



THE NWC FAMILY GOT A BIT BIGGER THIS WEEK

Mrs Hughes gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Hayden Hughes. We wish all the best to the Hughes family and send our congratulations!



Dear NWC Community,

What an extraordinary life we are all living at the moment! Amidst this new world of uncertainty there is one thing I can be sure of and that is the unstoppable thirst for learning and love of teaching that continues to be demonstrated by our incredible NWC girls and staff. Combine this with the phenomenal support we receive from our NWC families and I am confident that our girls' education, development and progression will be uncompromised during these challenging times.

Thanks to everyone's hard work, the past two weeks have seen our girls wholeheartedly participate in a 'school day' without leaving their homes. With the expectation that the girls spend the same amount of time on their studies as they would do if they were in school, we have diligently applied our Guided Home Learning policy and to be honest, it is working better than we could have ever imagined. Feedback from our parents has been overwhelmingly positive and whilst we are counting the days to return to normality, we are consistently being delighted by the quality, creativity and brilliance of our girls' work and performance. I have never been prouder of our NWC community, and I sincerely thank each and every one of our pupils, staff and parents for raising together to this challenge.

May I add a special thank you the teaching and service support staff who have remained in school to provide care for our keyworkers' children, this vital and much appreciated service will resume after the Easter break. We do not underestimate the job that our parents have on their hands at the moment. Juggling various roles, from caring for the young and old to managing the children's 'school day', while maintaining a career from your front rooms - you are doing an incredible job and we are all extremely grateful. As you know, we are a close community at NWC and we are already missing daily interaction with our girls. This newsletter is a great way to keep in touch and thank you to all parents and teachers who have contributed photos and stories. Teachers are nourished when they see the hard work and progress made by the girls, so please do continue to send in photos and stories to Mrs Pearce (c.pearce@nwc.gdst.net) and let's make our next issue of 'Keeping in Touch' equally impressive.

I do hope you manage to enjoy yourselves over the Easter break. I know we are all missing out on family activity days and adventures; it is challenging to keep little ones amused at home for endless hours and equally difficult to avoid over dependence on social media for older children; but please do encourage the girls to relax and get plenty of sleep - we have a busy Summer Term lined up for them! We aim to distribute this newsletter on a fortnightly basis so keep the good news flooding in and in the meantime, have a very happy and healthy Easter

AN EXAMPLE OF A VIRTUAL STAFF MEETING

A huge thank you to our NWC staff for working so hard to ensure that the girls' learning from home is as effective as possible



A Message from Mrs Brown, Deputy Head, Academic



After two busy weeks learning and teaching via Guided Home Learning, the NWC community has certainly earned its Easter break! These are challenging times for students, teachers and parents alike, as we all learn to study, work and live in a very different way to that which we are used to. Parents, we know that it is far from easy supporting your daughters in their studies while working from home. We hope that your daughters have taken time to talk through their Biology work on the digestive system or their History work on medieval religion and that you have enjoyed sharing their learning in a way that you may not have been able to before. Girls, we know that remaining focussed and organised in the face of distractions and a new routine is a real challenge. We are so proud of the maturity and diligence that you have demonstrated so far. We hope that you have enjoyed expanding your learning beyond the classroom and that you have taken opportunities to broaden your academic endeavours via reading, watching documentaries and exploring the natural world around you.

