



**Woodkirk Academy**

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The Sixth Form @ Woodkirk Academy

# E-Newsletter

**Date: 7 May 2020**

Dear Parents and Students

I hope you are all well and enjoyed the video message from the staff last week. It has been lovely to receive positive comments back from you, in particular the reciprocal Youtube video from students who take part in Music and Performing Arts.

This week's e-newsletter is slightly earlier as it is a Bank Holiday on Friday marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day. School will be shut on Friday to allow us all to reflect upon the significance of this day at a time when the modern world is facing so many challenges.

Thank you for your on-going commitment to remote learning. I know there has been increased communication this week to support this. Please ask your son/daughter to log in regularly to their school email account to check for these messages.

I am aware that it is difficult for some students to complete work requiring IT access during the school day if there are limited devices within the home. I would like to reiterate that our advice to students is to spend approximately the same amount of time completing work for a given subject as they would have during lessons for that subject in a week. This can be at a time that suits your household. I would kindly request that questions or queries about the work set, be made by email between 9 am and 3 pm. You teachers will respond as soon as possible as they too are having to work flexibly due to their household needs.

Whilst there is plenty of work being set by your teacher and clear guidance on what needs to be submitted, we don't expect every piece of work to be completed. For Year 7 and Year 8, there are our new and updated revision guides to help your learning stick. These can be found in the Students section of our website – [click here](#) to view.

There are also new resources available through BBC Bitesize and the Oak National Academy which you may wish to use. Oak National Academy has over 80 teachers from a range of schools and trusts who have produced over 180 online lessons for each week students are not in school. The lessons cover a wide range of subjects and are available for children from reception to Year 10.



A reminder that there is a national support service, StarLine, in place, offering advice to families on how to educate their children at homes while schools are closed. StarLine is run by a team of teachers and education and parenting experts, who will share tips and resources to help home-learning and behaviour. The number to call is 0330 3139162 and calls are charged at a local rate. [Click here](#) to view the website.

I am delighted to say that the Art department are sharing work completed by students on Twitter. In their words:

'Our Woodkirk pupils have been sending us plenty of Art work during the lock down so we have set up a Twitter account focused on these pieces of artwork. Please take a look and give a ♥. We are so very proud of our pupils' ambitions and creativity during this time. It's not easy to embrace creativity at the moment but to quote Grayson Perry we must "battle the boredom of lock down" and "encourage creativity."

I hope you enjoy viewing their efforts at @Woodkirk\_Art

For our Year 13 students, there continues to be additional information from the government with regard to starting university.

They have published a student guide in light of Covid-19 about securing a place at university, the clearing process, accommodation, and finance.

[Click here](#) to view the guide.

Help is available for those who are unsure about their next steps after Sixth Form; those who wish to know more about University or the job market; or those who need help writing a CV. [Click here](#) to view our new interactive careers page on our website.

The following information may be of use to some of you with younger children. The government has announced that any working parent usually eligible for 30 hours free childcare or Tax-Free Childcare will remain eligible if they fall below the minimum income requirement due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Subject to Parliamentary approval, parents who are critical workers will also remain eligible for these entitlements if their income has increased over the maximum threshold during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

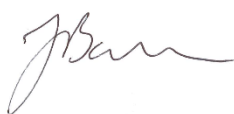
This temporary flexibility will ensure critical workers can continue to access the childcare they need to enable them to work. These arrangements will be reviewed over the summer.

[Click here](#) to view this announcement.

You will be aware that the government intends to update the nation on Sunday with regard to any easing of the current arrangements. Whilst there have been a number of stories related to what this will mean for schools, no formal guidance has been issued. We await whether this will change and will inform you as soon as possible of any implications for our students. This will be via the school website. In the meantime, we would ask that we all continue to follow the government guidelines to stay home and stay safe as well as social distancing, which can be found by [clicking here](#).

I hope you all have a restful weekend and remain safe.

Yours sincerely



J Barton  
Principal



## Parents of Year 7 students

The Parents' Evening scheduled for 26 March was cancelled in light of the school closure. To replace these face to face meetings, teachers have written reports to share with parents the details of how students have performed in their subjects throughout the year. Reports will be published on Friday 8 May – [click here](#) to view.

