

Useful Tips for Reading During School Closure

During the school closure it is essential that your child continues to read regularly as part of their daily routine. Reading will improve your child's vocabulary and literacy skills in all subject areas.

Please follow this link for advice on how to support your child at home with reading and read the information below <https://www.pleckgate.com/reading-school/reading-at-home/>

All students should have a reading book from the school library which they can read at home.

All students have access to 'First News' which they can read on their iPad. The Showbie codes are as follows;

Y7 QTZA4
Y8 JZQLY
Y9 77JGY
Y10 ZGN6V
Y11 YUCUH

Audio Books/eBooks

During the school closure the library is offering free ebooks via the BorrowBox app. This is available to everyone (you do not need to be a member of the library). The link below will give you a temporary registration number and pin number. You will need to download the free BorrowBox app and log in to access the eBooks.

<https://bwdlibraries.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/JOIN>

In addition to this, David Walliams is offering an audio book at 11.00am every day. Please use this link if you would like your child to listen to this:

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

7Q band parents only;

Students are also able to access Accelerated Reader from their iPad via the STAR app on their iPads or via the website under Reading School and Accelerated Reader.

Students must do the quiz after each book they read, by logging into Accelerated Reader and clicking on the orange Accelerated Reader icon and typing the name of the book. They can also quiz on any books they have read at home, if they are part of Accelerated Reader.

The login details for Accelerated Reader are as follows;

Username: initials and date of birth e.g. ar120308

Password: pleckgate

Message from the Headteacher

I hope you and your family are well and are coping with supporting your child with their studies at home. It is important to remember that:

- Every student and their parent has a log in for **Doddle** (please see separate email to follow). This will be the primary portal used by staff to communicate what work is to be completed.
- Work will be set by teachers through Doddle. As a parent, you can log into this portal and check that your child is completing this work.
- If you have any issues, your child will be able to contact their teacher via email or one of the apps that facilitate this.

Safeguarding

- Please rest assured that all the usual iPad safeguarding measures will remain in place. This includes daily monitoring by a member of staff, and should there be any misuse or concerns that arise, you will be contacted.
- If you feel that you require additional support or have any safeguarding concerns about any children these can be reported to the local safeguarding team on: 01254 666400.

General Guidance re: Covid-19

- **Anyone** with a fever or persistent cough should stay at home for seven days if they live alone or 14 days if they live with others. Anyone who lives with someone displaying coronavirus symptoms should also stay at home for 14 days.
- **It is important that if someone in your household displays symptoms, they must self-isolate within the house** so they do not spread the virus to others they live with.
- People who have to isolate themselves should ask others for help.
- Everyone should stop non-essential contact and travel, working at home where possible. This is particularly important for people over 70, those with underlying health conditions and pregnant women.
- Do not visit or meet up with others outside your household. Families should allow themselves no more than one exercise session outside a day, but should keep a distance of at least two metres from others. No social gatherings should be taking place.
- Those with the most serious health conditions should be largely shielded from social contact for 12 weeks.
- If you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use NHS 111 online.
- Keep regularly washing your hands – this is one of the best ways to stop the spread of the virus.

I know these are concerning times, but if we all work together and follow the government guidance we will come through this.

Take care and best wishes

Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed



Pleckgate News

A newsletter featuring Pleckgate High School's achievements

ISSUE 6

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Linking Schools Together

Schools Linking

On Friday 7th February, the girls from 7pRe1 and a class from Islamiyah went on a Schools Linking trip. School Linking is endorsed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Department for Education (DfE) and the Pears Foundation. It is nationally recognised as offering a positive, age appropriate curriculum response to SMSC, British values and the Prevent Duty.

Report by Sunna 7APP

We went to Blackburn train station and got into twos. One person from Islamiyah and one person from Pleckgate and then we got onto the train. Mrs Raja, a former Pleckgate teacher, told us about a Community Rail Lancashire competition called 'Women Who Wander' and let us meet a female conductor. We went all the way to Littleborough and while we were on the train each pair were getting to know each other. Saara (from Pleckgate) and Maryam (from Islamiyah) were put in a pair and later on the train ride they found out that they were soon to be cousins. After we got to Littleborough everyone got off the train and we did a little activity where we had to find people who have done or can do a certain thing and we had to write their name down. The next train came back and we got back into our pairs and discussed what we could do to raise money in a joint fundraiser event. Before we knew it we were back at the train station and Islamiyah went one way and we went the other way. It was so nice to meet the girls from another school and we found we had so much in common with each other.