GUIDED HOME LEARNING

Our teachers have worked incredibly hard to ensure that students continue their learning journeys in each subject with the same enthusiasm, engagement and level of accomplishment as they would if they were in a classroom. They are continuing to use online platforms to set work, give feedback, answer student queries and 'live teach' wherever possible, with 87% of senior school teachers now using Google Classroom as their main GHM platform. 65% of senior school teachers are using the Google Meet conferencing tool in at least half of their lessons and next term, we have asked all teachers to use it at least 1 in 3 of the lessons that they deliver. It has been such a joy to see the scholarly endeavour of students and teachers, shared via emails and Tweets over the past two weeks. Highlights have included Mr Bennett and the Year 13 economists learning with their mini whiteboards at the ready; our Year 12 historians ready at 9am on the first day of GHM for a Google Meet on the English Civil War; Year 11 Latin students collaborating on Roman Literature and all of the creative

and inspiring artwork, shared by girls in the Lower School. I'm sure we have all watched Mr Merk make 'faeces' in his kitchen 'lab' on You Tube and I hope we've all been following Ms Annetts' fantastic recommendations for reading and resources on Twitter. NWC still fizzes with intellectual energy! We are so grateful for our 2019/20 rollout of one-to-one devices in Years 6-8 and the digital staff and student training that accompanied it- we felt ready and excited by the GHM challenge from the start. Of course, we all still have much to learn. Staff will be trained in using a variety of online platforms to enhance student experience in next term's INSET days. Students will undergo a 'Digital Boot Camp' when they return to school in their pastoral lessons and we look forward to supporting them in the further development of their digital skills.

*"NWC still
fizzes with
intellectual
energy"*



Mr Merk completing a model demonstration of making 'faeces' with kitchen equipment... who said Science could only be done in a lab?!

Mrs Brown's message continued...

GETTING A BALANCE

One of the greatest challenges of GHJ is ensuring that everyone in the family retains a work/life balance. However much they protest that they have too much work to do, students must ensure that they are taking regular breaks and moving away from their computer screens.

To support student wellbeing, the school will also be implementing the following revisions to student work submission following the Easter break:

- Students should inform their teacher if tasks take longer than the lesson time allocated. It is perfectly reasonable to stop after the allocated time and explain to a teacher the area of difficulty experienced.
- There will be no homework set for students in Years 7-9 apart from reading. Students should use the evenings to spend time away from their laptop, be with their family, read, rest and exercise.
- There will be a reduced homework timetable for students in Year 10 and homework will be set mindfully in Years 11-13. Teachers have been asked to consider the length and frequency of homework tasks in these year groups, setting work only when it is necessary for learning progression.

"Students must ensure that they are taking regular breaks and moving away from their computer screens."

GCSE AND A LEVEL

We know that this is a particularly challenging time for our GCSE and A level students and have been in contact with parents and students since the cancellation of examinations announcement to offer specific guidance and support.

For this summer's awards, schools and colleges are being asked to provide centre assessment grades for their students. NWC is committed to ensuring that grades are allocated in a fair, objective way, based on a suite of evidence that we have been collating over the course of the past two years (including aspirational grades, mock examination results, ILAs, homework, classwork and recent assessment data).

The school and its teachers are unable to discuss individual grades with students or parents at this time as we are still at the beginning of the process of grade allocation, checking and national standardisation.





Pastoral Care, Guidance and Wellbeing for our Pupils and School Community

Now two weeks into our 'new normal' of conducting life and learning by connecting via online platforms, such as Google Meet, I am pleased to say our community spirit is strong and is evolving with a new vibrancy. They do say that in times of crisis, lie new and golden opportunities. Establishing a suitable routine for you and your family will be an essential component of managing your work commitments, your children's learning and of course the wellbeing for everyone in your household. The NWC girls have a daily timetable of lessons to engage them and guide them through productive learning. We have created opportunities for the girls to keep in touch with each other in their pastoral groups: a place to exchange ideas, activity recommendations and to communicate with each other and their tutor, co-tutor and Head of Year. Designed to offer a keeping in touch place, every year group has a forum for posting to each other and the pastoral team. It is proving to be a creative space, a space for humour and an outlet for informal sharing.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES COULD BE FRAMED AROUND THESE THEMES:

1. **Connect** with each other by talking, playing games, viewing something together, sending messages to each other.
2. Find ways to **stay active**, including home exercise (your daughter **is required** to exercise at home in her PE lessons- using the resources provided by the PE department. Next term we will publish to parents our PE lesson timetable and club timetable).
3. **Keep learning** and inspire curiosity with different activities and stimuli.

