

It is not quite the start to 2021 we had in mind!

Now that we are all getting into the swing of Lockdown 3.0, the whole of last term seems unbelievable... did it really happen, is it true that we managed four months with you almost all here in classrooms?

The first big term has been very challenging for staff and students alike.

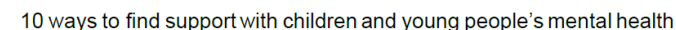
You had to get used to fixed bubbles, no lockers and the reduced access to your "special" areas, i.e. the Study Centre and the Coffee Lounge. Classes have been colder and going out to lunch has not been allowed. Nevertheless, you surely realise just how fortunate you have been to have teachers and peers alongside you in your learning, not restricted to a screen. You have all been grateful for what may have been taken for granted in the past.

You continue to demonstrate the mature and resilient young adults you are, with the two weeks of remote lessons incredibly well attended. I know that these weeks my high points, and those of your tutors and teachers, have been seeing our classes again, even if it must be through a screen.



Your well-being

<https://www.headspace.com/>



1 YoungMinds (youngminds.org.uk) is a great source of advice, resources, toolkits, reports and workshops for children and young people.

2 Kooth (kooth.com) An online community offering immediate, anonymous online support for children and young people.

3 Shout (giveusashout.org). Text 85258 to receive immediate support, or go online to access support, information and resources to support mental health.

4 The NHS - Every Mind Matters (nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters). Expert advice and practical ideas to help everyone look after their mental health. The website includes a special section for children and young people.

5 Head Ed (education.stem4.org.uk). Not only does Head Ed offer both quizzes, information and activities to help teenagers learn more about mental health independently, it also includes four free teaching modules for schools.

6 Place2Be (place2be.org.uk) offers student counselling, mental health support and training for primary and secondary schools across England, Scotland and Wales.

7 Mentally Healthy Schools (mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk) provides information, advice and resources for primary schools.

8 Mental Health Foundation - Make it Count (mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-schools-make-it-count). The site provides guides for teachers, students and parents/carers on understanding and protecting student mental health.

9 The Anna Freud Centre (annafreud.org) has published a booklet for primary and secondary schools to support staff in understanding how best to help children and young people in their care.

10 The Reintroduction Hub (thereintroductionhub.com). Teachers use the tool to assess children's responses to the pandemic and to design personalised plans to support each child in their return to education.

Your Learning

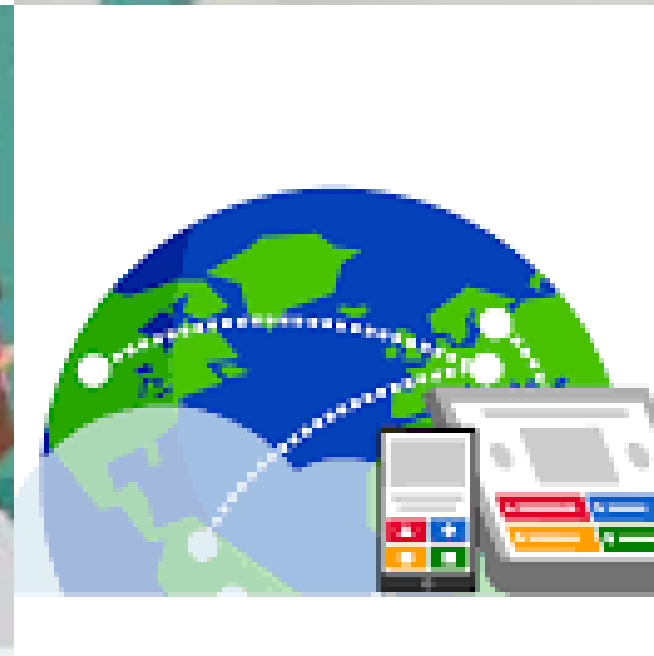
Parents and carers, I would like to thank you for supporting your children with their remote learning and for helping us ensure all our sixth formers can be as excellent as they can be.

Wherever possible, we want students to follow their normal school timetable and maintain personal, interactive contact with their teachers and peers.

If habits and routines were important before, then they are three times as important now. Schools, for all their faults and irritations to students, are brilliant at ensuring that days are structured, varied and (mostly) productive.

We recognise that remote learning will always suit some students better than others and we are working to create a varied programme of study for our students, but I am delighted to see incredibly high levels of engagement from our Sixth Form students.

The abrupt disruption of this well-trodden path is going to create challenges for all students in the country. It also creates opportunities. If you are able to adapt, remain productive and ask for help when you need it, then there is no reason why this should negatively impact your learning.



