

Home Learning Parent Newsletter No.2
The Hazeley Academy



By Mrs Gemma Williamson
Deputy Principal of Teaching and Learning
gwilliamson@thehazeleyacademy.com

Week One Complete...Phew!

I want to begin by thanking the Hazeley parents and carers for all the kind words that have been emailed in over the last week. It is truly awe-inspiring to see how we are all pulling together as a community to support our young people. The staff really appreciate your comments.

Many people are feeling pressured and overwhelmed by how life has changed for us all. This includes supporting your child to continue learning and monitoring the work set on Go4Schools. What we are doing is not home schooling; as home schooling involves parents making the conscious choice to be their child's teacher. You did not sign up for this job! We fully understand that this is not easy for families and appreciate the demands you are balancing. If the home learning is becoming a challenge, take a break. Harmony at home is infinitely more important than any school work. Let us know and we can support you.



As we are in the new, uncharted territory of home learning, we would really appreciate parent feedback. Please take this short survey: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sGHISd9X7E-idwMw4-RXq7VUoHoLhTZDijuA7JHBVXRUM0xXWk9ZRZHTjZGQ1FHN1ZIOVozMzQxSy4u>

Rewarding Superb Home Learning

We have created a 'Superb Distance Learning' (SDL) award to recognise students that are engaging excellently with home learning. This award is worth 5 house points and is equivalent to our **red stamps**. Students can achieve this award by:

- ✓ Making an excellent effort
- ✓ Going 'over and above' with their work
- ✓ Producing work of exceptional quality
- ✓ Engaging whole-heartedly in their work
- ✓ Demonstrating the Hazeley values, e.g. resilience, respect, effort, creativity etc.

The form groups and year groups that achieve the most SDL awards will be given a treat (chocolate / gift vouchers) when we return to school. In addition, certificates will be awarded for students who achieve a high number of SDL awards.

75 points: **bronze** award

150 points: **silver** award

250 points: **gold** award

300+ points will achieve the highest **platinum** certificate.

Motivation

Motivating a young adult can be challenging at the best of times, more so now that their normal routine is disrupted. Consider the following:

- **Learning flourishes in a positive environment.** Therefore, if your child has not completed his work, avoid negative consequences. Instead of confiscating a device, consider complimenting your child when work is finished. As humans, we all need positive feedback.
- **Take it step by step.** Sometimes a child can feel like they don't know where to begin. If this is the case, ask them to break tasks down into small steps. These steps can be as small as gathering the correct equipment. This will give you the basis for praise and reassurance. Support them to continue this process until they are ready to tackle larger tasks, making them aware that the tasks on Go4Schools do not need to be completed all at once.

- **Review Progress.** Nothing motivates a child more than acknowledging accomplishments. Encourage your child to continue to produce quality work and talk about future success.
- **Empowerment.** Allow your child to plan their day. Encourage them to budget their time but give them the flexibility to decide what to work on. Giving a young person a sense of ownership helps motivate them and builds their self-esteem. It's also great preparation for higher education and entering the workforce.
- **See the bigger picture.** Support them to understand the 'why'. Why are they doing this work? Why is important? Why will this work help them in the next phase of their life?

Your child's tutor can provide support with motivation, please do get in touch.

Staying Connected



There is a wealth of resources for parents and carers to support their child with home learning. I have started a Facebook group where teachers are posting resources and opportunities for student to learn at home. Please do join us!

Search for 'The Hazeley Academy Parent Portal' on Facebook. Alternatively, click this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1158348127835751/?ref=share>

As with all social media, it's important that we respect the privacy of all parents and staff. Further guidelines about this are available on the group.

Focus on... English!

