



Pleckgate Weekly Newsletter

A weekly newsletter for pupils and parents during the school closure

Week Ending: Friday 19th June 2020



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and carers,

This week's newsletter has a heavy focus on the transition of year 6 students for September, and it is my pleasure to include our new parents in this communication. I hope the information contained within this edition provides some clarity on what has already taken place and what will be happening on the run up to September. It goes without saying, that we are all looking forward to welcoming our new students and their families into our growing school community.

On Monday we will be opening school to more students in year 10 who have confirmed their place, and we are looking forward to welcoming these students back to school. If you **confirmed a place**, you should have already received a letter detailing when your child should attend school for their first 'face to face' session. Please can I remind you that before your child can return, you must have responded to the survey sent out requiring you to agree to the new Home School Agreement. It is also very important that no students should be on school site unless they are due to attend a 'face to face' session.

I hope you have found the pastoral review week supportive. I have spoken to a number of staff and families this week and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. As we edge closer to the summer holidays, it is important that as parents/carers you continue to support your child with engaging in their remote learning. If you need any support from school, please don't hesitate to contact staff who will be more than willing to support you and your child.

As always, I want to thank you for your support and wish you and your family all the best.

Kind regards



Mr Cocker
Headteacher

Important Timeline of Transition Dates - Year 6 Parents

Here are some important dates coming up regarding the KS2 transition. The organisation of how these strategies will be rolled out will follow in a few days.

1. Transition section of the website will be going live next week with the following information included:
 - Headteacher's welcome
 - Link to the existing "what to do if...?"
 - Link to the existing SEND info.
 - FAQ's and updates
 - Letters sent to parents
 - School map/pictures/virtual tour.
 - Intro to Pastoral team - pics of the key staff for this year group.
 - Recommended reading list and summer work.
2. **6th July** transition packs will be available to collect from school reception. Families will be contacted with a day they can collect them to support social distancing.
3. **6th -17th July** calls will be made by our Year 7 pastoral team to welcome them to our school community and answer any questions.

Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed

What Our Current Year 7 Have To Say

Here are some statements taken from the current year 7's about their transition to Pleckgate

Katie ...

Dear future year 7's ,

Hello, my name is Katie and I am 12 years old. I am currently in year seven at Pleckgate and I was apprehensive about the thought of going to high school in year six. I went to Roe lee park primary and I loved it there so I was worried that I was not going to enjoy a different school. I was worried about leaving my old school and all of my friends because a lot were going to different schools and I just wished they could have come to the same school as me.

Now that I am actually in high school I have realised that there was actually nothing to be worried about as I still have contact with all of my friends. I talk to them daily and although I miss them a lot, I have made lots of new friends. I have gained friendships with people from my primary that I never used to be friends with and people from other schools.

At Pleckgate there are many curriculums to participate in that you can gain friends from such as, football, netball, table tennis, art etc. There are many trips available to go on depending on your presentation and punctuality. There are a lot more subjects in Pleckgate than primary.

I'm sure you will have heard about all of the myths like: high school is full of bullies, you will get your head flushed in the toilet, there are horrible teachers, it is very very strict. Well none of these are true. All of the teachers will support you with any worries or problems and there is nothing to be afraid of. You will quickly adapt to these new surroundings and find it a lot easier than primary.

Arzu ...

Hi, my name is Arzu and I am a student here at Pleckgate High School. A year ago, I was in a similar situation to you as I sat wondering about my future moving into high school. I spent many nights worrying about the big change I was about to experience. However, looking back on things I now realise that I had nothing to worry about because I was about to embark on a journey with the best teachers I have ever met. I went to Lammack Primary School with a close group of friends and I had thought that moving to Pleckgate would mean we would be split up and I would not have many friends. This is not the case as I have made so many more friends and my confidence has improved a lot.

The experiences I have gone through at Pleckgate are incredible and I look forward to the next 4 years of my time at this school. So far, I have been on several trips including trips that taught me more about the town we live in. The number of opportunities you will get at Pleckgate is endless and they range from extra support from teachers to joining teams that play sports. For example, I am on the netball team and this has allowed me to socialise with people that I have never met and learn a new sport whilst I am at it.

If you are worried about what is to be expected of you in Pleckgate, the teachers just ask you to be yourself and respect those around you. I have never faced any kind of issues in Pleckgate such as bullying or stress from not understanding the work. Your tutor will make the experience so much easier for you and eventually you will begin to think that the people in your year are like family. You should talk to a parent or someone you trust if you are worried and they will ensure out that there is nothing to be worried about. I look forward to seeing you in Pleckgate next year.

