



Principals' Letter – Autumn Term 2020 Week Ending 23rd October 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

This has undoubtedly been a very difficult half term for all of us. We are incredibly thankful for your partnership throughout. We know that for some of you it has been a time of great anxiety as you worry about your children but also about how they could become infected, without knowing, and bring it home. Throughout the half term we have had conversations with many of you and always managed to come to a position of understanding. Just to round off the half term we had another positive case in Year 11 today; completely unconnected to the other case in Year 11 from the start of the week. We ran our internal tracking process and made contact with the families that needed it before school started this morning so there was no impact on the rest of the day.

You have now had the NHS template letter enough times to know what is needed if your young person has symptoms or has been with someone that has tested positive. In addition, we would need to be informed if your Passmores young person tests positive during the half term week so we can carry out the process of looking at who they've been in contact with this week. If you do need to get in touch about anything Covid related you should email datateam@passmoresacademy.com as that inbox will be monitored.

A very brief update on the summer examinations for Year 11. Having read the latest information from OFQUAL, the body that oversees the exam system, we feel that a decision to move to centre assessed grades (as they did last year) is looking increasingly likely. This means that the performance in the upcoming practice exams may well form part of the evidence reviewed to award their final grade in the summer. In other words the exams really need to be taken seriously and therefore please get some revision done this holiday!

We really hope that you have a restful half term and that we start to see positive signs of the infection rate dropping. However, whatever happens, we look forward to welcoming our family of young people back after the break and know that we will continue to have the strongest support possible from our community.

Year 9: Your son/daughter would have received their options booklet today, please use half term to carefully read all the course information. The options form is attached to the back of the booklet for completion once choices have been made. The deadline is Monday 7th December. If your son/daughter did not receive their booklet or are currently absent from school, the booklet would have been posted home to you today.

Please ensure that your son/daughter returns their options form to the box provided at Student Services when it is completed.

Health and Safety Reminder: Can we take this opportunity to remind parents/carers and students that Passmores is a nut free school and aerosols/sprays are not allowed. We have some students and staff who are severely allergic, and we need to ensure the safety of everyone in the school. There was an incident today with a spray which resulted in a medical issue where first aid needed to be administered. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Drama Department News: The drama department are very excited to announce that they have been accepted into the National Theatre Connections festival for 2021. Every year The National Theatre commissions 10 playwrights to create contemporary pieces for young people to perform as part of this festival. Groups have to select two plays they are happy to produce from this list of 10 and then they work towards a final performance (hopefully in a theatre with a live audience - pandemic depending) of one of the chosen plays. Students on the project have access to guidance and advice from the NT Connections team and group leaders attend workshops with the writers to help in the exploration and presentation of the final play. Needless to say, staff and students alike are very excited about this wonderful opportunity and we will be continuing with our preparation of this work during our Key Stage 4 Drama Excellence Club on Fridays from 3.30 - 5pm. Thanks to parents for their support in allowing their child to attend this club as we get ready for what we hope will be a marvellous final performance next year!

Halloween/Firework Safety: During normal times we would have arranged for the fire service to come in to host an assembly on Halloween and Firework night safety. As this has not happened this year, they have recorded an assembly. Please check out the link below and share with your children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkW88JyMhO8&feature=youtu.be>

Tassomai Champions: The following students completed the most minutes of Tassomai in their year over the last 7 days. Well Done!

Year 11

Gracee Swann - special mention as over 5 hours completed

Beth Porter

Jess Glasgow

Year 10

Jake Richardson

Chase Langley

Charlie O'Connor

Harlow Holiday Lunch Clubs: Harlow Holiday Lunch Clubs will be running daily lunch clubs in venues across Harlow during Half Term (week beginning 26th October 2020) for all the family with fun; crafts and a hot meal at each table, plus sports/activities from Changing Lives (may be weather permitting in some venues). Clubs run from 11.30-14.00. Masks should be worn unless eating to help keep everyone safe. www.harlowlunch.org.uk

Due to Covid restrictions numbers are limited so please book into your nearest area (Monday Potter Street/Harlow Common; Tuesday Tye Green/Bush Fair; Wednesday Town Centre; Thursday Latton Common/The Stow; Friday Staple Tye) via this website: www.harlowlunch.org.uk

You can refer yourselves if you don't have access to the internet or you can phone on 07954855154 if you have issues or questions. If one venue is oversubscribed, we may need to offer an alternative venue. Help with transport may be available in this case.

Year 11:

Bridging the Gap: Make Happen are offering a 'Bridging the Gap' activity for all Year 11 students to take part in. These online showbie sessions will benefit students who would like to find out more information about the differences between secondary school and further education assessments, grasping the study skills needed to do well at either sixth form or college and thinking about that all

important careers plan, which will be useful for them when making decisions about their future pathway. Students can sign-up to the activity [here](#) and the activity will go live on Tuesday 10th November at 9am.

(Year 11) Open Evenings/Days:

Harlow College are now advertising their virtual open evenings. Students will need to register for the events that interest them. The link for this is <https://www.harlow-college.ac.uk/about/upcoming-events/640-digital-open-event> The first event is on the 5th November.

Other Open Dates:

Long Road 6th Form – Wednesday 4th November – virtual

Leventhorpe 6th Form – Wednesday 4th November - virtual

Herts & Essex 6th form – Thursday 5th November – virtual

Writtle College – Saturday 7th November – You can go along in person but you have to pre-book on their website.



Hockerill
Anglo-European College

Mrs Fiona Bates
Registrar

Hockerill Anglo-European College
Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 5HX
t. +44 (0) 01279 658451 w. www.hockerill.com



**VIRTUAL OPEN DAY
FOR YEAR 12 2021 ENTRY**

0900hrs Saturday 14 November at

www.hockerill.com

Join us online at 0900hrs for the Principal's address and to see and hear more about studying the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

There is no need to register beforehand.
Go to **www.hockerill.com** to access the event.

If you have any questions please contact
admissions@hockerill.com

If you are not able to get online
please call **Admissions** on **01279 658 451**

Hockerill Anglo-European College
is a day and boarding school for ages 11-18

THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL

London Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 3LU
www.tbshs.org Telephone: 01279 868686



VIRTUAL SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 11th November

Online 6pm to 9pm



- Ofsted March 2017 - Outstanding in every category
- Superb teaching and outstanding extra-curricular provision
- Wide-ranging leadership opportunities
- Extensive Post-18, Oxbridge and Medicine support
- Diverse 360-strong mixed Sixth Form

Join our Sixth Form Community by going to our website

- Informational Videos
- Live Subject Sessions
- Live Q&A

<http://www.tbshs.org>

New prospectus for 2021 entry and on-line application system available at www.tbshs.org from 11th November.

Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard
Co-Principals of Passmores Academy