

May 6, 2020

Hi Year 11,

I hope this finds you well and coping in these challenging times. I know the past few weeks will have been unsettling for you, since the announcement that exams have been cancelled this Summer. As you will know from previous communication sent out, you will not be disadvantaged by this.

I don't know if after these few weeks you have found other interests to occupy your time or are enjoying unlimited time on your computer games/sleeping or perhaps you are totally bored and are desperate to have some focus. It is important that you meaningfully engage in learning at this time. All the research we have on the suspension of education tells us that the longer the break in formal education, the greater both the learning loss and the disadvantage gap are. Five months is a long time for you to have no educational work. I have put together a guide with some ideas of things you can access to support you over the next few weeks and months. However, we want to ensure that what you engage in is meaningful and will support you in the next stage of your education and training.

### **Recommendations for all**

BBC Bitesize Functional Skills- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zvhtng8>

This website offers functional skills training for post 16 and adult learners and how to apply practical Maths and English skills to real life and vocational contexts. You will see there are links to different trades/areas of work e.g. retail, engineering, childcare, hair and beauty etc., so you can select some of these to look at. There are also links to lots of generic skills.

**Student rooms-** <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/>

Another online resource that is available to access free resources and advice for post 16. They have interactive study resources for many different subjects to support your continued learning. There is also lots of advice on how to prepare for college, including a careers/jobs section which might be worth a read. Have a look and see what you think!

**MOOC (Massive open online courses) –** <https://www.mooc.org/>

If any of you are feeling brave and wish to access any new online courses, try out this website! There are so many courses that you can access, including: business, law, maths, English, science, computing, finance and mental health, just to name a few! Who knows, this could be an opportunity to challenge yourselves and learn something completely new!! You just need to register by setting up a username and password. All of these short courses could be very useful towards your post 16 education that is pending!

**Be Ready-** <https://learn.bereadygroup.org>

This is another an online platform that you can use to complete CPD (Continued Professional Development), short certificated courses and resources. You will each be receiving an email relating

to this which will provide you with individual logins and guidance on how to access the platform. These courses again will be really useful for you in preparing for your post 16 education.

**If you are planning on studying A-levels here are some recommendations for you:**

- **PIXL-** We have accessed a few resources for some A- level subjects- I will make these available on the Year 11 page on the school website. They are really good so please do check them out.
- **Twynham College** will be releasing a pre-A level course for each subject on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, so watch out for this, those of you that have applied to go there!!
- **Weymouth College** has emailed us a link that supports some of the course you are considering in September, for example, Construction, Engineering, Business, Performing Arts, Sport and Public Services. **These are really great resources, this is my top recommendation for accessing free online home learning!** Here is the link <https://www.weymouth.ac.uk/summer-work/> This may provide you with some additional support.

**Notices:**

**READING-** Reading is a must for all of you! 20 minutes of reading each day will really help to develop knowledge and understanding of all sorts of interesting things and of course during these times when we need to stay home, a book can transport you to another place entirely!

Here is Mrs Hanwell's list of books that she thinks you should all read:

- 1) **Harry Potter- J.K Rowling (All 8 of them!)**
- 2) **A short story of nearly everything- Bill Bryson**
- 3) **Robinson Crusoe- Daniel Defoe**
- 4) **Boy- Roald Dahl**
- 5) **Watership Down- Richard Adams**
- 6) **The Hobbit- J.R. Tolkien**
- 7) **The Golden Compass- Phillip Pullman**
- 8) **The Hunger Games- Suzanne Collins**
- 9) **The Diary of a Young Girl- Anne Frank**
- 10) **The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants- Ann Brashares**

**Hegarty Maths-** you all still have access to this, so you know what, make the most of it! There will be some maths skills that are so transferable to other aspects of life that you haven't quite reached yet, but embedding them now is the perfect opportunity!

**PROM-** I have re-arranged our prom for **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August**, which is in fact, GCSE results day. So, let's hope things are starting to become a bit more normal by then and we can give you the real send-off that you deserve!

**HOODIES-** I am working with a company to produce your leavers hoodies. A letter will be sent out to you with all the information on how to do order one.

Take care and stay safe. Missing you. Mrs Hanwell

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