WELLBEING PROGRAMMES

With wellbeing in mind, the pastoral team have been industriously creative – devising programmes for the engagement of the girls, and we would like to share with you our pillars originally intended for our wellbeing week. We strongly advocate these as a guide for family wellbeing:

- *Stay connected*
- *Be active*
- *Keep learning*
- *Help others*
- *Stop, take notice and breathe*

4. **Be considerate and helpful** by taking a keen interest in others, some may be feeling disconnected, some may need to hear reassurance or praise; help others in the family. Share your ideas for wellbeing with others.
5. **Stop, take notice and breathe.** Give yourself time to relax, read a book, listen to music, observe nature, practice mindfulness to switch off from the omnipresent media reports.

PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

We value character building and pupil wellbeing and related neuroscience informs us that taking a break, having fun, being active and connecting with others socially, affords us our best cognitive function. As such the pastoral teams have engaged the girls in a plethora of pastoral activities in the final weeks of the Spring term.

To give you a snapshot, these have been wide ranging: 30 Daily Challenges, continued reading and book review in our Drop-Everything-and-Read (on Friday mornings), connecting kindly and with humour – being considerate online is an essential component in this new way of life, Disney Art (was very much enjoyed by Year 7).

We have restructured our PSHE programme to match well the current needs of the girls: to give you an example, Year 8 completed a questionnaire to examine their sleep habits prior to an informative, advisory exploration of the benefits of sleep. I think you will agree, that establishing good sleep patterns with time away from screen for a minimum of two hours before bedtime is essential for all of the girls.



Year 7s embraced the Disney drawing tutorial challenge . Here are Ashrina, Daniella and Nyah's super creations. Very impressive work girls, well done!



Ruby (Year 7) has been making the most of the sunny weather by still being active even when at home by doing two laps of the country park!

ONLINE SAFETY

Online safety is at the forefront of our minds and your daughters are bound by the Acceptable Use Agreement which provides them with a set of expectations and guidelines to follow (this was sent to parents recently). The Heads of Year have also provided your daughters with suitable web and online resources that they may opt to refer to. We would like to recommend the following websites to our parents: www.youngminds.org.uk which has advice and information for parents and young people relating to mental health and wellbeing www.internetmatter.org for advice by the age of the child, to parents to keep their children safe online

Please stay abreast of the news and ensure you are aware of any apps that your daughter is using, maintain vigilance and keep up to date with developments. Recently, an app called HouseParty, which is popular (minimum age of use is 13 years old) was plagued by trolls- some of the older pupils may be using this app.

A SAFEGUARDING REMINDER

When using Google Meet at school: your daughter should be suitably dressed and accessing a computer in a suitable room in your home (not her bedroom, please).

"We hope your daughter has a restful break to feel ready and invigorated for the start of Summer term"

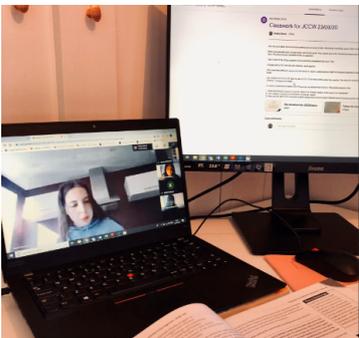
SIXTH FORM



NWC LEAVERS 2019/20

This week we said Farewell to our class of 2019/2020 and welcomed our new Head Girl Team on board. Every one of our Year 13 students have made an incredible contribution to our school and will be sorely missed. They know how much we care about them and value them and that they are NWC girls forever. Our door is always open and so are our hearts - we really do want to celebrate your future achievements with you girls, so please do keep in touch! You can watch our 'End of Term Assembly' on our YouTube channel (tissues at the ready!):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KA8jr9JHczk&list=PL8lf8gH-q0ytP4W5ISC-Lppu7ubiXT9X5>



Year 12 used Google Meet to continue their discussion on the search for settlement after the English Civil War



Classification and Phylogenetics were discussed when Year 12 'google met' with Mr Merk



Mr Bennett and Year 13 got creative teaching and learning Economics and Business with mini white boards at the helm!



