



**GEORGE
SALTER
ACADEMY**



George's Gazette

February 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As another eventful and demanding half term comes to a close I find myself, yet again, looking forwards with a now clear idea of what the future may bring.

You may recall that at the end of last term I wrote to you advising that I would update as soon as I was able to regarding the introduction of mass testing. At the last minute we were then told that schools would not be open for all students and a national lockdown was subsequently put in place. These truly are dynamic times and all I can say is that as soon as we know anything for certain we will, as previously, always inform you of our plans. Now, perhaps more than ever, I am grateful for all your support. Thank you!

Throughout this period our staff have been quiet incredible. At times they have been teaching, both in a classroom and online and more recently fully remotely. This is a huge challenge which they have risen to admirably; I am lost for words to praise their resilience, innovation and can do attitude. If we just stop to think about how children are now learning it is nothing short of a revolution. We have gone from setting work via worksheets on ClassCharts, video recorded lessons, to the whole school using TEAMS for live lessons, using visualisers to model and give feedback, setting online quizzes, creating sound files for verbal feedback and so much more. I am regularly in lessons observing and just find the whole scenario incredibly positive.

Whilst teaching online and staffing lessons for our permanent group we have also set up our testing centre. A huge thank you to the staff who have volunteered for roles and made sure that we can operate safely. This initial phase has allowed us to embed roles and routines, that ensure when we reopen and more students will undertake tests, we are able to do so safely and effectively. In short to all the staff I say you have done magnificently and deserve the break!

I regularly review the data that we generate for student engagement in online learning; it is so high and improving all the time. This is not easy and we do not take it for granted. I know that we have over 140 academy laptops in students' homes, have arranged internet access, issued dongles (whatever they are) and have tried to solve a multitude of ICT issues for students every day. I am really grateful for your perseverance. To access six live lessons everyday, at home, with other siblings who need to access learning is not an easy thing for many of you. To all the students I say a huge thank you for all that you are doing to access learning.

We do not always get everything right, when we don't it isn't for want of trying and we do endeavour to listen to feedback. It has become quite clear that time spent on screen can be too demanding and lead to other issues. We have therefore taken the time to reflect and allocate lessons in the week where students will not be learning online.

Student emotional and mental wellbeing is a big concern for us. I am really grateful to the army of Form Tutors, Progress Leaders, Student Welfare Managers, Inclusion, and the Safeguarding Team who make sure that we continue to reflect, communicate key messages and care for our students. If you are struggling, please do not suffer alone, reach out and let us know as we may be able to help.

At Easter last year I was asking what the plans were going to be for the current Yr10 and Yr12 students at the time. We now

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find ourselves in a situation, one year on, where these exam classes still do not fully know what their exams and grade awards will look like. I am really sorry that this is the case. Another consultation has just ended. I have a feeling that students will sit mini-assessments which are marked and moderated by teachers towards the end of the school year which will be considered alongside a body of evidence to determine current grades. To the students I say, continue to attend lessons and work hard. Do not worry about the process as you can do little to change this but you can be responsible for your own performance. We will guide and support you through this period so please let us know if have any concerns.

To those students who are having to make choices about future pathways, I know that it is not easy to do so in remote times. I marvel at the way our very talented 6th Form and Careers staff have been able to support Yr13 students with UCAS applications and am delighted that so many are completed. Similarly it is not easy to support Yr11 students in their post-16 decision making and Yr9 students in making the right curriculum options. We are doing a phenomenal job to support individuals, communicate key messages, post videos and host virtual evenings which allow these things to go ahead as if we were open as normal. If you have a question regarding any of these, can I please ask your child to contact their form tutor who will be able to direct to the best person to answer their query?

I tested positive for COVID in the New Year, was away from work for two weeks and am slowly coming to terms with the fatigue that follows for some. Throughout this time the academy senior leaders have lead and managed the academy in an exemplary way, in particular Mr Reeve and Mr Foscett have been incredible architects of the academy's ability to cope under pressure. I am really thankful to work with such a close team of effective professionals and for a wider team of committed of dedicated and talented staff.

I thought that you might want join with me in celebrating some of our students and their achievements during lockdown. Progress leaders have suggested a 'gallery' of success which you will see below. This gallery of success, and more from individual departments, appears soon on our website.

Rest assured, I will be in touch as soon as I have any information to share regarding future plans and the wider reopening.

