

Parent Bulletin

22nd January 2021



Robert
May's
School

A community seeking excellence for all

Thought for the week: Celebrating other cultures

Word of the week: Inaugural - from French and Latin "inaugurationem", meaning "installment under good omens"

Book of the week: Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman (available as an ebook on [ePlatform](#))

Dear Families,

Vacancy for a Parent Trustee:

There is an opportunity here to join one of the biggest, most respected and most influential voluntary movements in the country, and that is to become a Parent Trustee of the Robert May's School Academy Trust. This is similar to being a non-executive director of a small-to-medium sized charitable education business, with an annual turnover of just over £7 million and a net book value of about £24 million. Our annually audited company report is available on the school website: [RMS-2019-2020 Annual Report and accounts](#) . Trustees bring their time, talents and expertise to the board room and they are also involved in shaping the future direction of the school by working closely with the leadership team. Please see the link to the application form below. If more than one parent applies, a secret ballot of all parents will be arranged in due course. This is a hugely exciting time to join the school as we gradually step away from Covid-19 restrictions and start to embrace back-to-normal working as the summer progresses. If you have the skills and attributes to help move our ambitious school from Good to Great, please apply!

Lateral Flow testing:

You may be aware that the Department for Education paused daily lateral flow testing for students who are identified as contacts of confirmed cases, preferring schools to advise students to continue isolation arrangements for the present. While further investigations continue, our weekly testing of staff has been going very smoothly with no positive cases found and we are grateful to Mrs Shackleton, Mrs Parker, Mr Marsh, Mrs Davies, our administrators, and Mrs Truesdale for the care and attention to detail that has gone into making the testing area and procedures safe and efficient.

Year 11 GCSE assessments consultation:

A letter has gone out today to Year 11 students and their parents, encouraging engagement with the Ofqual consultation document and response form. This is where Ofqual and the DfE explain their rationale for testing and how GCSE grades should be formulated in the summer. It's in everyone's interests to have their say, we feel. If you are not a Year 11 Parent/Carer, but you wish to know more, please use this link: [Ofqual-how grades should be awarded in 2021](#)

Key Worker/Vulnerable student facility:

Once again it's good to report that the students coming in have been lovely to have on site, cheerful and purposeful. A different team of staff are on rota for each day of the week and they are supported in their work by Mrs Pluthero, Mr Holt, and our wonderful teams of Learning Support Assistants, without whom we could not make this work. Thank you to everyone for keeping it up. Thank you also to Parents/Carers of users for responding to the transport survey. This helps us liaise over numbers with Hampshire Schools' transport. We all hope you have a restful and safe weekend,

Joanna C West
Headteacher

Repeat information: Key Worker/Vulnerable Child Facility

- We are proud to offer this facility again, in order to support the national effort and give our NHS, armed forces, police, food production, public broadcast media, social care and other essential workers the opportunity to continue to do their jobs. If you need to check the list, it is here: [Government Key Worker list](#)
- The usual Covid-19 rules apply. If you think your child has any of the main Covid symptoms, please do not send them into the Key Worker/Vulnerable facility. An outbreak of infection would be disastrous for the facility and would prevent a number of people from being able to do their jobs, both in the community and in the school. Please help us and protect the facility by keeping children away if they are ill. [Government guidance: possible Covid-19 suspected](#)
- **The following only applies to families of students who are using the Key Worker/Vulnerable facility:**

Please inform the school if your child is unable to attend school, in all circumstances, detailing the reason for the absence. It is essential that you notify us as a matter of urgency if your household needs to be isolating/your child is unable to come into the facility because they are isolating/being tested/are ill. Please also tell us if you have a positive case in your child /household because we will need to tell Public Health England and conduct contact tracing. Please use attendance@rmays.com for all communications about attendance. Remember to include the name of your child, their year group, the date and time of the first symptom they experienced (if you can) and please copy your child's Head of Year.
- General information about what your child should prepare for in the facility and what they should expect is here: [Updated information for children of Key Workers and those who are Vulnerable](#)
- We are actively encouraging the wearing of face coverings on the buses and in school. Please help us to keep the aerosol spread from people's breaths down by also encouraging your child to wear a face covering in school, provided that they are not exempt. We also have a small supply of visors and we are willing to give one to your child provided that they are not exempt and if, perhaps, they have a medically acknowledged sensory issue with wearing a face covering/mask.
- The HUBL and Resourced Provision are both open with limited space for students who need this support each day. Please bear this in mind if you are considering using the facility.
- We are expecting that this facility may remain open for those who need it during the February half-term holiday and will confirm this in good time before the break starts. Live streamed lessons will be suspended, and the facility will operate on a more informal basis with games, films, puzzles, plenty of outdoor activities, art/craft and cooking opportunities.