Ms Howard taught an enriching joint Year 13/Year 12 Classical Civilisation class on prophecies, critiquing Budelmann & Seaford

GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



Huge congratulations go to Imaan and Riya who both achieved their Gold Duke of Edinburgh award!
Very well done girls this was a strenuous task but it shows just how resilient you are!
Everyone involved in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme should be proud of their achievements.
Well done!

FORM TIME FUN

Lots of laughter was shared by the Sixth Form whilst taking part in a live "draw Mickey" event; followed by 84 girls participating in a mass Kahoot!

**"SO GOOD
TO SEE
VIRTUAL
SMILES
ALL
ROUND!"**



SENIOR SCHOOL

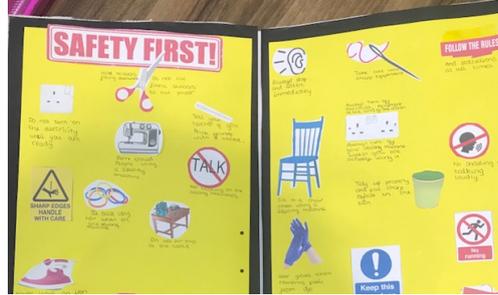


HELPING THE NHS

Huge congratulations to Suhani (Year 7) and Bianca (Year 5) for starting off their Easter break by crafting handmade PPE visors for our very brave NHS heroes! The girls' first batch is going to be used in a GP surgery! Very well done girls for this act of kindness, we are so proud of you!



Well done Aaiya from Year 9 who created this Toolbox for Prevention as part of the Holocaust project



Fatema in Year 7 produced these superb posters during her Textiles lesson! Well done for producing such imaginative work.



Well done Ioni in Year 7 for emailing in such beautiful artwork



Some excellent homework from Ruhi, Rihanna and Simran in Year 8. Well done to all the girls who have produced superb artwork over the past two weeks

JUNIOR SCHOOL



A message from Mr Maddocks, Head of Junior School

I will be writing to Junior School parents at great length after Easter to outline how Guided Home Learning will work for the Summer Term, but in the meantime I want to thank all our parents for enabling education to continue; your support for your daughters has been magnificent. And the girls have responded with their usual energy and creativity.

In recognition of their efforts, teachers have continued to award Achievement Marks (AM). Furthermore, we have introduced two GHJ certificates, one for excellent work and one a class star award. The class star awards were announced in my end of term virtual assembly.

The Junior School teachers worked wonders to transfer the uniquely interactive business of classroom life to online platforms, adapting swiftly to the changed scenario. Their first thoughts, as always, remain with the girls. I have received countless nominations for excellent work. Here are a few of the many highlights....

CLASS STARS OF GUIDED HOME LEARNING



Congratulations to Lyla who won the first week's Class Star of Guided Home Learning - look at the pride and joy on her face. Thank you to mum for sending in the photo - moments like this make it all worthwhile.



Well done Avni (Nursery) for winning the second week's Class Star of Guided Home Learning, you have been very resilient. Thank you for the following quote from Mum: ' We've had our tears...both of us... but we've survived. Thank you to NWC for all your support. All the girls are missing school, their friends and their teachers so much but NWC has taught them to be resilient.'

OUTSIDE LEARNING HAS BEEN INSPIRING...



Congratulations to Holly Fell (Year 5) who took school's suggestion to go outside and be curious by turning a bonfire into ink!!