Pupils Take Part In - Solutions Not Sides Workshop

On Thursday, 12th December 2019 some year 10 students had the opportunity to take part in a 'Solutions Not Sides' workshop. It was a great experience for everyone and we learnt a lot about the different perspectives and viewpoints on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. We met Marwa, an American Palestinian who shared her heart-touching story and Gal, an Israeli who bravely fought for his country in the army.

We believe this was such an important experience because our generation need to take a step back from the biased media influence and listen to the true story from people who have been greatly affected by the conflict. We learnt that the news is not always truthful and there are always two sides to every story. Marwa had a really tough childhood and she told us stories about her mother's brutal past experience in Palestine. Gal had to take so much responsibility and risk his life trying to save others in Israel. No person should have to go through this and suffer the horrific circumstances.

The main thing we learnt is that we should not take sides but should try and find a peaceful solution. This was an enjoyable experience because they were so understanding and honest with our many questions and didn't hold back when answering them. Juwairiya 10JSN said that "It was a very interesting experience and I am thankful for this opportunity to become more aware of this situation."



Pupils pictured with Marwa and Gal



Pupils working in groups and deep in discussion

By Iqra 10SWR and Hafsa 10JBA

Christmas Cracker Showcase

Talented Pleckgate High School pupils enjoyed a Christmas Cracker show! There was acting, singing, dancing and more, as pupils took to the stage. The finale was the school choir who sang hits from this year's show Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat and previewed next year's performance of Aladdin. They also sang Christmas songs to the watching audience.



Writing Competition

During February we had a writing competition to celebrate Michael Morpurgo month. There were 3 different categories of Descriptions of a Shipwreck, Animal Poems and War Diary extracts.

1st place winners won a Michael Morpurgo book and were:
Marwa 9RCA
Laraib 9LIA
Csanad 9LIA

Runners up won a box of chocolates and were:
Zainab 7BPI
Rida 9DTU
Safa 9LIA

Congratulations to everyone!



Women in STEM Celebration

On Monday 9th March 2020, myself, Mrs Savage and three other girls went to York Railway Museum for an award ceremony. Myself (Saara), Nayyab, Katie and Sunna entered the Women Who Wander competition that embraces women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) and the booklet that we made was selected from hundreds of entries as one of the winners!

We were dropped off at Blackburn train station at 8:30am where we caught the train to York. We ate A LOT of sweets on the way and I began to grow very nervous. When we left the train station we walked to the railway museum and went and got a few snacks before getting to our seats.

Our entry was a booklet full of information, poems, tweets etc that all four of us had contributed to. When we got to York Railway Museum we realised our entry had been made into a digital copy and was on every seat in the room. When our names were called out, we went to the front of the hall and read one page each from the booklet. My nervousness had long since disappeared when I went to the front of the hall and realised that there was nothing to be worried about. We were then given a medal and a goody bag and then we listened to the rest of the entries and they were all amazing! Then a dance group called 'Stage Chaos' performed a few dance routines and then the winners went down for a few photos by the old trains in the museum.

The ceremony then finished and Mrs Raja, a former Pleckgate teacher, packed up some lunch for us and we set off to the train station to get back home. We bought a few more snacks for the journey back and then the long 2 hour train journey began again. At 3:20pm, our train stopped and our parents picked us up. I'd had a lot of mixed feelings for the day. At first, I'd been ecstatic, and then I began to get nervous as our turn grew closer. The day was a truly amazing experience and I'd never have dreamt that we'd have won the competition in the first place. Nayyab, Katie, Sunna and I would all definitely agree that it was a wonderful day.



Christmas Eve Gifting by Pleckgate Pupils

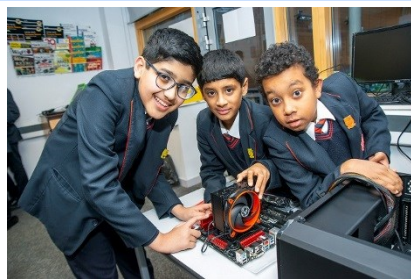
Pleckgate High School pupils brought Christmas cheer to the residents at Springfield Care Home. The whole school have been donating items such as slippers, socks, scarves, biscuits and more to ensure the senior citizens have presents this Christmas.

