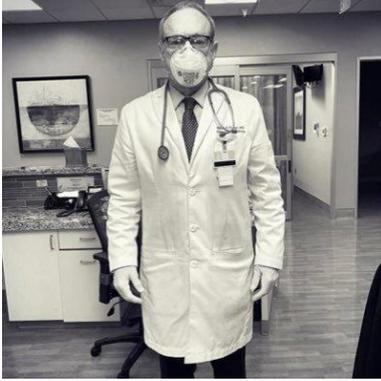


Weekly Parents newsletter.

Inspiration



Dr Bill Fisher.

There are many inspiring stories around the world of medical staff risking their lives for others. We all cannot fail to be impressed and thankful for the sacrifices medical professionals are making. One of the stories that sums up the gravity of the current situation are the words of Bill Fisher.

In 1985, a doctor named Bill Fisher took off as an astronaut and was part of the crew on the Space Shuttle Discovery. Fisher, aged 74, has answered the call to come out of retirement and is acting as an emergency room doctor in a Texas hospital--working 24-hour shifts on the front line of the Covid-19 crisis. Whilst like so many around the globe Fisher highlighted two things. The risk to people is approximately 10% higher than entering space as an astronaut. Most importantly when asked why at 74 he would be doing this when he would be at such great risk himself he noted

"A ship is safe in harbour, but that's not what ships are for."

As we look around every Thursday at 8pm, it is easy to lose the gravity and seismic nature of work those on the front line are undertaking. In every story I have read of our medical professionals across the world had been the principle of personal sacrifice for the good of other regardless of the risk to oneself.

So whilst isolation aims to ensure a safe harbour for us all, we cannot fail to note the 'ships regardless of country, creed or religion that are sailing directly into the stormy waters for us'.

Strand 1: Keeping pupils learning.

1. Remote learning.

I am delighted to note that during the course of this week we will be posting the first of a series of lesson supports on our new You Tube channel.

Our channel will support the incredible work that has been done for the new national Oak Academy, a new United Learning portal and some of the other work that has been done by a wide range of organisations.

The links to the appropriate sessions will be placed on Team drives alongside supporting documents and the new parent checklists. The other major benefit will be that these sessions will also be viewable from mobile devices and SMART devices.

Where access to computer and TEAMS is proving difficult for parents we are offering the option of posting work packs home. Please use the new form on the website to request work packs.

Year 10

We are delighted to note that on the week beginning the 15th May we have signed up to a unique programme of virtual work experience for our students. The programme will be heavily focussed around the working in Science technology and engineering areas and is linked to some of the country's most prominent companies. We will be sending more details directly to year 10 students in the next week. Please note that there will only be forty places available.

Remote Learning Safety.

Obviously a lot of the current provision is internet based. Whilst we recognise the obvious benefits of remote learning we would draw your attention to three areas.

1. **Internet Safety.** Students are explicitly taught about internet safety whilst in the Academy. To ensure ongoing support we have put a number of links and resources on the Academy website for Parents and students. Please contact us if you would like to discuss issues or support in relation to internet usage.
2. **Acceptable use.** When working remotely and using social media, we expect our students to act fully in line with our Academy guidelines and expectations. We will be putting a truncated version of the expectations as a reminder for all pupils and a reference points for parents.
3. **Screen Time.** We strongly suggest that accessing work (whether by device or computer) is part of a time limited routine. Whilst we hope students are keeping a focus on studies this needs to be balanced with fresh air and exercise where possible. The challenges set over Easter can continue to be used as a reference for other interesting activities.

Welfare calls

As noted we will continue to make calls over the period of closure. Please note the following additional points.

- Staff can only use the contact we have on the school system and cannot ring unregistered mobiles.

- Staff have will be increasingly checking that students have access to, understand and are completing work set.
- Staff may not have more individual answers in relation to issues such as Free School Meals. For any support or guidance please check the website, use the e-mail contact or ring the Academy.

Year 11

Please note that in line with examination regulation the Academy has to adhere to the guidance to not share any teacher predictions with students or parents.

We will be in the process of developing resources that will ensure that students in year 11 have materials that will support their move to Further Education. We will be sharing these 'Bridge' materials from next week.

The Stellar Awards

We recognise that in the current situation we still see fantastic work from students and staff. Our new Stellar Awards will recognise these achievements weekly. This week's nominations and winners are

Please let me know your nominations. This can be based on recognising where work from students has been to a good standard. The winners this week are

Winners

Staff

Miss Ward – Our site manager has been incredible in maintaining site security and painting the school, dropping off a range of work and materials manning reception and supporting Mrs Waters in providing our cadets with a range of work. Incredible.

Pupil

Rebecca Pratt year 11 – Despite the current situation Rebecca has submitted some incredibly strong work including a notable piece of work in History based on a GCSE exam questions on Power and the People