



# William Brookes School NEWSLETTER



## DIARY EVENTS

### Friday, 15 January

Yr 9 Online option forms  
to be completed and  
submitted

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear parents/carers,

It has been a tricky week for us all given the announcement late on Monday night. We are now in a position to give you guidance on how things should work from Monday 11 January in order to allow you to support your son / daughter. The added complication for us is that we have a large number of students in school and so we are trying to provide two distinct packages.

From Monday lots of online lessons will be live with the teacher as per their scheduled timetable, using the new timings of the day:

- Period 1: 09.00-09.50
- Period 2: 09.50-10.40
- Break: 10.40-11.00
- Period 3: 11.00-11.50
- Period 4: 11.50-12.40
- Lunch: 12.40-13.10
- Period 5: 13.10-14.00

This reduction in lesson length has been done following guidance and feedback about online learning cross a school day. Four hours of online learning seems to be the optimal learning capacity. It also gives time for afternoon exercise before it gets dark. **Students at school and at home online, will follow these lesson times.**

Teaching staff are working on a three-week rota and so they will not be able to deliver live online lessons at times when they are required in school. They will however post work using voice over PowerPoints or similar at these times. This means that there should be a variety of learning approaches used across this time of school closure. **If there are problems with accessing lessons, please contact school and we will try and see how we can help.** Lessons will be recorded on many occasions so that students can access work at different times where device access or personal reasons dictate. It is best if they can follow their timetable though.

In an attempt to keep a positive approach, **we will switch off the weekly teams report of work missed and instead use classcharts to positively reward students who attend each lesson (see below).** Once again this is a time for us to work together to do the very best job that we can. This puts you as parents / carers in a very difficult position and we appreciate this, as working with students both in school and online challenges the effectiveness of provision for us. Staff are committed to achieving the best balance at this time and we will keep our approaches under review at this very tricky time.



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**We are also worried about the impact of the messages around the summer GCSE and A Level examination.** We are writing to parents and students in Year 11 and 13 to clarify what is still a very unclear process. We have worked all year in the knowledge that this was a possibility, and I am confident that we can ensure that students will receive a fair and reflective set of grades. What we need now is to be provided with a clear set of instructions that inform our work to share widely. It is important that student's education and learning continues in the coming months.

We have put together a few responses to key question that may be in your mind at this time. We cannot cover all of these in one letter but are happy to keep taking your questions as we work to provide the highest quality of education we can.

#### **How should I organise my child's learning at home?**

Where possible your child should follow their usual timetable, in line with the new timings. We recommend they treat this as the working part of the day. For students in year 7-11 they should finish schoolwork by 2pm and we do not intend to set extra work for them to complete outside of their allocated lesson time.

#### **What types of learning will my child be experiencing?**

Your child will receive two main types of learning if studying from home. Most of the lessons will be 'live' remote learning via Teams with a teacher guiding and directing students during the 50-minute session. Some lessons will be narrated presentations with tasks or resources to complete with instructions. Most tasks will not be handed in for marking but teachers will try to provide self-assessment templates to help students understand and judge their work

#### **What if my child cannot, for some reason, access the learning at the allocated time?**

We are asking teachers to record their 'live' remote lessons and post on Teams for access at any time and the other lessons are not time specific and so can be accessed at any time. This will allow you some flexibility. If your child or children will find it difficult to attend the 'live' remote lessons at the correct time, please inform us and we will take this into account.

#### **How will you know if your child is attending remote 'live' lessons and completing the work set?**

We will be using Class Charts to award house points for attendance at these lessons and for completing work that needs to be handed back. If your child is in regular receipt of House Points (i.e. at least one per day) you can be confident that they are working. If not there may be an issue. We will be contacting home if we have concerns that any student is not receiving these house points. This will not apply if you have informed us that you will be following a different time frame for learning with your child.