RE teacher and organiser Miss Wheatley said: "This collection is a great opportunity for pupils to become involved in sharing joy and love with others who may not experience the joys of Christmas due to them not having any family. The pupils are able to be a shining light for them during the festive period." Amina said: "I have organised this for three years and the school has been brilliant every year. We go down to see the elderly, there are about 65 residents who have no family left. We help them open presents and have a chat with them and we also give presents to the staff as they will be working through the holidays."



IT - Hackspace Club

Pleckgate High School's 'Hackspace Club' in the IT Department is proving popular. It's on Thursday after school, where students work on different projects, including building a PC, building a mini arcade, cabinet, working with microcontrollers and more. The inquisitive pupils are enjoying their extra sessions with Mr Moore!



Young Writers

Year 7 Pleckgate High School pupils will have the chance to see their work published in a new book of short stories called "Hunted – Hide & Seek." "Young Writers do a fantastic job and our pupils enjoy participating in their competitions, as it's a chance for them to be creative," said English teacher Miss Mulla.



Tug of War for MacMillan

Pleckgate pupils were testing their strength for MacMillan Cancer Support. A representative from the charity came into school to talk about the work they do with patients and families and how they help support people with cancer.

The Year 11s were so touched they decided to hold a tug-of-war event and raise money for the charity. Pupil Anneka said: "The MacMillan people talked about the help and support they give emotionally and financially to people who are suffering with cancer and how they try to make their life better. Nabeeha said: "You hear a lot of stories about cancer and it has affected the families of people here. The tug-of-war was a great idea and it was fun but also competitive! It's important to carry out charity work." Head of Year Mr Clegg said: "This event showed what fantastic people we have at Pleckgate. It was a good competition and there was a great atmosphere, whether teams were winning or losing and it raised money for an important cause."



Safer Internet Day

A group of schools in East Lancashire came together to promote Safer Internet Day.

The schools are all part of the Education Partnership Trust and met at our Ofsted-Outstanding Pleckgate High School to offer guidance to pupils using the internet, looking at both the positives and negatives. Other schools involved included The Heights, Blackburn and Burnley, Eden and Coal Clough Academy and it was the first time the EPT schools have worked together, with further events planned for the future.

The day involved examining on-line activities such as gaming, sexting, cyber-bullying and more. Mr Saleh, who led the Safer Internet Day, said: "It was a fantastic day where all involved collaborated and celebrated this year's theme; 'Together for a Better Internet'. The activities involved helped in understanding the many positives of the internet, and to raise awareness of the issues that children and young people face online today.

Internet safety education is a crucial element of the curriculum and an essential part of young people's development and it was a pleasure to work alongside young children and staff from the EPT who came together in a cohesive, cooperative and interactive manner."

Chief Executive of the EPT, Mrs Roscoe added: "This was a great example of collaboration across the EPT where pupils and staff from our schools worked together to raise awareness of internet safety and improve outcomes."



Sifa's Big Role

Pleckgate pupil Sifa has shown she isn't scared of a crowd – by speaking in front of 500 people at the One Voice Annual Dinner. The 15-year-old was praised for her confidence and maturity as she took to the stage at King George's Hall in front of dignitaries.

"I was a bit nervous and I rehearsed nearly every night but I enjoyed it," said Sifa. Sifa is a member of West End Girls (WEGs), which is a group of 10-18 year-olds from Blackburn with Darwen within One Voice Blackburn.

The WEGs serve to develop character, self-confidence and social consciousness for both the youth and female sectors of the town through a range of activities and campaigns.

Sifa, who is a senior prefect at Pleckgate, joined two-and-a-half years ago and says it's a big part of her life now.

"We are a community-based organisation and we carry out different events in our community, whether it's walks, litter picking, any activities for the good of the community.

"We are based at the Youth Zone, so we also have talks there from different people such as Dementia Friends and mental health organisations. I think there were just four girls involved in 2014 when it started and there are now 60, and more are joining all the time.

I was asked to host the Annual One Voice Dinner and there were big personalities there such as the Mayor and Mayor's Consort and Councillors.

There were awards such as Young Person of the Year and Institute of the Year and my job was to call up any speakers.

It was a really big event and it took a lot of preparation but I am proud to have done it and hope to do more presentations in the future.

It's about raising aspirations and creating opportunities for young people within our community to ensure that they fulfill their true potential."