Pupils to sit mini summer exams, marked by their own teachers

Sian Griffiths, Education Editor

Sunday January 10 2021, 12:01am,
The Sunday Times



Tests will be sat at school — or at home if they stay closed
BEN BIRCHALL/PA

Exams in core subjects may still go ahead in England this summer

Williamson to tell MPs he has asked Ofqual to come up with plan to replace GCSEs and A-levels

Before the announcement of the latest lockdown, the government resisted calls for summer exams to be cancelled for the second year running, with Williamson saying last month he could “**absolutely**” **give a cast-iron guarantee** that exams in England would go ahead.

News

Ofqual moots online tests as plan B for 2021 exams

Billy Camden

Wed 2nd Sep 2020 12:59



A level Exam Grades 2021

A special note of thanks goes to our students in Year13. The situation for these students with regards to the plans for the rest of the academic year continues to be unclear and this could be very demotivating and unsettling.

However, our students continue to show just how fantastic they truly are as they fully engage with all aspects of remote learning and show their determination to succeed.

At this time, we require patience from our students and trust in us to do everything in our power to deliver the outcomes that everyone has worked so hard for. I know this can be challenging but I am so proud of the way our students are approaching the situation and we will continue to do what we can to keep everyone well-informed of any details as they emerge.

Learning for exams and learning for learning's sake

- This will be a difficult time for all of us, with many distractions, worries and commitments that might draw us away from thinking about school work. I want to emphasise the importance of making time for your learning. Partly that's because you'll be examined on this stuff, but actually there's a more important reason. Learning is a good thing in itself, and your education (although you may not always realise this now) is one of the most valuable things that you will ever be given, and something that you will treasure and be grateful for as long as you live.
- Value your learning, and the chances that you are given to learn, as highly as possible. I believe this very strongly, and that's why we are absolutely determined to be with you every step of the way here. We'll be in regular contact. You are not alone.



Put all that new learning to good...let's see what's available outside the classroom!

Academic Competitions

- [Newnham Essay Prizes – Newnham College \(cam.ac.uk\)](http://www.newnhamcollege.cam.ac.uk)
- [Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition 2020/21 | St John's College, Oxford](#)
- [History essay competition | History | The University of Sheffield](#)
- <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/research-and-academia/enter-tower-poetry-competition>
- <https://www.ft.com/content/2a6a062c-eddd-11e9-ad1e-4367d8281195?emailId=5e0e62317f9a3a0004d12f5b&segmentId=317dd885-a01c-5ae8-e994-47bdcab6df85>
- <https://www.ft.com/content/6d4b591e-1f74-11ea-b8a1-584213ee7b2b?emailId=5e0e62317f9a3a0004d12f5b&segmentId=317dd885-a01c-5ae8-e994-47bdcab6df85>
- <https://www.supremecourt.uk/student-writing-competition.html>

Work Experience

- <https://www.parliament.uk/business/commons/about-the-house-of-commons/careers-and-work-experience/>
- <https://glive.co.uk/Online/GLiveWorkExperience>
- <https://www.hsbc.com/careers/students-and-graduates/student-opportunities/uk-work-experience-programme>
- <https://www.studentladder.co.uk/job/ramboll-work-experience-2/>
- <https://surreyandsussex.nhs.uk/working-for-us/work-experience/>
- <https://www.springpod.co.uk/>
- <https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>
- <https://www.storyhouse.com/young-storyhouse>
- https://investin.org/pages/choose-your-career?mc_cid=9649b452b4&mc_eid=14e92e8a03
- <https://www.s4snextgen.org/Opportunities/View/id/959>

Other Events

- <https://studentsunionucl.org/whats-on/clubs-societies/international-undergraduate-and-foundation-surgical-conference-2020?sku>
- <https://thetrainingpartnership.org.uk/study-day/medicine-in-action-online-3-07-2020/>
- [Book Events and Open Days Now | University of Law](#)
- <https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/>
- <https://nptel.ac.in/courses/106/102/106102220/>
- <https://www.independent.co.uk/extras/indybest/books/fiction-books/best-uplifting-books-feel-good-fiction-amazon-lockdown-a9463736.html>
- https://www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement?fbclid=IwAR0Chc1TmVrEo3qptT39uNyQEOW97xfhkB1hXi-pyxvezBOewqUC6_lf6Nk
- <https://www.stem.org.uk/nuffield-research-placements>

Spalding Grammar School lockdown photography competition

Our photographs tell us what is important to us
Photographs allow us to share and to communicate
Photography makes us artists and allows us to be creative

- Participate in our competition
- Have your photo printed in our newsletter
- Your camera phone is perfectly fine
- Just have fun – interpret the theme any way you like!
- Send your favourite image
- **One entry per student** emailed to: DSWise@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk
- Winning image will be chosen by Mr Wise
- This week's theme is...

Friendship!