## The Oxford ARC Study: Achieving Resilience during Covid-19

The Oxford ARC are currently co-ordinating a large online study to investigate resilience and how adolescents and their parents are coping during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. They want to find out why some young people cope extremely well with stressful situations, while others find it more difficult. They hope to better understand how psychological factors relating to worry, mental health, and social isolation affect the wellbeing of adolescents during this pandemic.

They are inviting young people (aged 13 – 18 years old), and their parents, to take part in an online study run by the University of Oxford. Your responses will help them understand how worry and resilience affect us during the challenges and uncertainties of COVID-19.

They will ask you to complete a survey each week for three months or until after social isolation measures are in place. The first one takes about 20 minutes and each follow up takes 10-15 minutes. They will then re-contact you monthly until 12 months from the start of the study for further 10-15 minute surveys.

Please follow this link for further information [www.oxfordARCstudy.com](http://www.oxfordARCstudy.com)

## How to send your teacher handwritten work

[Click here](#) for information about sending work to your teacher by phone

## Safeguarding

### County Lines- Signs and Indicators

[Click here](#) for more information on the signs and indicators to check for in young people potentially being exploited by County Lines.

With young people likely to be spending an increased amount of time online, there is a greater risk that they may be exposed to a variety of risks.

Extremist groups are very active on all forms of social networks and are very experienced in taking advantage of vulnerable people and those, as teenagers generally are, very easily influenced. Their activity may well increase during lockdown.



The website link below to 'Educate Against Hate', is a very useful source of information for parents.

<https://educateagainsthate.com/signs-of-radicalisation/>

## Online Radicalisation Parents Information & Support

[Click here](#) for information.

## Online Safety At Home

### The OSA Certificate of Online Safety

The current situation has resulted in an increase in online concerns for many young people across the country. As Woodkirk's Online Safety Evening for parents has had to be cancelled this term, Woodkirk Academy has signed up to the Online Safety Alliance which provides training for parents.

[Click here](#) for details of how to access this. You will require a Google account (such as Gmail/Googlemail) or a Microsoft Account (such as Hotmail). If you do not have one, you can create one as you access the course.

Once you are signed in you will be asked for an **enrolment key** – this is **woodkirk**.

The course is free and it would be great if you could sign up and complete the course over the coming weeks.

It is also important you are confident your son/daughter knows how to be safe and responsible when using the Internet. As part of our Online Safety education programme we would like students to complete a course delivered by the Online Safety Alliance. The OSA Certificate of Online Safety will provide valid and tangible evidence that your son/daughter understands how to stay safe online, what to do if things go wrong, and what the possible consequences of bad choices could be.

Please [click here](#) to view the Student Quick Start Guide

## Online Safety Survey for parents

[Click here](#) for our Online Safety Survey for parents

Follow this link for more information on things you can do to keep your child safe online during this unsettling time. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/support-your-child-at-home>

[Click here](#) to read our Online Safety Briefing Sheet which provides advice about staying safe online.



During the pandemic it's likely that children will be spending more time on YouTube, for fun and learning. There are a few functions within YouTube that can help parents, view the following video here for more information <https://youtu.be/1Yvlfw7obwE>

There are warnings that, with schools being forced to shut, there is an increased risk of children being groomed and coerced online. More information can be found here:

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/news/children-may-be-at-greater-risk-of-grooming-during-coronavirus-pandemic-as-iwf-braces-for>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/iwf-warning-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

The group video messaging app Houseparty allows users to live-chat with up to 8 people where they can play games and chat with friends and family in a 'room' (group video chat). As with all live-streaming platforms, screenshots, unsolicited messages and self-generated sexualised imagery can put young people at risk. Follow this link for more information: <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2020/03/30/houseparty-how-safe-is-the-app-taking-the-uk-by-storm>

## COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### General Support and Resources List

Click [here](#) to view telephone numbers and links to a range of support and services available.

Please [click here](#) to view a guide on what constitutes a reasonable excuse to leave the place where you live.

