



SMA

Friday, 22nd May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all continuing to keep well and staying safe.

I forwarded you a letter yesterday from the CEO of the Chelmsford Learning Partnership, Paul Banks, which was sent to all parents of the children in the Trust's Primary and Secondary schools. As a follow-up, I will now detail the provisional plans for students at The Boswells School.

It is important to stress that these plans have a caveat put in place by the government. They are reviewing the scientific data on Thursday 28th May and may decide to delay the wider opening of schools should the data indicate that it is not safe to allow more pupils into school. If this is the case, then we will continue with the provision that we currently have in place for our schools in that our schools will only be open for emergency supervision of key worker and vulnerable children.

Should we be able to open, it will initially only be for a small number of students at a specific time and, following government guidance, will be for **Year 10 and Year 12 students only**.

This will initially be done through face to face 'Progress and Well-being' meetings. The meetings will be spread over the period **from Thursday 4th June to Friday 19th June** to allow strict social distancing. These meetings will be with a member of The Boswells School staff, ideally someone that your child knows well and will last a maximum of 30 minutes. The meeting will focus on the work they have completed during lockdown and your child's well-being. It will also help to identify anything further we can do to help them in managing and coping with remote learning to enable them to be fully prepared when we are able to return to school.

The meetings will also help us to identify what in-school provision we will need to put in place for Year 10 and Year 12 students **from Monday 22nd June until the end of term**. We may look to offer face to face classes or seminars. These would be through a socially distanced model, with small numbers on site, split classes where needed, potential use of larger venues and extra hygiene measures in place. In order to minimise mixing, they would involve only occasional attendance in school. We would aim to minimise students meeting each other outside their class groups.

I appreciate that parents may be divided about sending their child to school for these meetings and possible classes/seminars thereafter so, following this letter, we will be sending a link to a questionnaire we would like all parents of children in Year 10 and 12 to complete. Please note, **it is essential that all parents respond to this questionnaire** as we will be sending out invites to the 'Progress and Well-being' meetings based upon individual positive responses. For parents that wish their child to attend these face to face meetings, we will be sending out invitations on Monday or Tuesday of the week beginning 1st June. The short questionnaire can be completed online, with a deadline of midday on Wednesday 27th May. I will stress that attendance to the above for Year 10 and 12 will be optional.

The above will supplement what we are already doing as a school for all of our students from Year 7 to Year 12, which I highlighted in my letter last week. This support will continue throughout the summer term.

We will continue to support our most vulnerable and those whose parents are key workers with our in-school provision as well as ensure that work is set for all of our students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 on a lesson by lesson basis.

I appreciate that this is a huge challenge for many students and, although we will not see students in Years 7 to 9 before September, they are very much in our hearts and tutors will continue to send regular emails to them.

Support is available from your child's subject teacher via email for any issues with the work that's been set, but if you have any larger concerns about your child's mental well-being or lack of engagement, please do let their Head of Year know, so we can put interventions in place to support them.

Thank you for your continued support for the school and our staff. Together, we will ensure that none of our students are disadvantaged through these unprecedented times.

May Half-Term

Just a reminder that we have asked our teachers not to set lesson by lesson work over the half-term holiday. It is important that staff and students have a break and an opportunity to recharge the batteries for next half-term.

Support from Subject Teachers

As stated above, our subject teachers are available to respond via email to any help required with the work that is being set remotely. They will of course try to do this as soon as they possibly can. To support their work life balance, please can I ask that any emails are sent on a weekday and no later than 7pm unless in an emergency. Should you wish to contact the school during the holidays, please email admin@boswells-school.com and we will ensure the relevant member of staff gets back to you.

In-School Provision

Since the end of March, we have continued to provide supervision for our most vulnerable students and those whose parents are key workers for those that have no safe alternative. This provision will continue, but please be advised that our primary aim still continues to be the safety of students, staff and those in the local community. If you would like to use this, please email me directly at sma@boswells-school.com or contact your child's Head of Year.

Due to a lack of demand, the school will not be open on Monday 25th May (Bank Holiday Monday). It will be open for the remainder of next week's half term holiday.



If your child has already accessed the provision, there is no need to inform us if your child will be attending unless your circumstances or needs change in some way. Please be aware that we will ask for parents who are key workers to email us proof should their child require the provision.

Emails from Tutors

Thank you to all students that have responded to their tutors. Thank you for your support with this as first-time responses have been significantly higher during this second wave of emails. Please can I remind you that all Year 11 and Year 13 students need to respond too.

First Aid

During this period of lockdown you may wish to devote some time to talking through first aid scenarios with your child and other members of the household. Equipping ourselves with the knowledge and resources to respond to an emergency is something which could benefit us at any point. The link below takes you to some resources from the British Red Cross which you may find valuable.