Remote learning: expectations and helpful links(repeated from previous weeks)

- As you are now aware, with support from our wonderful Trustees, we have been able to roll out a fully interactive live streaming service for most lessons.
- On rare occasions, a member of staff will need to be away from live-streaming, and will need to set work solely on Google Classroom. This will be because:
 - they are engaged in pre-booked teacher-training or planned professional development,
 - they may have a medical appointment,
 - or they may be ill.
 - In addition to these reasons, please bear in mind that each day, a rota of teachers and Learning Support Assistants are on duty in the Key Worker and Vulnerable child facility. It might not always be possible for them to live stream because their focus is on the children who are sitting in front of them in school. Please respect this. All rota teams are on one-day a week duties, so we are expecting that any impact on live streaming will be proportionately minimal. Thank you.

- BBC2 - programming to support the GCSE curriculum (with at least two hours of content each weekday). If you have younger children from 11th January CBBC will air a three hour block of primary school programming from 9.00am including BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily, as well as other educational programming such as Our School and Celebrity Supply Teacher and much loved titles such as Horrible Histories, Art Ninja and Operation Ouch.
 - Sky TV now shows links in its on-screen breadcrumbs to school-age learning programmes and also links to BBC Bitesize.
 - Invicta National Academy is a social enterprise which is offering their services completely free for school communities. They offer two hours of live and interactive teaching delivered by qualified teachers. Here is the link: [Invicta National Academy](#)
 - Oak Academy has good online lesson provision, in case of need: [All subjects by key stage - Oak National Academy](#)
 - Our wish is that your child prioritises the lessons that are being set and live streamed by our teachers at their normal lesson times. The links above are for students who run out of work to do, or are keen to explore other resources in addition to their normal timetabled lessons.
 - Hampshire Outdoor Centres have created a home activity pack to link to several national curriculum subjects and encourage students to keep active and be creative. Here is the link: [Home Activity Pack](#)
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LIBRARY NEWS

The [Library](#) is open online via the VLE for access to ebooks, audiobooks and the Library Catalogue. I am glad to see the ebooks are being well used already!

If your child is struggling to connect to ebooks I have created some instructions they can use [here](#) or they are welcome to email me.

All Library books borrowed after 7th September 2020 have now been renewed until 22nd February 2021.

Accelerated Reader (Year 7 & 8)

Congratulations to the following students for becoming reading Millionaires.

- James Burrige 7V
- Toby Manning-King 8T

Keep up the good work!

Student Book Groups

- New Year 7 Book Group - running online via google classroom and Teams on Tuesdays at 2.30pm - If your child wants to join in drop me an email.
- Booked (Year 8-11) - running online Mondays at 2.30pm

If you or your child needs to get in touch with me they or you can email me at library@rmays.com

Many thanks,

Mrs Bennett
Library Manager

PARENT TRUSTEE VACANCY JANUARY 2021

Any completed application form, [Parent Trustee Application Form](#), to be emailed to the clerk@rmays.com by **Monday 25th January 2020**, please. Thank you!

PE TEACHER CHALLENGE

This week's PE Teacher Challenge is from Mr Warman - the **WALL SIT** - how long can you last? Can you beat Mr Warman's time of 2 minutes 4 seconds?

[Mr Warman's Wall Sit Challenge](#)

Record your results on the Google sheet below (add them to the Mr Warman tab).

[Teacher Challenge Record Sheet - Student Scores](#)

Good luck and stay safe.

PE Department

RMS PTFA UPDATE

Uniform Service

The Online Uniform shop remains open, however, our parent volunteers will not be processing orders or be open for collections until further notice.