If you think you or a member of your household has coronavirus symptoms, click on the following link for government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Information is also available at <https://youtu.be/RD6mEJbeJYw>

The government has published guidance for educational settings, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

The latest information and advice published by the government can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

### Helpful information to answer questions from children

It is understandable that many children, and adults, are anxious about the Coronavirus and how it could impact them.

[Click here](#) for more support from Place2Be on how you can support your child, and yourself, with these concerns.

Leeds City Council have developed a webpage [Coronavirus help for people and communities](#) and a [leaflet](#) which offers practical support such as access to food, money and advice around work and how Leeds City Council are currently operating.



## YOUR NHS IS STILL HERE FOR YOU

Find out how you can get medical help when you need it – [click here](#) for information



**Your NHS is still here for you when you need us** **NHS**

**When to call 999 and attend Accident and Emergency (A&E)**

It's important that if you, or your loved ones, become suddenly unwell you get help quickly.

**When to call 999 and attend A&E:**

- Choking
- Chest pain
- Blackout
- Severe bleeding
- A serious injury
- If you think you're having a stroke

**Call 999 if you think you're having a stroke**

The main symptoms of stroke can be remembered with the word **FAST** - you must call 999 if you have the following:

- **F**ace - face is drooping / fallen on one side, unable to smile, or the mouth or eye have dropped
- **A**rms - unable to raise both arms and keep them there
- **S**peech - speech is slurred or garbled
- **T**ime - dial 999 immediately if you see any of these signs or symptoms

If you have coronavirus or symptoms of this, please tell the operator and mention this to paramedics on arrival.

www.leedscsg.nhs.uk/HereForYou #NHSHereForYou

## Looking after children and young people during the Coronavirus outbreak

Please [click here](#) to read 10 top tips to help you look after the mental health of those you are caring for during this difficult time.

### Calm Harm App

Calm Harm- is a free app for over 12's to help manage the urge to self-harm. Leeds City Council and the NHS in Leeds are encouraging young people to download the Calm Harm app, which helps you resist or manage the urge to self-harm. It also has breathing techniques to help reduce symptoms of stress and anxiety. You can download the Calm Harm app from the App Store and Google Play.

**Find out more about services in Leeds on the MindMate website:**  
<https://www.mindmate.org.uk/im-a-young-person/whats-in-leeds-for-me/>

## Virtual talks from Speakers for Schools

Speakers for Schools are an Inspiration Programme providing a network of today's most inspiring figures across business, arts, politics and more who donate their time to help inspire students to fuel their ambition.

Speakers for Schools are excited to present their weekly VTalks schedule. This schedule will be updated weekly and talks will be targeted to different age groups.

To view their complete schedule and information on how to access the talks, click **here**.



## Leodis Support Service

Leodis Support Service are continuing to support our young people and their families during the partial closures of all schools.

We are regularly updating our website to keep you informed of the services which are still operating locally and nationally such as Foodbanks, debt advice services, mental health support services etc. so that families can continue to access the help that they need.

Our Family Support Workers and Pastoral staff including Child Protection staff are continuing to provide 1:1 telephone and email support and where necessary home visits are being carried out.

Our Counsellors, Wellbeing Workers and Therapists continue to work remotely with young people to support their emotional wellbeing and we are continuing to update our Leodis Support Service Website with self-help resources for families to work through together.

Family Support Workers across the Trust are still working to maintain contact with families who need advice and guidance around Parenting. We have Online Parenting Support Courses available for those who wish to complete these online.

As a Cluster Service we are continuing to work with the Local Authority in partnership to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of our families is upheld and that all of our young people and families are safeguarded and know that although we are in isolation at this time, we are certainly not alone.

Should you have any additional needs for your families outside of curriculum support, please do not hesitate to contact us on 078 3571 2726 or refer to the Leodis Support Service website through your school website link.

## MY Ed

The **MY Ed** app is an excellent method of communication between school and home. It will allow you to check information about the Academy, attendance of your child, his/her timetable, and positive referrals will be 'pushed' to your phone. In addition, you will be able to communicate directly with the Attendance Team for free. Please download this free app and check out the 'News' page of the Academy's website for an information video: NEWS - CLICK

