/SCIENCE HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES (Mon 26th Oct, 10:30-11:30). A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. At the bottom, a green banner provides contact information: 'For more information please contact us on 01245 424200 or email: marketing@writtle.ac.uk'.

WUC VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY WEBINARS

In light of the Covid-19 situation we are unable to host our open Day programme for our University Courses at our beautiful campus. We have instead developed a programme of online events so that you can join us virtually in our subject level webinars.

EQUINE HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES
Wed 21st Oct
16:30-18:00

AGRICULTURE & SUSTAINABLE FOOD HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES
Mon 26th Oct
16:30-17:30

VETERINARY PHYSIOTHERAPY AND ANIMAL THERAPY HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES
Thurs 22nd Oct
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HORTICULTURE HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES
Tues 27th Oct
10:30-11:00

CANINE THERAPY HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES
Thurs 22nd Oct
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SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES
Tues 27th Oct
14:30-15:30

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT/SCIENCE HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES
Mon 26th Oct
10:30-11:30

For more information please contact us on 01245 424200 or email: marketing@writtle.ac.uk



Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard
Co-Principals of Passmores Academy