

Parent Bulletin

8th January 2021



Robert
May's
School

A community seeking excellence for all

Thought for the week: **Overcoming Challenges** (*Heads of Year*)

Word of the week: **Demography** - The study of population changes from the Greek “demos” meaning people and “graphia” meaning writing.

Book of the week: **Northern Lights** by Phillip Pullman (available as an ebook on [ePlatform](#)).

Dear Families,

Thank you all for bearing with the short-notice changes to normal in-person education that we have all been obliged to make since the most recent lock-down announcements, and thank you for your encouragement and support for our remote learning programmes. We appreciate your messages very much and all your messages have been shared with staff.

In this edition, we are going to keep the general comments short because, as usual, at a point like this, there is a lot of information to share with you.

The following topics will be covered below under separate headings. Hopefully this will save you time because you can go straight to the heading that concerns you/your child or children.

- Key Worker/Vulnerable Child in-school facility: some reminders and thanks.
- Remote learning: managing expectations and some helpful links.
- Laptops and wi-fi access in local homes- information.
- Year 11 summer GCSE assessment updates.
- Rapid testing updates.

We all hope that you and your household remain in good health at this time, and look forward to the point at which the government tells us that schools can start to welcome all students back on site.

Have a safe and happy weekend.

Joanna C West
Headteacher

Key Worker/Vulnerable Child Facility

- We are proud to offer this facility again, in order to support the national effort and give our NHS, 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](#)

- Please inform the school as a matter of urgency if your household is 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. 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. This only applies to students who are using the Key Worker/Vulnerable facility.
- General information about what your child should prepare for 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.
- To date, the young people who have been joining us in school have been exemplary students. Thank you.

Remote learning: expectations and helpful links

- 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.
- We have been sent information about how to access Google Classroom from an Xbox and PS4. We have shared this for those that might find it helpful. Click here for more information [Accessing Google Classroom through Xbox and PS4](#)
- 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:
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage>
 - 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.
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Laptops and wi-fi access: from the Government

With remote learning in full swing, some of our parents may not have sufficient internet access.

The government now has a scheme where schools can request mobile data increases to support students who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home;
- cannot afford additional data for their devices;
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education.

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three;
- Smarty;
- Virgin Mobile;
- EE;
- Tesco Mobile;
- Sky Mobile;
- O2.

Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage. If increasing mobile data is not a suitable option for some children, the school can also request a 4G wireless router for the family.

If you are aware of parents/families who would benefit from increased internet access please can you ask them to contact the school by emailing their child's tutor or year head, or emailing info@rmays.com Detailed government information regarding this can be found [here](#) .

Year 11 GCSE assessment updates

There was a Prime Ministerial announcement on 4th January, when we were all told that GCSE, A Level and AS level examinations would not be running as expected in the summer. We understand that a consultation will be released by OfQual as soon as they have a range of plans to share publicly.

We share Year 11 students' frustration about this, and their parents' too.

The latest announcement from OfQual is on their website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a-message-from-simon-lebus-chief-regulator-on-exams-in-2021>

It is clear that some kind of teacher assessment will need to be made in each subject. It is therefore the best policy for Year 11 students to continue with their studies, complete the work set by their teachers, and place their best efforts into any exam-style questions they are being asked to complete in their subjects at present. This means teachers can assess and give feedback, and it also means we have on-going records of where a student is in their learning with respect to the GCSE curriculum. We will update Year 11 students and their parents as soon as we have access to any further information. Please look out for any announcements from OfQual about a consultation, coming soon. This will give a clear indication of what they think their plans are.

Rapid Testing updates

- Rapid testing kits and PPE have been delivered to the school and the ground floor of Invictus is currently planned as a testing base.
- Mass testing does not have to take place yet, because lockdown is in place.
- Rapid testing (Lateral Flow) is not compulsory.
- Volunteer staff have been recruited and training has started.
- We expect to start rapid testing on consenting staff who are on rota in the Key Worker/Vulnerable facility in a few days' time.
- After this, we hope to roll out rapid testing to Key Worker/Vulnerable children who have been identified as contacts of any other students in the facility, Again, the relevant consents will have to be obtained.
- Once the government decides that the conditions are right to plan for re-opening schools fully, please expect that we will be sending out consent forms to year groups with a view to commencing mass testing of whole year groups before students start coming back in for their regular lessons. We do not know when this will be. It is unlikely to start before the February half-term holiday.
- There is a thought that if all school staff were vaccinated against Covid-19 we could move towards opening up rapidly, instead of juggling with the risks of the new highly infectious variant of Covid-19. Our local authority (along with many others) is pressing for this, national teaching and school staff unions are pressing for this, and I have written to Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP, Roger Halfon MP, Ranil Jayawardena MP and a number of others on this point.

J West

ELSA SUPPORT (EMOTIONAL LITERACY SUPPORT)

Students can email the school's ELSA, Mrs J Tahourdin, to get help, support and guidance during the school day. This ELSA 'drop in' email has been created to help support students whilst the school is closed: elsa@rmays.com.

FLU IMMUNISATION

The School Immunisation Team are running community clinics for the flu vaccination on the following dates:
Wednesday 20th January – Aldershot Centre for Health
Wednesday 3rd February – Liss Triangle Centre
Friday 12th February – Petersfield Community Hospital

Parents/Carers of eligible children (Year R through to Year 7 in mainstream schools and under 18 in SEN schools) who missed their flu immunisation in school can contact the team if they would like to book an appointment at one of these clinics. Please either phone 01252 335142 or email shft.northeasthantsimmunisationteam@nhs.net with your child's full name, DOB, name of school and preferred clinic.