Holly decided that she wanted to re-use, and make something from the fire. After a little research on Google, she collected and crushed the charcoal in a container, mixed it with PVA glue and water, and experimented until she got the recipe just how she wanted it. The result was this wonderfully deep black ink that flowed really nicely from a reed-like pen (that Holly made), and stayed on the page just like real ink. How inventive!

Thanks Mum for sending in these wonderful pictures and having a fun, family-oriented time together, whilst being curious!

Girls have been making the streets colourful and spreading hope by drawing rainbows. Here is a selection of their wonderful creations....

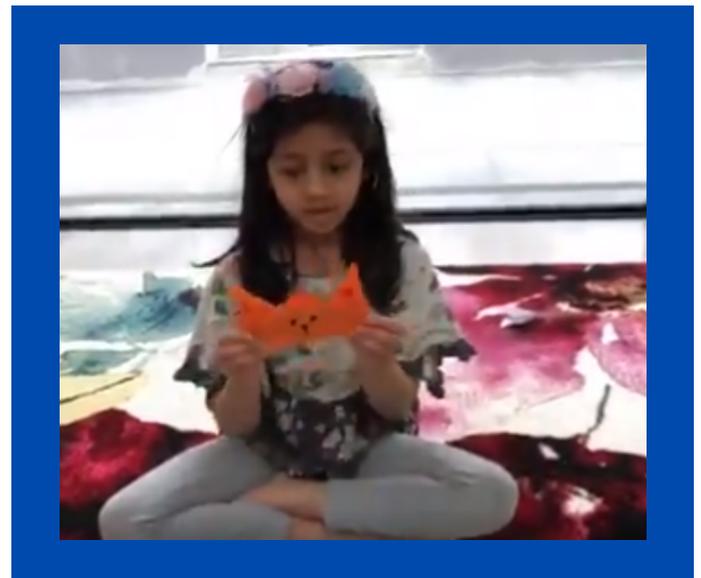


THE GIRLS HAVE BEEN VERY CREATIVE

Years 1 and 2 have been creative this week following the Rob Biddulph tutorials. Great work Maryam, Naiya, Trinity and Ella.



Beautiful origami by Anya in Year 2 - well done Anya for demonstrating creativity in the home.