Ziyaad ...

Hello year 6s.

My name is Ziyaad and I am a year 7 student at Pleckgate high school. I am writing to tell you all about my move from St Thomas CE primary school. To start off with I was very worried about making new friends as none of my primary school friends were going to come to Pleckgate high school. I remember on the very first day of high school we stayed in tutor groups for the entire day except for break and lunch. This helped me make new friends this also made me feel happy.

I then knew that I was worried for absolutely nothing at all. I was also worried about finding my way to the classes I needed to be in but again I was worried for absolutely nothing at all because on induction day we were all given a map of the school but if you still couldn't find your way to your classes the teachers were always there to help me find my way around the school.

At Pleckgate high school we have these special days called super learning days these are the most bestest days because we stay in tutor and then we would always have a certain task that would involve teamwork. The school dinners at Pleckgate high are delicious you can never say no to the school dinners at Pleckgate high school.

Here at Pleckgate high school we all get a special treat for doing good work in your classes. I was rewarded with a trip to Blackburn museum for my good work in history. There are so many subjects that you do not do in primary school like: Food Tech, Wood Tech. There are many lessons that you may enjoy some of the lessons I like are: Maths, PSHE and History.

It's a very big change from primary to secondary school but trust me there is nothing to worry about because you are coming to the best school. Good luck and I hope I see you all in year 7.

Ubaid ...

My experience at Pleckgate High School

As an introduction, my name is Ubaid and I am currently in year 7. I went to Cedars Primary School and chose Pleckgate High School as my first choice. Moving from primary to secondary school can be a very nerve racking experience and frightening in most cases, however you will very quickly settle in to Pleckgate due to the environment and the support from the teachers and pupils. You will find some familiar faces from your primary school and local clubs outside school which helped me settle in much sooner than expected. There are some lessons that you might not have experienced in primary school like Food Tech, Wood Tech, Practical Science etc. which will be a brand new experience. Additional to this at Pleckgate High School there is a lot of opportunities to get involved in sports, as for myself I am in the school football and cricket team, as such we won the leagues during 2019/20 season.

There are a lot of extra curricular activities that are held after school, for example some extra curricular activities to improve your learning with Maths, English, Science and a lot more.

Also there are a lot of sports that take place after school like football, table tennis, badminton, cricket in the summer and loads more.

I hope the above message provides you with a level of ease and confidence when walking into Pleckgate High School on your first day, I look forward to meeting you during your time in Pleckgate.



Pupil Rewards for OUTSTANDING Work

A number of students will be receiving **AMAZON VOUCHERS** though the post for outstanding work...



Student of the Week

This recognises and rewards students who have been working exceptionally well at home, and teachers have been asked to nominate students for this reward. The reward is a £10 amazon voucher which will be posted to you in the next week or so.

Keep up the good work, many congratulations and well deserved!

This Weeks WINNERS

YEAR 7

Arzu - FMU
Katie - ECA
Ziyaad - LDO
Ubaid - BPI

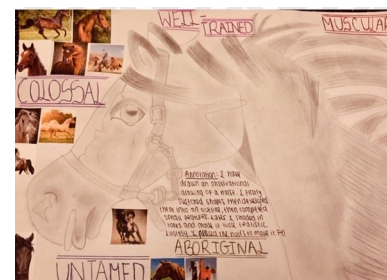
All of these students wrote a fantastic piece of work on their experiences at Pleckgate during transition from Primary School to High School. They wrote about their experiences extremely well and handed it in by the tight deadline. The work illustrates how well they settled in and will really encourage the new Year 7's starting with us next year.

YEAR 8

Afiyah - SMI

Amilah - ENA

Both girls have worked consistently well, producing high quality work and submitting it on time. Between them they have been nominated 13 times by their teachers.



Afiyah's work for Art

YEAR 9

Jibran - HAN

Iqra - MBS

YEAR 10

Aamenah - AKH - Nominated by numerous subjects for completing fantastic work.

Sam - LR - For following his mentoring timetable to the letter and meeting all work deadlines set.

Romeo & Juliet Masquerade Ball Mask Competition

The first entry into the Romeo & Juliet Masquerade Ball Mask competition.

Ibrahim's mask is just fabulous!