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**NEWS NEWS NEWS**

**DofE Certificate of Achievement**

We have been very impressed by the dedication of participants who have been working hard towards their goals this year. Participants who have completed their volunteering, skill and physical sections and will receive the 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement are:

Casey	Rose	Connor	Aja
Phoebe	AJ	Joshua	Amy
Samantha	Mazie	Ellie	William
Abbie	Angus	Skye	Amelia
Jack	Kieran	Grace	Elizabeth
Fernley-Jack	Hannah	Ella	Jess
Grace	Thomas	Katie	Niamh
Cerys	Nakita	Harriet	Megan

Most participants should have received their certificate on the last day of term. If not, certificates are being put in the post.

**#DofE with a Difference**

If a participant is struggling to find suitable activities for their programme due to the current restrictions, you can find many ideas here [www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities](http://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities)

Please remember that any program plan makes needs to be entered into their eDofE account so that it can be approved before they start the activity. Once they have completed the required time, they need to get their assessor to write an assessor report. This can be done at [www.dofe.org/assessor](http://www.dofe.org/assessor)

**eDofE App**

Participants can access their eDofE account via the DofE App. The DofE app has made eDofE more accessible and convenient for thousands of participants across the UK. Participants can now set their activities, record evidence and submit programmes for approval at any time, no matter where they are. The DofE App is currently available for participants to download on Android and iOS.

You can download the App by going to the Google Play Store or Apple App Store and searching 'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award'.

**eDofE help**

Below is a [eDofE helpsheet](#).

Any questions, please email [jmccombie@williambrookes.com](mailto:jmccombie@williambrookes.com)



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To track your Bronze DofE Award you have an online account. This is where you put in your plans for each section, add your evidence and crucially, submit the Assessor Report once you have completed each activity. Every time that you submit something, your DofE Leader will be able to check and approve it. Once all four sections have been approved you will achieve your Bronze DofE Award.

Bronze (Year 9+)	Volunteering <b>3</b> months	Physical <b>3</b> months	Skills <b>3</b> months	Expedition <b>2 days</b> <b>1 night</b>
	Plus a further 3 months in either the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.			

Here is a quick recap on the section timescales for the Bronze Award. You must commit 1 hour per week over the 3-6 month time period for the Volunteering, Physical & Skills sections.

**Logging in to your online account**

- To log in please search [www.edofe.org](http://www.edofe.org) you can access this through a computer or mobile phone. Or, you can download the DofE App, which is available for free from the App Store & Google Play.
- Each time you log in you will need your Username and Password. If you do not know your Username ask your DofE Manager.
- If you have never logged in to eDofE before your temporary Password will be your D.O.B: **DDMMYYYY**
- Once you log in you will be able to reset your Password. If ever you forget it then just click: Forgot Your Password on the eDofE home page and you can input your username and get a new Password link sent to your email (check your junk mail) you will have 15 minutes to then reset your Password.



**Step 1:** The first time you log in you will be asked to put in your personal details. Please note every box with a \* needs to be completed. We would recommend using your personal email address. Once you have completed your Contact Details, Personal Details and Communication Preferences press 'Continue'. You will receive your Welcome Pack to the address you entered within the next 30 days! This contains important information about your award, your DofE discount card & Assessor Book.

**Step 2:** Select your timescales. We would recommend that the 6-month section is the one that you are able to access every week and perhaps the one that you think you will enjoy the most. Just click on the option that you would like and then press Save.



**Step 3:** Putting in your Programme Plans. You will need to do this for the **Physical, Skills & Volunteering** sections: Click edit section or click on the section you wish to edit and fill out everything with a \*. Your start date can be put back as far as the Enrolment date, which is in the top left corner of the screen. If you have not started yet, then put today's date or the date you are going to start. Everything that you do from your start date on eDofE can be counted towards your 3/6-month section. The Assessor must be a responsible adult (not a family member) who is able to write your report once you have completed the section. Remember to "Submit for Approval".



