



Principals' Letter – Autumn Term 2020 Week Ending 6th November 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

It is hard to imagine how much the situation has changed since we wrote our newsletter last week. We appreciate the feedback we received after our letter on Monday and just need to update you on a couple of things. The police have asked us to remind our students that they need to return home immediately when they leave school as the lockdown is in place. They also asked us to remind you of the need to socially distance if you are waiting for your child at the front of school or in the car park.

As you will be aware we were trying to start up our extra-curricular programme before the announcements to give our students something to help balance being at school and to support their mental health. Obviously, those plans are now much more difficult to do. The government did not release the updated guidance until the afternoon of the day before lockdown, so it was difficult to make plans and have answers in time for Thursday. Where we are allowed we will carry on with our extended school day so the extra lessons staff are putting on for year 11 will continue as will some other activities that are directly linked to the curriculum.

Christmas is still a few weeks away but, as most of you know, we love to celebrate it and we have ordered our turkeys ready for our lunches at the end of term. Obviously, doing some of the other things we have done over the years is going to be difficult, but we remain committed to doing as much as we can in the circumstances.

We know how big the impact of another lockdown is on many of you with understandable concerns about jobs as well as health; we can also see the effects on some of our young people. Please remember to speak to your child's tutor or Head of House if there are things that we could be doing to support your young person further. We will continue to try and keep you up to date with anything that changes regarding education and what we are able to do.

Virtual Christmas Fair: Friends of Passmores are determined to celebrate Christmas this year despite lockdown, so our Christmas Fair will be on line and designed to try and help as many small businesses as possible in this difficult time. This is scheduled for Friday 4th December (all day) and further information can be obtained on their Facebook page below. If you are interested in being involved in this event, please contact Mrs Cooper on e.cooper@passmoresacademy.com

<https://www.facebook.com/passmoreschristmasfair/>

Remembrance Day - 11th November 2020: There has been some good news that despite there being no face-to-face sales of Poppies this year, the Royal British Legion has announced there are many other ways in which you can buy a poppy and/or donate to this very important cause. Therefore, if you would like to buy a poppy online and/or donate, then you can do so at the Royal British Legion website <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/poppy-appeal>. Although there will be restricted numbers at the Remembrance Day commemorations, the 2 minutes silence will still take place on Sunday 8th November and Wednesday 11th November 2020 for everyone to pay their respects to the fallen and injured.



[Poppy Appeal | Armed Forces Charity | Royal British Legion](#)

Poppy Appeal in Wales. Following the announcement by the Welsh Government that further coronavirus restrictions will come into force from Friday 23 October, we have taken the difficult decision to suspend any face to face collections for the Poppy Appeal in Wales.

www.britishlegion.org.uk

Poppies: This week, Mr Chadwick's wife has been spending most evening knitting poppies to sell to staff at Passmores. Initially she made 15 and these sold in less than 2 hours! The cost was just £3 and the plan is to send all the money to the Royal British Legion. In total, the staff have helped to raise close to £100 which is amazing!



Judo News: We had some good news this week. **George Franks** had his annual judo awards earlier this week which had been postponed due to Covid. He was awarded 3 trophies, the most anyone in the club received. His first trophy was "Clubman of The Year". He received this trophy from Harlow Judo Clubs' coach/owner/founder, for assisting him with coaching all the lower sessions and helping to run the beginners session. He coached them and helped keep them under the absolute cleanest of standards during and after each session to minimise the Covid risk. He cleaned mats and equipment etc.

His second trophy was "Most Competitive". This was received for the most competition points over the last year from all the fights he has won. Lastly, he won the "Over 8s Champion" award, which was awarded for the recent adaptive club championships (completely new to everyone due to Covid.... the new non-contact normal) where he received the most points across the club for the different challenges, going up against adults and children up to 18 years old. This is amazing George. Well done.



External Tutoring Message:

'I go to a tutor after school. Will I still be able to do that?'



If you visit your tutor's house, or if you tutor visits your home, then the answer is no.

Under the new lockdown rules, you can't meet indoors with people who do not live in your household.

Many people have been using online video chatting services to continue their education and stay in touch with others during lockdown.

Year 11:

The Interactive Virtual Conference supported by Health Education England, the General Medical Council and key organisations is going ahead on Saturday 7th November – Health Careers Live.

This is an insight into the many roles in the NHS. Anyone interested should register online at <https://app.springpod.co.uk/springpod-opportunity/90693>

Next Steps Essex Programme: Thinking of Higher Education? Next Steps Essex programme, is aimed at giving Year 11 an introduction to, and the tools to apply to, Cambridge & Oxford. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday 11th November, midday. There is not an expectation of prior knowledge and you do not need to be certain you want to apply there in the future, the programme is to just get young people thinking about the possibility and develop skills that will help future applications, regardless of which universities they end up applying to. The webinar will be on the 12th November 4.30pm-5.00pm. If you are unavailable at this time, you will still have access to the recording if you register. <https://www.oxfordandcambridgeoutreach.co.uk/events/next-steps-essex>

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