

# Home Learning Newsletter #15

Week Beginning 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

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**"Growing a vibrant community of exceptional people  
by developing character, confidence, and creativity  
by growing through taking part, volunteering, and getting to know ourselves and each other"**

## This, Too, Shall Pass

'Has the world gone mad?', I asked myself more than once this week after watching the news and reading the national press. From reading about appalling free school meal hampers to trying to understand the rapidly changing national restrictions, it all seems terribly chaotic.

So, I vowed to focus on what I can actually control: engaging with young people I teach, planning worthwhile lessons, supporting my staff and working with our community.

This is the same for our young people. They may not know what lies ahead in the coming months, whether we will return to school or not. However, they are in control of how much effort they put into their home learning and how they relate to those around them.

As this week progresses, when things become tricky for our young people, let's remind them of the autonomy and control they do have. Hopefully, we can bring a little order to the chaos.

Have a good week,

Gemma Williamson

*This too  
Shall Pass*

## Staying Safe Online

Over the coming weeks many young people will be spending large amounts of time online. The internet has provided us with a fantastic way of staying connected during this pandemic but can also be challenging for young people to navigate. We strongly encourage you to monitor your child's online activity and check with them that they are only chatting to people who they know in "real life".

This week in Lead Lessons, students will be hearing about strategies to keep themselves safe online and will be using advice from Childnet as a basis for those discussions. You may want to open up similar discussion at home and remind your child that they can talk to you about anything that worries them online. At school we advise students to speak to their parents/carers or to a trusted teacher or the [worried@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:worried@thehazeleyacademy.com) inbox which is monitored by our Safeguarding team.

Please click on the link below to view the guidance for staying safe online - [SMART-rules-poster-A3-Free.pdf \(childnet.com\)](#)





## The Importance of Reading

Supporting your child to read regularly can be a challenge, especially when there are so many distractions around: tv, phones and computers. However, reading has a direct impact on the life chances of our young people.

## Our Virtual Library



Students can use our online library to read books they enjoy, here's how to log on.

Go to <https://thehazeleyacademy.eplatform.co> and log in using the school email address using the password hazeley1

Please email our fab library team if you need more support -

[library@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:library@thehazeleyacademy.com)

"Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it's that simple."

Bali Rai

## Advice to Parents

- 1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

### Free Audiobooks

Radio 4's [Classic Stories](#) audiobooks series offers an extensive collection of timeless fiction from the literary greats. The BBC have selected nine classic masterpieces, recorded full and unabridged for BBC Sounds, that are guaranteed to have you hooked.



Does your child want to get ahead in GCSE English Literature? Then listen to 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' as it is our key text. [Here is the link!](#)

### Could You Be A Future Codebreaker?

Maths teachers will be sharing this codebreaking competition with their classes over the next week. It is aimed at students in Year 7-Year 11 and can be worked on with friends or as a family. We'd love to hear how you get on!

[https://www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/cryptography\\_competition/](https://www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/cryptography_competition/)



Hegarty Maths can be used to support students' learning and understanding. Students do not need their teacher to set a task to access the videos and quizzes. Any questions can be emailed to the Maths teacher and they will support you.

Our Hegarty Maths Heroes for last week are:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Suruthy	Julia	Erin	Phoenix	Rishi
Bianca	Richie	Katy	Callum	Harry
Manuel	Zack	Darcy	Bradley	Carla
Maria	Chloe		Jorge	Rachael
Chris	Zoey		Fletcher	Wazzi

### Accessing Home Learning on Gaming Devices

If you don't have a laptop, you can access remote learning through an X-Box or PlayStation



1. Plug in a keyboard and mouse (if you have them) into the USB port
2. Go to My Games and Apps
3. Find and open Microsoft Edge
4. Type in [www.office.com](http://www.office.com) as you would to access Office 365
5. Login and you can access Teams, Office 365, Outlook and OneDrive



1. Press the PS4 Logo on the controller
2. Go to the library and find the internet browser (www)
3. Open the browser
4. Type in [www.office.com](http://www.office.com) as you would to access Office 365
5. Login and you can access Teams, Office 365, Outlook and OneDrive



## Free School Meals

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience whilst we organised the distribution of free school meal vouchers at such short notice on our return to school.