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**Next steps:**

Once you have submitted your Programme Plans for each section you will be able to complete your activities. You can keep track of how many weeks you have done by using the 'Weekly Log Sheet'. These are available from your DofE Manager and are a great way to keep a track of how many weeks you have done. Once you have filled your log sheet in for the 3 or 6 months for the relevant section:

- Take a photo of it
- Log in to eDofE
- Click on the relevant section on the left-hand side
- Add evidence
- Select 'Photos'
- Upload the photo
- Select your leader
- Save and submit

Other evidence that you can upload could be photos of you doing the activity. For example, if you chose cooking for your skills section it may be good for your leader to see a photo of what you have cooked each week. Upload these following the same steps as the Weekly Log Sheets.

**Photos and Log Sheets are great evidence but are not compulsory.**



**Assessor Reports**



The key piece of evidence that your DofE Leader needs to see on your eDofE account before they can approve the section is the **Assessor Report**. You will receive your Assessor Report book within your Welcome Pack (sent to the address you put in to eDofE at Step 1). Once you have completed your 3 or 6 month section please take the relevant report to your Assessor and ask them to fill it in full. You can complete the Description, Date started, Completed & Goals (please make sure the start date is not before the one you put in your plan on eDofE in step 3).

Once it has been filled in please take a photo of it (make sure the whole page is visible) and upload using the steps shown at the top of this page. This time, before you press the Save & Submit button you can mark it as your Assessor Report.



**Introducing the DofE Certificate of Achievement**

The Certificate of Achievement is an official recognition, by the DofE, of just how much you've achieved by completing your Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections. To receive your certificate, you need to have completed your Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections and had them signed off by your Leader. Once you've completed your three sections you don't need to do anything else. We'll email your personalised Certificate to you, using the name and email address on your eDofE profile.

When you complete the Expedition section you will still be able to get your full DofE Award in addition to the Certificate of Achievement!

The DofE have made lots of temporary changes over the last few months to ensure you can still achieve your award. You can check these out here: [www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/](http://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/)

If you need help with eDofE please visit **theDofEUk** on YouTube to find lots of helpful eDofE training videos and guides.



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## CAREER NEWS



### **The Telford Apprenticeship, Employment & Skills Show**

Following on from the success of the Apprenticeship, Employment & Skills Show last year, we are very pleased to tell you about our virtual event on 2nd March 2021.

The virtual event will include:

- Spotlight talks and webinars on careers
- Information on apprenticeships and T-Levels
- Recruitment opportunities
- Virtual tours
- Live chats to businesses, colleges and training providers

Further details and bookings will be available later, for now, please 'save the date' and / or register your interest by emailing [lifereadyworkready@telford.gov.uk](mailto:lifereadyworkready@telford.gov.uk)



### **UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair Wednesday 27 January | closes at 6.00pm so able to log in after School.**

Perfect for Years 11, 12 & 13 this event is designed to allow students to explore a wide range of universities, colleges and apprenticeships, whether you're just starting your research or making your final decisions. There will also be a new webinar line-up, and a competition!



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## CAREER NEWS



### Free Data for 250,000 School Children

Vodafone is offering up to 250,000 free data SIMs - with 30GB data for 90 days - to children in primary and secondary schools across the UK, so they can #KeepConnecting and learning at home.

These free SIMs will help those school children most in need to access school work from home, catch up on lost learning during school holidays and continue with their education if they are required to isolate.

For more information, please visit the below link:

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/pay-as-you-go-plans/schools-connected>

### Armed Forces



Armed Forces webinar recording Amazing Apprenticeships hosted an exclusive webinar with the Armed Forces to explore the apprenticeship opportunities with the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Please find the full recording, presentation slides and more in the link below.

[https://amazingapprenticeships.com/armed-forces/?utm\\_source=mailchimp&utm\\_medium=armed%20forces&utm\\_campaign=aaa%20dec](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/armed-forces/?utm_source=mailchimp&utm_medium=armed%20forces&utm_campaign=aaa%20dec)