<https://firstaidchampions.redcross.org.uk/secondary/>

Free School Meals

Those families eligible for Free School Meals should have received an email from Edenred with your eCodes, as we have credited your Edenred account with a further four weeks' worth of vouchers (£15 per eligible child per week x4 weeks). Therefore, you will receive £60 per eligible student (e.g. 1 child - £60.00, 2 children - £120.00 & 3 children - £180.00), which will cover the period from Monday 25th May to Friday 19th June.

If you experience any issues please contact us via our admin email admin@boswells-school.com.

House League

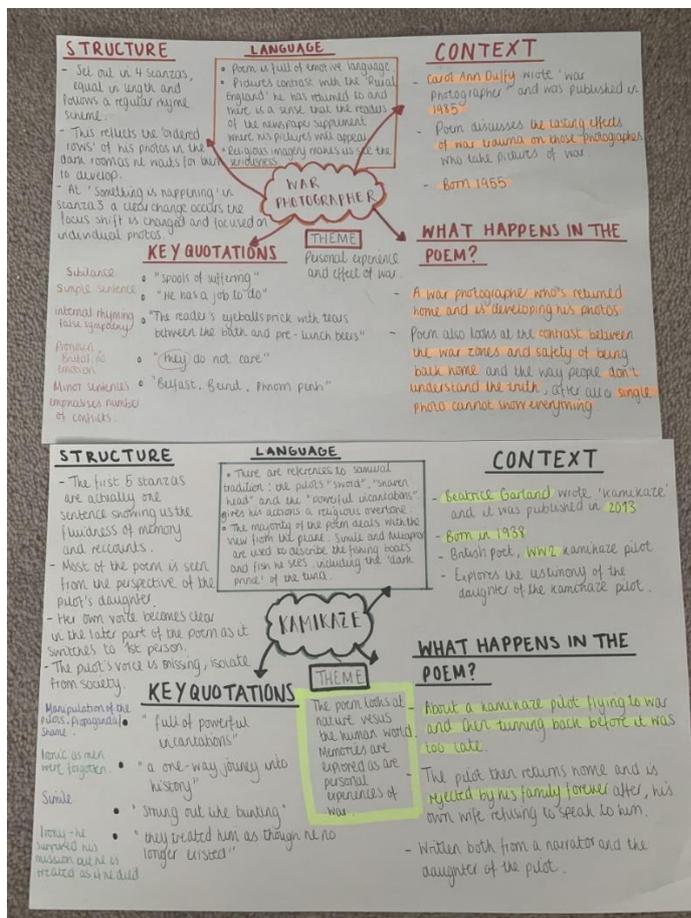
We are continuing to run competitions over lock down and are updating the league table weekly. This week we have launched a scavenger hunt challenge, which is to complete whilst out in the local community. All entries are given house points, along with bonus points for winners and runner-up places. All the details are on SMHW in the announcements page. We also update staff, parents and students on our Main Boswells Facebook page, our Instagram account BoswellsHouses and also our twitter page Boswells-Housesystem (@BoswellsHouses). Please support us by liking and following our pages and posts. Next term we will be launching a grand finale to end the summer term and to determine this year's House League winners, more details will follow after the half term holiday