If you are a Key Worker and have an urgent requirement for school uniform, please email us at uniform@rmspta.co.uk with details. Our email will be monitored regularly during this period.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

RMS PTFA Uniform Service

Fundraising

Robert Mays PTFA is listed as a charity with Amazon Smile. [Amazon Smile - Robert May's School](#)



Please follow the link above, select us as your chosen charity, and then when you shop online through Amazon Smile, a commission donation will be made automatically. There is no cost to you

Thank you so much

Sian Taylor, PTFA Treasurer

Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into FREE donations when you use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,600 retailers such as Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, Argos, NEXT and Booking.com.

Our retailers then make a small donation to say 'thank you' and easyfundraising gives those free funds to the cause.

Please register using this unique link – just search for 'Robert Mays PTA' and click 'support us' -

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/robertmayspta-1582874283-755391685/?invite=4225V1&referral-campaign=c2s>

Plus, once you've signed up and raised £5 in donations, easyfundraising will give us an extra £5 donation.

There's no catch or hidden charges and Robert May's PTFA will be really grateful for your donations.

I'M A SCIENTIST GET ME OUT OF HERE!

Robert May's Science Department is pleased to be hosting a live chat after school on Monday 25th January at 2.50pm.

Here students will have the opportunity to probe scientists and academics experts in the field of Sustainability and Development. This is open to all year groups.

To take part your child needs to create a username at <https://imascientist.org.uk/reg/me48ca> , research the scientists involved through the 'I'm A Scientist...' dashboard and prepare a question to ask the scientists. Students then need to log into their accounts promptly on Monday 25th January 2.50pm to take part.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

The ordering of Science revision resources resumed on Monday 11th January. Any orders placed on Scopay will be delivered on a week by week basis. An email will be sent to Parents/Carers upon receipt of the goods and the parent can then either request a home delivery or to confirm that their child will collect the items from school.

Please email info@rmays.com, marked for the attention of the Science Department, to request further information.

UNIVERSITY OF READING - PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH

Students from the University of Reading are looking for parents over the age of 18, with at least one child aged 1-18 living at home, to take part in their research. The study is looking at the link between family mealtimes and children's/teenagers' health outcomes, and how harmonious family mealtimes tend to be. By taking part, you will be contributing to knowledge on the subject which could help to inform further research and educate parents in future. This study is a dissertation project, supervised by an experienced researcher in the field of psychology. To take part, follow the link to [complete the questionnaire](#), which should take no more than 15 minutes.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

RMS PLANNED TERM DATES: 2020-2021 (please note, these may be subject to change, depending on Government advice)

Please do not attempt to come onto the school site without a previously arranged appointment. Uninvited adults on the school site will be turned away.

Spring Term 2021: Remote learning from home will follow these dates.

Further information about the Key Worker/Vulnerable facility opening times in the February half term will be issued as soon as we have clarification from the government.

Monday 4th January 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students

Tuesday 5th January 2021 - First Day of Term: normal start time.

Half Term Break - 15th February 2021 - 19th February 2021

[Monday 22nd February 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students](#)

Wednesday 31st March 2021 - Last Day of Term

Summer Term 2021:

Monday 19th April 2021 - First Day of Term

Half Term Break - 31st May 2021 - 4th June 2021

[Friday 25th June 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students](#)

Friday 23rd July 2021 - Last Day of Term

As an academy, Robert May's School does not need to follow Hampshire term-time dates. However, we know that several of our students in each year have siblings in our neighbouring community feeder schools, and so to minimise disruption we have done our best to try and match the local arrangements.



Patients Participation Group (PPG)

Update from Whitewater Health

Whitewater Health's GP's and nurses delivered the first Covid vaccination in Hook to this 92-year-old patient in Maryfield Convent on the morning of Saturday 16th January 2021. They then went on to complete 200 more vaccinations in the various residential homes the practice look after.



Please be patient. The NHS will contact you to arrange an appointment for your vaccination at the New Vaccination centres or at the Hampshire Court Hotel in Basingstoke. We expect that the Fire station (Basingstoke) will also open as a vaccination centre next week.

Please do not contact the surgery for a vaccination.