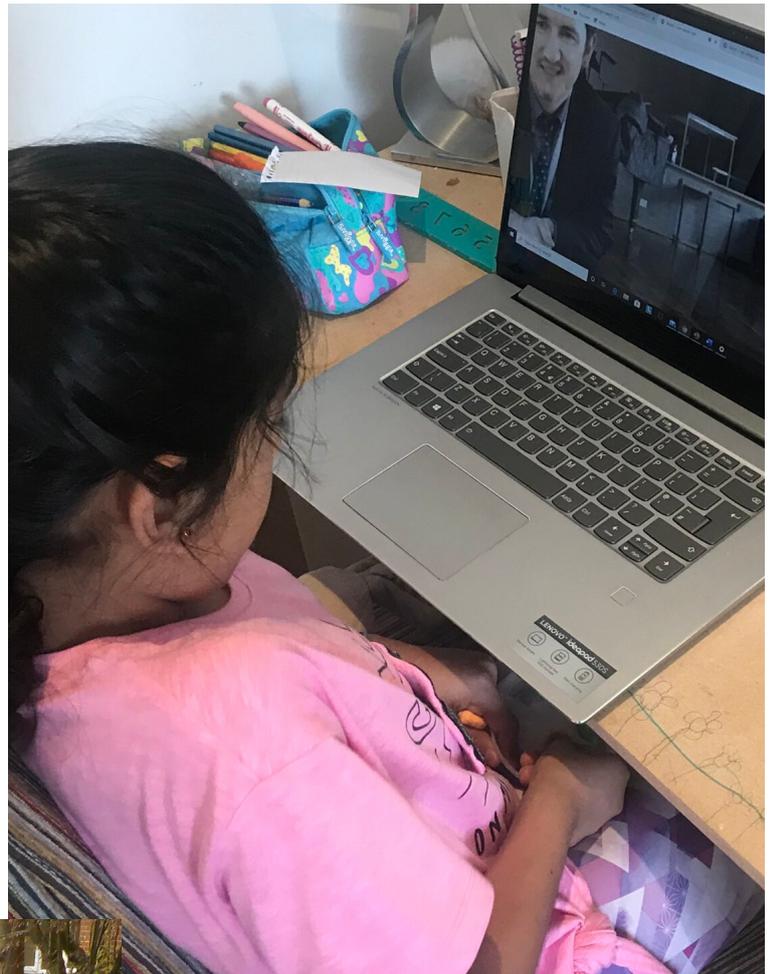


Superb photography from Year 2's Sophie who used microscopes for her close up observation and proved that Spring has arrived!



NWC COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Year 3 were able to partake in a fantastic 'sing a long' with Mr Webster and their teachers. They had a great time and really enjoyed singing from home!



This is Junior Eco Club sowing some happiness courtesy of Mahi in 4TL. The girls planted some Gladioli to bring gladness when we return to school. Their daffodils, planted in November, are growing well too!

WORKING HARD AT HOME



The Year 6 girls were asked to illustrate a passage from our class reader (The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe) ensuring that they brought to life the emotion and tension. Did these girls meet the challenge? Did they ever!



A collective Latin GoogleMeet lesson went well with Year 5 and ended with a high energy Live Quizlet challenge between classmates! Excellent work 5CM, Mr Maddocks very much enjoyed teaching you!



Enaya Y6 working hard on her artwork and producing some great pieces at home!

EARLY YEARS



A DAY OF GUIDED HOME LEARNING

Safia in Reception shows us what she's been getting up to at home - thank you mum for sending in these heart-warming photos and well done Safia for your hard work!



Taking part in online lessons



Safia even squeezed in time to see her friends



Being chief taste tester when baking!



Learning about 3D shapes



Practicing her piano

WONDERFUL WORK

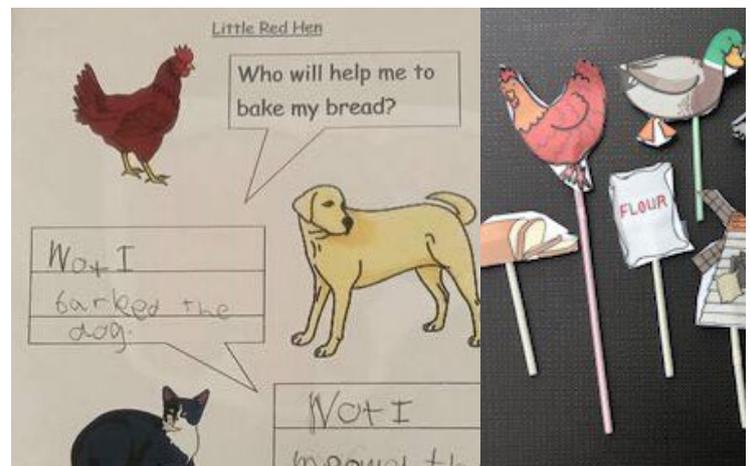
"We're going on a bear hunt, we're going to catch a big one, what a beautiful day! We're not scared!"

The girls used curiosity and creativity to go on a bear hunt in their gardens. Girls, you have amazed us this week with your hard work and ability to adapt. We are so very proud!



The Nursery girls have been busy exploring shapes during Guided Home Learning. They have been going on shape hunts, playing shape games and making shape pictures. What fantastic practical Maths, well done girls!

Would you help 'The Little Red Hen' to bake her bread? We are feeling so incredibly proud of our girls this week. They have shown enthusiasm and engagement and produced wonderful work.



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#NWC Learning Without Limits
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WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY AND HEALTHY EASTER

Please do continue to send in photos and stories to
Mrs Pearce (c.pearce@nwc.gdst.net)