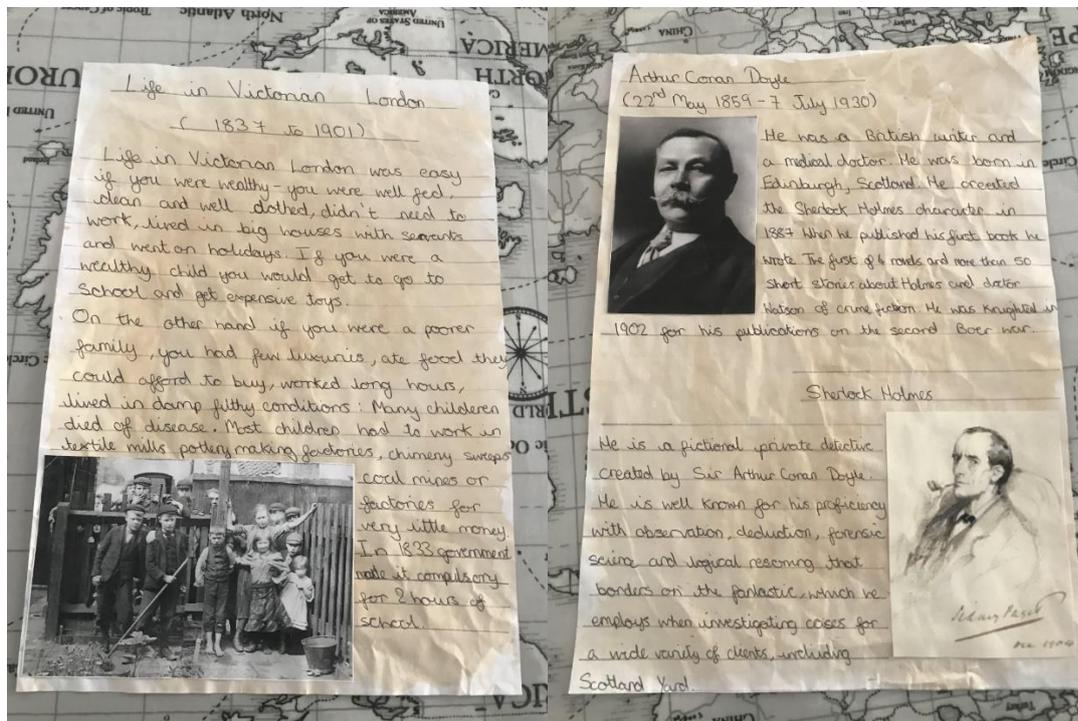
Celebrating Students' Work

We continue to be hugely impressed with our students' efforts with their work at home. Please continue to send in work that your child is proud to have done to Mrs Jones on tlij@boswells-school.com.

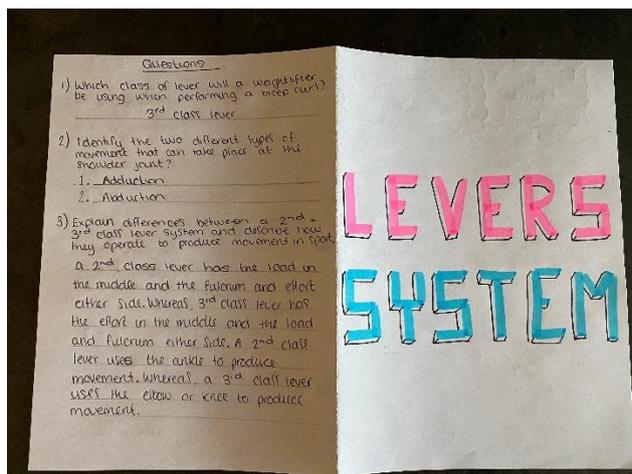
In English, Year 10 students' focus has been on consolidating their knowledge and understanding of the Power & Conflict poetry for their Literature Paper 2 studies. One of the most powerful revision tools is the creation of mindmaps. The examples below are from a Year 10 student who has created these independently based on her understanding of the poems. This is an excellent starting point and will stand her in good stead for developing flash cards and other resources.

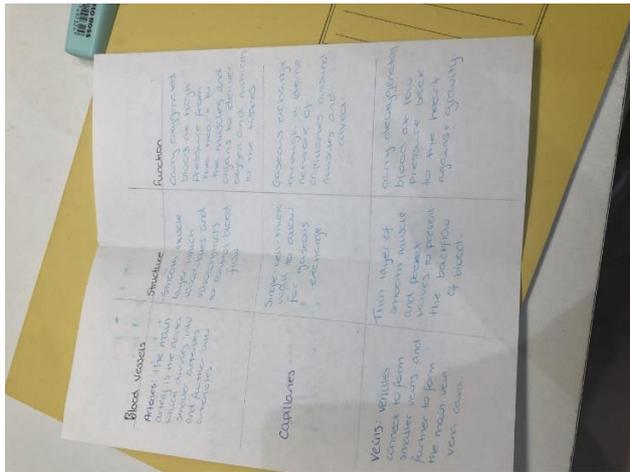


Further down the school in Year 8, our students have been working on a Scholars' Project based around poets. This example is from one of our Year 8 boys and demonstrates his care and attention to detail - we loved this one:



In PE, students have been sending in more photos of their PE booklets. This week the emphasis has been on 'levers':





After half term, the Humanities Faculty are running a Key Stage 3 project which is an exploration of Japan through the Humanities subjects. Each department will be exploring a different aspect of Japan, from the geography through to culture and religion and even the history of the Samurai. Definitely one to keep your eyes peeled for - more information to follow after the half term break.

Another exciting opportunity to get involved in Art & Photography is the Hold Still Photography Project:

The National Portrait Gallery has teamed up with the Duchess of Cambridge to launch the Hold Still Portrait Photography Project #Holdstill2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoyX0 ISQUQ>

The deadline is 5pm on Thursday 18th June 2020 and the photo must have been taken this year.

The themes are Helpers and Heroes, Kindness, and New Normal.

The photo must be a portrait but it may be interpreted in its widest sense, of 'photography concerned with portraying people with an emphasis on their identity as individuals'.

Visit the National Portrait Gallery for all of the details and make sure you check the T's & C's and with your parents first for permission to enter.
www.npg.org.uk/hold-still

Contact Details

Please can I remind you to update your contact details via SIMS Parent, if anything has changed during lockdown.

Contacting Us

Just a reminder that the best way to contact us whilst the school is closed is via the school email account (admin@boswells-school.com). You should expect to receive a response within 2 school days, but if your queries are urgent, we are trying to deal with them as soon as we can. Please do not leave messages on the school's voicemail as these are only being picked up on a weekly basis.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Mansell
Headteacher