Thank you for your support
'Onwards and upwards'



Adrian Price
Principal

Successes and 'Shout Outs'

6th Form Successes and 'Shout outs'

Students Union

Pav, Arvani, Liz, Sophie, Esha, Aaron and Louis (Y13)

Sian, Fallon, Izzy, Habibah, Mirgan, Tesneem, Rezwana, Kulthoom, Nazia, Mohammed Alkash, Anisah Tasnim and Rahil (Y12)

Students have worked hard throughout the lockdown to continue to make a difference to our students at GSA with competitions and e-briefing messages.

Change Your Minds Ambassadors

This term we celebrated the success of students who took part in the 12 month Change Your Minds Project with Miss Moore. Students worked to create mental well-being resources for our year 7 students. Well done!

Mental Health Support

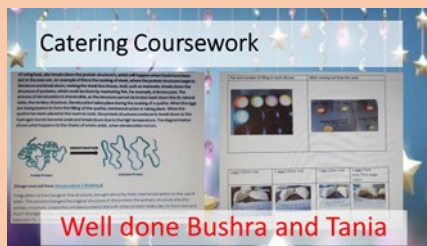
Well done to Fallon, Lydia, Di'Mya, Amice, Megan, Sophie, Louis, Aaron and Sharanjit for their leadership with Children's Mental Health Week

Particular Shout Outs to:

Nayima Sadiq
Amice Holden

Highest numbers of Star Students and Peer Star Students this half term!

Some work from Post 16:



Great British Bake-Off quality cakes!!

Thank you and well done to:

Sophie Haney

Mohammed Mahir

Pav Sehmar

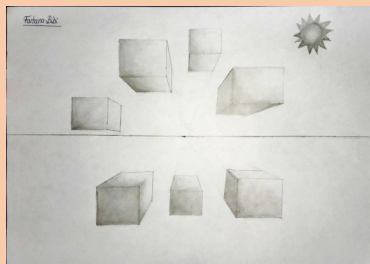
Sharon Mudamburi

For their contributions to this term's Whole School Cookbook.

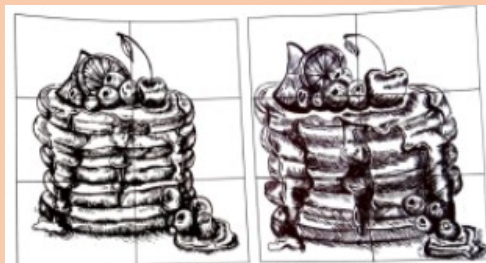
Year 9 Successes and 'Shout Outs'

Year 9 have had a brilliant half term of remote learning. We have been so impressed with the student's resilience and attitude towards adapting to their live lessons online and we have seen some absolutely outstanding contributions and excellent standard of work being submitted. Attendance has improved steadily every week since we started back after Christmas and the student leadership team in year 9 are working hard to implement an increase in student led activities after the break. Special mentions go to Zubayer Ahmed (9L1) who has gained the highest number of credits this half term and also to Jamie Russell (9R2) who has been elected as the KS3 ambassador to represent our academy on the OAT Regional Student Leadership team.

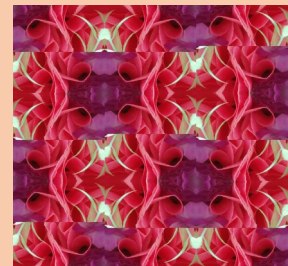
Some work from Year 9:



Farhanna



Jagriti



Mahak



Raisa



Tia

Year 7 Successes and 'Shout Outs'

Year 7 highlights this half term include:

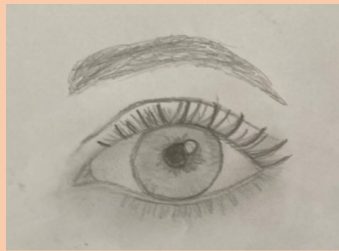
- Adapting to live lessons and remote learning
- Engagement in live lessons
- Some of the fantastic work that has been sent to Tutors and teachers
- Those students that have entered the various competitions
- Contributions to PHSE lessons

- The amount of positives for the year group
- Well done to those students working in school

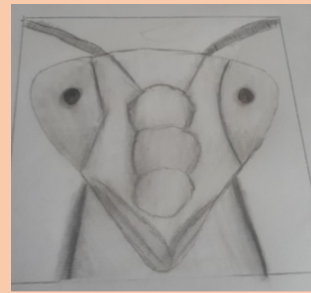
Some work from Year 7:



Zoona



Farhana



Melissa

