

8/5/20

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff and Friends of the School.

Thursday has passed and we have received **no further news on schools re-opening**. We eagerly await potential news on Sunday and or Monday but we must brace ourselves for all possibilities.

Schools will face challenging decisions over the coming weeks and we continue to welcome your support. I like most of us am desperate for a return to some form of normality but I am also cautious and keen for any return to be safe for our children, our families and our staff and not place a burden on the NHS.

Today we celebrate Victory in Europe (VE) Day. We are blessed with warmth and sunshine and each of us has a chance to remember those who suffered in the name of freedom. Perhaps the celebrations will provide perspective on the current situation that each of us lives through. That said, I will make my daily visit to the chapel and keep in my prayers all of our community that have suffered bereavement, those that are living in fear, especially those within in our community that are being 'shielded' and those that feel alone at this difficult time.

As discussed in my previous letter, May is the month of our Blessed Virgin Mary. This week I came across a reflection that I thought was particularly apt, regardless of gender...

"We can't forget that Mary spent nearly every day of her life just like millions of other women who look after their families, bring up their children, and take care of their houses. Mary sanctifies the ordinary, everyday things -- what some people wrongly regard as unimportant and insignificant: everyday work, looking after those closest to you, visits to friends and relatives. What a blessed ordinariness, that can be so full of love of God."

Many of us are spending more time completing the 'ordinary' or less glamorous tasks in life. Many of these tasks, like supporting the home education of our children and young people, will test our patience and resolve but hopefully also allow for moments of great joy. Please continue to seek support from form tutors, subject teachers, heads of year and all staff as you need it.

This week I include four brief updates. As ever, please pick and choose that which is of interest or useful to you and your family.

- [Additional Safeguarding Support](#)
- [Department for Education coronavirus helpline – Friday 8 May Bank Holiday opening hours](#)
- [Update on PPE production](#)
- [NDHS Student runs for the NHS](#)

Best Wishes,

Tom Pinnington.

Additional Safeguarding Support

In my letter to families on the 3rd March ([click here](#)) I included a series of links to Parents and Carers to support their children with safe online learning. 'The Key', a tool Notre Dame buys in have created their own hub that the Notre Dame community can use to support with safer internet use:

We've created a safeguarding hub that allows your pupils' parents to access interactive guidance on setting up parental controls on their child's devices, as well as guidance on apps like TikTok, YouTube and Instagram and more.

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Department for Education coronavirus helpline – Friday 8 May Bank Holiday opening hours

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

The helpline will remain open over the early May Bank Holiday weekend for staff, parents and young people as follows:

10am to 4pm – Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Our standard opening hours will resume on Monday 11 May:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

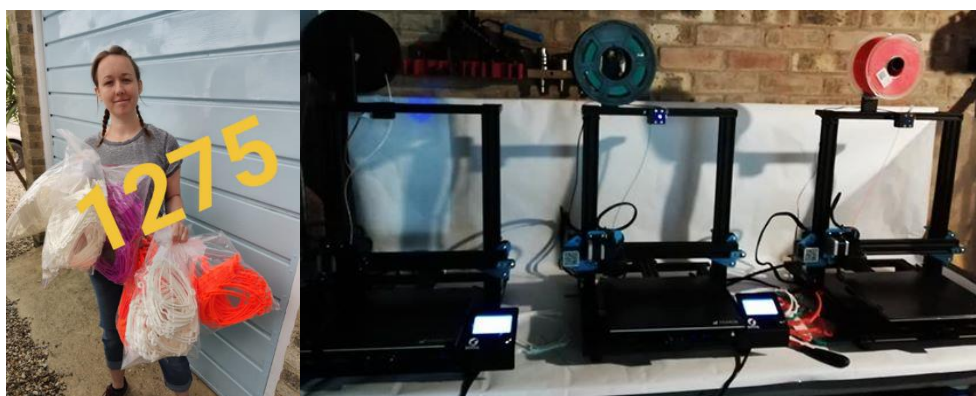
10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the helpline.

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Update on PPE production

An update from Mrs Holden from the technology department on PPE production, specifically the production of visors:



'Today we reached the grand total of 1275 visors supplied to the UEA. The additional printer has helped to increase the production greatly. We should if PLA supplies continue produce 350 per week as we move forward'.

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NDHS Student runs for the NHS

Our very own Sam Snelling and his younger brother Charlie, no doubt motivated by Major Tom and other recent heroic efforts, decided to carry out their own fundraiser recently. In the absence of the London Marathan, Sam and Charlie decided to run a marathon in their back garden to raise money for the NHS. They have raised over £950 so far. I have included the link [here](#) if anyone would like to donate.

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