Something to read: The Renaissance Place Accelerated Reader Platform has made a wealth of their quizzable texts free to read online – you can search by year group, book level or by interest: <http://readon.myon.co.uk>

Something to watch: As part of the 'Culture in Quarantine' movement, the Royal Shakespeare Company are making many of their recent interpretations available to view, including Romeo & Juliet, Macbeth and Othello. Information can be found here: <https://www.rsc.org.uk/news/bbc-culture-in-quarantine>




Something to win: Bucks Books Awards Poetry Competition: Rhythm and Poetry. A poetry competition open to ages 11-14 from Buckinghamshire. The winning poem will be published in the May edition of 'Bookcast'. Details here: <https://bucksbookaward.org.uk/poetry-competition/>

Something extra: The Royal Shakespeare Company's 'Learning Zone' features lots of extra knowledge about the Shakespeare plays your child studies. With three differentiated levels, and video clips to help understanding, it's a really valuable tool: <http://rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone>

Next Week: Focus on Mathematics

Life Lessons

As Hazeley we aim to grow your child's character, confidence and creativity, not just their academic abilities. With that in mind, I would like to set your child three weekly challenges to complete to help develop each of these areas. The staff and I would love to see photos of these challenges in action! Feel free to email your snaps to your child's tutor and I.

Character Challenge 	Confidence Challenge 	Creativity Challenge 
Research and create your family tree. Family Tree Maker Here: https://www.familyecho.com	Learn how to change a lightbulb or unblock a sink (with supervision).	Research your family's favourite singers or bands from when they were your age. Debate which music is better: theirs or yours? http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/music.html

Free Daily Resources For Children

- PE with Joe Wicks On YouTube**
Week days at 9am but you can visit any time on youtube to view the workout.
- Wildlife With with Steve Backshall On Facebook**
Every day at 9:30am for answering all your wildlife, biology, conservation, geography and exploration questions.
- Science with Maddie Moate on YouTube**
Weekdays 11am. Maddie & Greg chat about science and nature!
- Dance with Oti Mabuse On Facebook**
Every day at 11.30am but children can view the class at any time.
- Maths With Carol Vorderman**
Free access to the her maths website: www.themathsfactor.com
- Music with Myleene Klass on YouTube**
Twice a week. Next one Friday 27 March 10am, but can view any time.
- Storytime With David Walliams**
Free story everyday at 11am on his website: www.worldofdavidwalliams.com

Looking Ahead to The Easter Holidays

It's important that we all enjoy some 'down time' over the Easter holiday. We all need to take time to reflect and adjust to our new normal. Your child is not expected to continue home learning or communicate with their teachers over the break unless needed. However, in true Hazeley fashion, we would like to keep them busy with Mr Nelson's 10 Day Easter Challenge!

Write **1** big 'thank you' letter to the NHS staff for saving lives.

Read **2** books for pleasure.

Complete **3** pieces of art, music or another creative hobby.

Go out of your way to thank **4** people for going above and beyond to support the community during this crisis.

Cook **5** meals for your family.

Contact **6** family members/ friends online to see how they are doing.

Wash up **7** times.

Watch **8** TV programmes as a family.

Complete **9** X 20-30 minute online work outs of your choice.

Sing along to **10** of your favourite songs



How do I talk to my child about Coronavirus (Covid-19)?

- It's important to keep young people informed, but not overwhelmed. I know I certainly have found the relentless news coverage a challenge. Give them accurate information by using reliable sources such as <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Ask your child what they know already about the virus and what they know so far and the wider situation. Address any misconceptions and research any questions that arise together.
- Remind your child that everyone is working hard to manage the virus.
- Although it may seem difficult, it is important to model calmness. Your child will look adults to gauge how worried they should be, even though it may seem like they just tune you out!
- Show your child that it's possible to continue to do what is important to you while practicing hygiene and social distancing.
- If it becomes necessary to adjust plans (eg. a holiday) be transparent and direct with your child so that they understand the reasons behind the decision.

National Public Radio in the USA have created a comic to explain Cononavirus.

https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=this%20downloadable%20comic&utm_campaign=Weekly-03-03-20&t=1583271654945&t=1585220146555

Free School Meals - Be aware of scam emails

We have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'. We can confirm that this is a scam email and is not official. If you receive any emails like this, please do not respond, and delete it immediately.



Social Distancing

Local supermarkets have raised concerns about whole families going on shopping trips. It is advised that only one person per household goes to the supermarket if at all possible. It will probably make your shopping trip quicker too!

... And Finally

We have been given an unexpected gift of spending more quality time with our families. Before long, your children will be moving to the next phase in their lives so make the most of this time together. This may require more patience than usual! 😊

Gemma Williamson