Free school meal vouchers have now been distributed to all eligible families via the Edenred voucher scheme which you will continue to receive for the remainder of this half term. We are aware of some families who have struggled to access the national scheme and have contacted those families this week to help support them redeem the vouchers.

If you are having trouble with redeeming vouchers please see the FAQ sheet using the following link <https://www.edenred.co.uk/reward-recipient/Free-School-Meal-Vouchers/> There is also an Edenred helpdesk via [freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com](mailto:freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com)

## February Half Term Holiday Vouchers

We are aware of the press coverage regarding provision during the holiday period. We can confirm that children who are eligible for Free School Meals will continue to receive vouchers over the February half term via the national voucher scheme funded by the Local Authority's Winter COVID-19 grant. At this time it is uncertain if this will continue for future holidays.

Should you have any queries relating to Free School Meals, or you have not received your entitlement, please email [finance@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:finance@thehazeleyacademy.com).

Finance Team.

## Negotiating A Discount!

We've heard from a number of parents that if you speak to your own internet and phone provider, you can negotiate a discount as your child will be online significantly more than usual. We also know that BT and EE are making some educational websites free to browse. We can't guarantee that you will get a discount but it's worth a try!



unifrog

## Student Motivation from our Partner, Unifrog:

Unifrog are running two series of free skills and enterprise webinars this month, one for teachers and one for students. With leading employers, including Facebook and PWC, the webinars focus on boosting students' motivation and helping them to develop the skills they'll need to succeed in the future.

## Supporting Milton Keynes University Hospital

MKUH is doing phenomenal work during Covid-19. The hospital has supported Hazeley brilliantly over the years with our Nursing Cadet programme and offering them great learning opportunities. We want to support our local hospital as much as possible. At the beginning of the pandemic, we donated all of our PPE to the hospital. We now can donate a small gift to the staff working tirelessly through the pandemic.

MKUH has created an Amazon wish list where you can purchase small items for the staff and Amazon delivers the item directly to the hospital. The Amazon wish list can be [accessed here](#).

## And Finally...

Thank you so much to parents who have offered support in volunteering; making masks; donating spare laptops and giving us feedback via email and Facebook. It really is remarkable! Moreover, the support you are giving your child to persevere will ensure that they are in the best possible position when we return to school.





## Hazeley Wellbeing Weekly

This section of the newsletter has been created to provide you with information, hints, tips and challenges to support your wellbeing during what can be an unsettling time for many during lockdown.

### Acts of Kindness

An excellent resource for ideas to support those around you with keeping positive during lockdown is the Mental Health Foundation <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/acts-kindness-during-coronavirus-outbreak> and they have lots of tips for acts of kindness that we could all do during this time.

One thing that we have seen all over the world is that kindness is prevailing in uncertain times. People are coming together to sing on balconies in Italy, others are setting up groups to offer support to the elderly or vulnerable - like collecting groceries or calling them for a chat. We have heard stories of people having virtual movie nights and creating choreographed dances over video chat to share with the world.

Here are a few of the other suggested ideas:

- ◆ Call a friend that you haven't spoken to for a while
- ◆ Tell a family member how much you love and appreciate them
- ◆ Make a cup of tea for someone you live with
- ◆ Arrange to have a cup of tea and virtual catch up with someone you know
- ◆ Help with a household chore at home
- ◆ Arrange to watch a film at the same time as a friend and video call
- ◆ Tell someone you know that you are proud of them
- ◆ Tell someone you know why you are thankful for them
- ◆ Send a motivational text to a friend who is struggling
- ◆ Send someone you know a joke to cheer them up
- ◆ Send someone you know a picture of a cute animal
- ◆ Send an inspirational quote to a friend
- ◆ Send an interesting article to a friend

Whether you volunteer, donate, learn how to help in emergencies or shop, your kindness will make a huge difference to people affected by coronavirus in the UK and worldwide.

If there is any topic or ideas you would like to see covered in the Wellbeing Weekly article, please contact Lesley Mckenzie at [lmckenzie@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:lmckenzie@thehazeleyacademy.com) with thoughts and ideas, which would be most welcome.