Useful Tips & Links For Pupils & Parents

Royal Astronomical Society

Follow in the footsteps of ancient astronomers to recreate the methods they used to measure the size of the Earth in this national science experiment, run and hosted by the NSO and the Royal Astronomical Society.

<https://www.schoolsobservatory.org/solstick>



Romeo & Juliet Masquerade Competition

The English department are inviting you to enter a competition to design a mask that could be worn to attend the Masquerade Ball in the play Romeo & Juliet.

Read the flyer at the end of this newsletter for further information about the competition and how you can enter.

GCSE Science lesson on Atomic Structure and the Periodic

GCSE Science lesson on Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table will be LIVE at 11am on the Pearson UK Learning youtube channel' Y9 and Y10 students can use the link to watch the 45 minute lesson live with Primrose Kitten.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2uejaJ8Un8&app=desktop>

Geography Lessons with David Attenborough

Available now on BBCiPlayer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p089nk5f>



Toppsta - Free Reading Event

Stuck at home wanting something to read? Check out the free reading events online today - there are loads of activities to get involved with:

<https://toppsta.com/blog/view/bookish-ideas-if-you're-self-isolating-with-the-kids>



Anne Frank Writing Award

The first ever Ann Frank Writing Award is aimed at 10 – 15 year olds.

Write a poem or story to help vreate a world free from prejudice!

Top Prize: A trip to Anne Frank House in Amsterdam.

<https://annefrank.org.uk/the-anne-frank-creative-writing-awards-2020/>



Positive Mental Health

The week's focus is heavily on positive mental health, mindfulness and emotional well-being.

At Pleckgate we believe it is essential that we care for ourselves mentally as well as physically. We have developed resources to support your understanding of your mind & how we stay positive. You can find access to these resources through your doTODdle account.

See also useful links below:

Healthy Young Minds

Support for emotional wellbeing with lots of useful information to help explain the current Covid 19 pandemic.

<https://www.healthyyoungminds.scot.nhs.uk/information/children-and-young-people/coronavirus>

Place2Be

Support for emotional wellbeing with lots of useful information to help explain the current Covid 19 pandemic.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/>

Anna Freud

This is a link to an evidence based support site with ideas for self-help and self-care.

<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/>

Refresh

The refresh health and wellbeing website has been redesigned and recreated to be much more focused on supporting health and wellbeing, specifically during these unusual and challenging times.

<https://refreshbwd.com/>

Kooth

Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online counselling support if you are feeling low, worried and would like to talk to someone online.

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

Papyrus

This is a Non-judgemental support, practical advice & information to teenagers & young people who are worried about how they are feeling or anyone who is concerned about a young person.

<https://papyrus-uk.org/>

You will find further information on <https://twitter.com/PleckgateHigh>

Safeguarding

Remember you can find safeguarding information via the website or follow us on twitter for regular updates. The Pleckgate safeguarding email address can still be used by any student to share concerns. This can be done by signing in and sending an email by anyone with a Pleckgate email domain.

Request any help via safeguarding@pleckgate.com This can help to arrange to provide support, information and guidance.

Staying Connected



Please send any photos and information for the next weeks newsletter to

info@pleckgate.com

by **Thursday lunchtime**

If you have any queries or questions relating to the newsletter please use the email address rather than phoning into school.

Quote of the Week

Chosen by Mr A Khan (Mathematics Department)

"A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything"

Malcolm X

Stay connected and follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/PleckgateHigh>

ENGLISH COMPETITION

Masquerade Ball

MASQUERADE BALLS BEGAN IN THE 16TH CENTURY. EVERYONE WHO WENT TO THE BALL WORE LAVISH COSTUMES AND MASKS TO DISGUISE THEMSELVES. IN THE PLAY, 'ROMEO & JULIET', BY SHAKESPEARE, THE TWO MAIN CHARACTERS MEET AND FALL INLOVE AT A MASQUERADE BALL.

YOUR CHALLENGE IS TO DESIGN AND MAKE YOUR OWN MASK FOR THE BALL. THERE ARE 3 DIFFERENT PRIZES UP FOR GRABS. SEND PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR FINISHED MASKS TO YOUR ENGLISH TEACHER VIA EMAIL OR EMAIL MS HAWORTH AT SHAWORTH@PLECKGATE.COM



ENTRIES IN BY FRIDAY 26TH JUNE.
WINNERS ANNOUNCED ON WEDNESDAY 1ST JULY.
COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS.