



Theme for next week : Helping Others

Head's Message

Dear Parents,

There have been so many changes to our lives since the initial lockdown in March. Most of the newsletter articles over this period of time have described the new approaches necessary for managing our School safely. The newsletter also provided a way of offering support, as well as boosting morale and confidence across the school community. However, one thing arguably lacking was humour. At the time, the stresses around significant change and unpredictability meant that many of us did lose our sense of humour and I include myself in this. I do regret this as I feel that there should be a funny side to everything in life. As the song goes, "always look on the bright side..." and I aim to do this going forward.

Anthony Seldon, the past headmaster of Wellington College, wrote a book, *The Fourth Education Revolution*. There is little doubt that the future predicted in this book is happening much earlier than possibly he ever imagined. Who would have thought that only a matter of a few months ago, we would be teaching lessons online? Mr Seldon's new book, co-authored by David Walsh, is also very poignant. *Public Schools and the Second World War*, their sequel to *Public Schools and the Great War: The Generation Lost* explains how independent schools and their communities responded to yet another crisis. Life on the home front during the Second World War brought social classes together. Churchill famously said that the fronts were everywhere; trenches were dug in the towns and the streets... The front lines run through factories. The books illustrate that responding positively to a shared sense of crisis and demand for national unity helped to justify the existence of public schools in 1940 and beyond. During lockdown, independent schools came to the fore once again. There is so much evidence to suggest that our sector have responded magnificently to the current crisis.

In the first book mentioned, Mr Seldon writes of the Five Traditional Activities in Learning; Memorising knowledge; Applying the knowledge; Turning knowledge into understanding; Self-assessment and diagnosis; Reflection and the development of autonomous learning. He then argues how AI will transform each of the five traditional factors in teaching over the coming decades:

In answer to the \$100,000,000 question: **Will we need teachers in the future?** Seldon is clear **'We do not believe that it is either possible or desirable for AI to eliminate teachers from education'**, but he goes on to point out that **'the application of AI places more responsibility for learning in the hands of the student. AI will change, however, the job of the teacher forever. By supporting teaching in all their five traditional tasks, AI will usher in the biggest change the profession has ever seen.'** Interestingly Seldon recognises that remote teaching is a distinct possibility: **'Imminent advances in virtual technologies will mean too that teachers no longer have to be physically present to offer their services.'**

When reading this a year ago, I would have considered his science fiction. It just goes to show how quickly things can change but how capable we are of adapting.

Have a super weekend.

Sincerely,

Leonard Blom

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

Charles Dickens



We celebrated National Poetry Day on Thursday, 1 October and, this week, Miss Cook and Mrs Anthony have been introducing classes to the Library Poetry Competition! Pupils must firstly watch a video of poet, Joseph Coelho on the Library Web App. They must then write and perform their own poem and submit a video (Middle/Seniors) or create artwork about one of the poems and submit a photo (EYFS and Pre Prep). There will be one winner in each year group and submissions must be in by the end of half term.



Year 5 children in the string art activity on Tuesday afternoons are preparing their individual wooden frames with sawn notches. At the same time, for their group art piece, pupils are painting the background in Naples yellow colour.



This week, 2HL have been acting out a short play which they have created in small groups to show kindness to others. Their ideas included feeding stray, starving animals, being kind in the playground when somebody was feeling left out or had hurt themselves and helping out at home without being asked!



During 'Golden Time' on Friday last week, the children in 1MD enjoyed making a large farm for all the animals. It looks like they are having lots of fun; a perfect way to end a very busy week!

In the same vein as TED Talks, the children in the curiosity after-school activity became resident experts in a topic of their choice. They presented their findings to the whole group. There were some very interesting talks on scorpions, Lamborghinis and the Titanic to name a few!



Many congratulations to Inaaya who was awarded a Headmaster's Commendations this week for her work in DT.

This week in English, Year 3 have been learning how to use the quartiles of a dictionary to more efficiently locate a word. In addition, they were finding definitions of a word and identifying whether the word was a noun, adjective or verb.



Many congratulations to these Year 7 pupils who were chosen to represent the Senior School Eco-Committee:

Tahlia
Colin
Zayaan
Aliza
Maria



Congratulations also to these pupils in Year 6 who have been elected by Senior School onto the Senior School

Council:
Ami
Alfie
Aran
Maria
Ryahn
Frasier



Year 1 have been reading 'Eliot Midnight Superhero'. The children had great fun creating story maps to help them sequence their story writing.



Year 5 are enjoying Book Club; they selected to read 'Wonder' and it has provided the group with a lot of laughs and discussion.



5SY have been enthusiastically acting out their own plays this week based on their class novel. The children ensured they followed stage directions accurately and used effective vocal expression.



Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed their music lessons this week. They tried out different clapping rhythms and playing claves. They had a great time!



In Nursery, pupils were introduced to a variety of instruments, including some from Africa to tie in with their African topic.