Please do not contact the school to make these arrangements, the School Immunisation Team must be contacted directly.

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.

If your children are struggling to concentrate on reading here are some tips to help them.

[Tips to get you Reading](#).

Accelerated Reader (Year 7 & 8)

A reminder to all Year 7 and 8 Students that I am still here to help you with your weekly reading lessons. If you need any help assessing books at the right level or Accelerated Reader to do your quizzes please get in touch. There is an AR page on the [Library website](#) so you can keep up with which classes are in the lead for most words read at home. I update the page on Fridays.

Congratulations to the following students for becoming reading Millionaires.

- Ruby Whelan 7P
- Arcadius Attwater 7R
- Edward Carey 7V

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

Happy New Year!

Mrs Bennett
Library Manager

MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Hampshire Music Service will be offering online instrumental lessons whilst we are in lockdown. Please click on the link and use the username and password below to access their information and guidance:

<http://hantsmusic.org.uk/students>

Username: hmsstudent

Password: learningzone

Drums lessons will not be taking place whilst in lockdown.

You will only be charged for the lessons which take place i.e. if you do not sign up for virtual lessons you will not be charged for this half term.

Rock and Pop Foundation are offering online guitar Zoom lessons. Students who are coming into school as part of the Key Worker facility will not be able to access Zoom whilst in school so guitar lessons will have to be arranged out of school time. For information about guitar lessons please contact Rock and Pop Foundation: [The Rock and Pop Foundation.](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Mrs N Hills
Head of Music

PARENT/CARER REMOTE CONSULTATIONS

Last term we introduced a very successful online system for remote consultations for parents and carers.

We have received exciting news that the development company has introduced a new feature whereby each video call can involve up to 2 parents/carers. This means two parents can join the same consultation from different locations if required.

For details, see the SchoolCloud [Parent Guide.](#)

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.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

The ordering of Science revision resources will resume on Monday 11th January. Any orders placed on Scopay after the 6th December will be in the first delivery and orders will then continue 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 notify me 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.

YEAR 11 - SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS

The Sixth Form College Farnborough have made new arrangements regarding their interview process for Year 11s who have applied for September 2021:



- **The majority of RMS students who have applied to Farnborough will be offered a place at the College without having an interview.** This offer will be based on the reference that has been provided, as well as the student's application form.
Please note that the offer of a place does not guarantee automatic acceptance onto chosen courses; students are expected to work hard to meet the individual entry requirements for each course).
- **If there are applicants that Farnborough have concerns about, they will be interviewing these students** and will contact them directly to arrange this.
- **If students have any concerns regarding their application to the College and wish to speak to our Assistant Principal for Admissions**, please email studentservices@farnborough.ac.uk.

Farnborough are planning to run their usual series of events for applicants, including Getting Ready Day, which will help students to decide whether Farnborough is the right next step for them and assist with their subject choices. Applicants will be sent this information in due course.

Aidan Peake
Head of Careers

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 Dr Tim Cooper
Clinical lead for Vaccine Roll out for our PCN
(Primary Care Network)

As you know the vaccination programme is based at the Hampshire Court Hotel (Chineham) and is a collaboration between all practices in North Hampshire. This decision was taken as it means we can continue to offer as much normal general practice services as we are able to during the pandemic from people's home surgeries. Just so everyone is aware the vaccinations can only be done at a minimum of PCN level, not practice level. Other areas may be utilising individual practice sites which we opted against doing as it would have meant entirely closing one of our general practices to give it over to vaccinations, which we all felt reduced access to our normal services and cause more problems, particularly as this programme is likely to last at least 6 months.

We are set up and established now at the Hampshire Court and are awaiting further vaccine. When we are able to run at full capacity, we will be able to vaccinate 6000 people a week. The biggest challenge at this point is around vaccine stock and supply to our site. Vaccine supply is the rate limiting step here and we are ready to increase the availability of vaccine to our population as soon as we have it.

As you may also know we are following the National guidelines set out below. This priority

list is as follows:

1. residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. all those 75 years of age and over
4. all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. all those 65 years of age and over
6. all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7. all those 60 years of age and over
8. all those 55 years of age and over
9. all those 50 years of age and over

I understand our patients' concerns and the frustration they feel when there is a vaccine, and they can't get access to it. I would reassure them that as soon as we have stock, we will be contacting eligible patients directly to organise these appointments. We will be working through the priority list as set out above. Unfortunately, I am unable to say when individual groups will be receiving their vaccination as this is entirely dependent on national availability of stock and when this is apportioned to us, we do not have any control over this.

Patients Participation Group (PPG)

The vaccination project is very much separate to all practice's normal activity, to allow practices to continue to offer as much business as usual as possible. **We remain open for your health care**

This is a uniquely challenging time for general practice as the staff are having to deliver a number of additional programmes in a rota system over and above our 'normal' general practice services.

The largest flu campaign ever;

The Covid assessment service (the winter assessment hub),

The Covid home oximetry service and now

The Covid vaccination programme

This is on top of an exhausted workforce, staff sickness and self-isolation.

Please check the information on Whitewater's website for up to date and current for the programme and available at <https://www.hooksurgery.nhs.uk>

The underlying message to everyone is very much we will contact you as soon as we have vaccine available.



Patients Participation Group (PPG)

Update from Whitewater Health

The program for vaccination is starting again at Hampshire Court Hotel. For those people who have been asked to attend the requirements to be identified is as

Date of birth, GP surgery and name are sufficient

Further details of the programme will be published later this week and will also be available on the Practice web site

<https://www.whitewaterhealth.nhs.uk/>