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**OPEN EVENINGS**

<p><b>North Shropshire College</b> <a href="http://www.nsc.ac.uk">www.nsc.ac.uk</a> 01691 888000</p>  <p><b>Walford Campus (Near Baschurch, Shrewsbury)</b> 01939 262100 – Animal care, Agriculture, Equine, Land and Environment and Motor Vehicle.</p>	<p><b>Walford Campus (Land Based)</b></p> <p>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020 10am – 12 noon Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021 10am – 12 noon Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021 10am – 12 noon.</p>
<p><b>Kidderminster College</b> 01562512003</p>  <p><a href="http://www.kidderminster.ac.uk/open">www.kidderminster.ac.uk/open</a> <a href="mailto:marketing@kidderminster.ac.uk">marketing@kidderminster.ac.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Open Evenings on:</b></p> <p>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021</p> <p>At this stage they don't know if they will be virtual or physical.</p> <p>We are also offering phone interviews for students who apply and as we understand how important it is for students to come into college, we will be offering a campus tour every first and last Wednesday of the month.</p>
<p><b>Coaching Connexions (Telford ADC)</b></p> 	<p>For aspiring young footballers. BTEC 1 to 3 in Sports (Football focus) at the Telford United Football Ground.</p>
<p>01952 640064 07766831829</p> <p><b>Crossbar College of Sport and Physical Activity</b></p> <p>(Hadley Learning Centre or Lilleshall National Sports Centre) 01952 677965 <a href="http://www.crossbarcoaching.com">www.crossbarcoaching.com</a> <a href="mailto:admin@crossbarcoaching.com">admin@crossbarcoaching.com</a></p>	<p>Contact – <a href="mailto:Edward.thorndyke@coachingconnexions.co.uk">Edward.thorndyke@coachingconnexions.co.uk</a></p> <p>BTEC Sport Level 3, PE &amp; School Sport Apprenticeships Sports Traineeships.</p> <p>e-mail or check website for open day dates</p> 
<p><b>Telford College</b> 01952 642200</p> <p>01952 642237 (Student Services team) <a href="http://www.telfordcollege.ac.uk">www.telfordcollege.ac.uk</a></p>	<p>w/c 24 November, 4pm to 6.30pm</p> <p><b>Virtual Open Event</b> <a href="http://telfordcollege.ac.uk/open-events">telfordcollege.ac.uk/open-events</a></p> <p>Provisional Dates – book online</p> <p>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021</p> <p>Book a VIP tour <a href="http://Telfordcollege.ac.uk/vip-tour">Telfordcollege.ac.uk/vip-tour</a></p>





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## OPEN EVENINGS



### Harrogate Army College

Each year AFC Harrogate open their doors for people to come along and **take a look** at what is on offer. If you're interested in finding out more and coming to look around, contact your local Army Career Office and they'll be happy to book you a place. (Open days usually are in February and March).

01743 232678 (Shrewsbury Army Careers Office)

01902 423892 (Wolverhampton Army Careers Office)

Both open 9am - 5.30pm Monday to Friday.

**NB Welbeck College is no longer taking applications and closing shortly.**

Wolverhampton College  
01902 836000  
[www.wolvcoll.ac.uk](http://www.wolvcoll.ac.uk)

#### Open Events:

- Wednesday 7 October 2020 4-7pm
- Saturday 28 November 2020 10am-2pm
- Saturday 23 January 2021 10am-2pm
- Wednesday 10 March 2021 4-7pm
- Wednesday 5 May 2021 4-7pm
- Saturday 19 June 2021 10am-2pm



**TELFORD COLLEGE**

# OPEN EVENTS

Explore our vibrant university-style campus, learn about your course and future options and meet your new classmates and tutors at our next open event.

- ✓ Discover our industry-standard facilities
- ✓ Get your first taste of college life
- ✓ Explore your career pathway and future options

## DISCOVER OUR VIRTUAL OPEN EVENT

[telfordcollege.ac.uk/open-events](http://telfordcollege.ac.uk/open-events)

DEFINE YOUR  
**FUTURE**

## PROVISIONAL DATES

Wednesday 14th October 2020\*

Wednesday 18th November 2020\*

Wednesday 20th January 2021\*

Wednesday 23rd June 2021\*

\*Please note that these dates may be subject to change

   @TelfordCollege  
[telfordcollege.ac.uk](http://telfordcollege.ac.uk) | 01952 642200

 **TELFORD COLLEGE**