

# HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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*A Church of England School  
providing a Values Based Education*

2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Update Letter : February/March 2020

## Thank you

First of all, thank you for your understanding and support on Friday when we had to close the school due to a burst water main in Cranfield. We had no water in school so we were left with no choice but to close. Such decisions and choices are always difficult – especially at such short notice. Your kindness and flexibility were greatly appreciated.

## RE Day

Last Tuesday, we had a fantastic RE Day exploring Shrove Tuesday / Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), Ash Wednesday and introducing the season of Lent.



The day started with all students creating Mardi Gras masks to be shared at the final assembly session at the end of the day. A pair of students from each tutor group joined Miss Warren, Mrs Milton, Mrs Manning and Mrs Playle in the Art department creating catwalk mask creations ready for the Mardi Gras head-dress parade:



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs H Donnellan

Acting Assistant Headteacher / DSL: Mrs J Davies

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The final creations were AMAZING!



Meanwhile, in Music, students learned how to play a traditional hymn celebrating Lent.



In Food Technology the traditional Pancakes were made (and eaten!).



Lent is traditionally a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shroving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off. The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras ('fat Tuesday'). Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.



Students also learned about the history of Ash Wednesday

- Ash Wednesday, also known as the Day of Ashes, is thought to have first started when Gregory the Great, was Pope from 590-604. This is when the first people put ash crosses on their forehead
- The placing of ashes on the head was a practice of the Anglo-Saxon church in the 10th Century, with it becoming universal throughout the Western church in 1091 so it dates back to the 11th century.
- The idea of fasting (going without food) and ashes is mention in the book of Daniel in the Bible so it is very traditional to put ash on yourself when you fast.

Why is Ash Wednesday celebrated?

- It is an important day in the Christian calendar as it marks the first day of fasting, repentance (showing you are sorry for your sins), prayer and self-control that will be required during Lent.
- Its official name is Day of Ashes, due to the mostly Catholic practice of rubbing ashes in the sign of the cross on people's foreheads.
- The blessed ashes are mixed with water or olive oil to make a thick paste.

Why do crosses get drawn on people's foreheads on Ash Wednesday?

- Traditionally, ash is used to show grief. They also represent repentance (being sorry for your sins) and show that people have repented of their sins so that they can be prepared for a "Holy death", like Jesus.

Where does the ash come from?

- The ash used to draw the crosses come from the palms that were blessed the previous Palm Sunday. The palms are burnt and the ashes saved for a whole year. They are then mixed with olive oil or water to make a thick black paste.
- Palm Sunday was the day that Jesus made a triumphant entrance to Jerusalem as the self-declared King of Israel, an event that marks the beginning of the Passion.

Students also designed bags using Lenten symbols and created a puppet-show version of the temptation of Christ.

At the end of the day students met together to share their learning and to parade their head-dresses:



... and now the students are starting their 40 acts Lenten Challenge – 40 days of generosity, kindness and thoughtfulness. The 40 challenges are things everyone can try – even at home. We will be choosing our Lenten charity next week and this will be the focus of our fund-raising over the next half-term.

We also have several other 'events' this half term. Some of the key dates include:

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March World Book Day ... come dressed as your favourite book character  
Year 8 French Trip  
Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March Archdeacon's visit  
Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March Sport Relief Day ... fund-raising sport-related fun for this great charity  
Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March St Patrick's Day  
(Members of St Patrick have a GREEN Day)  
Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April Church Charity Day (and last day of term)  
... fund-raising for our local church of St Peter and St Paul

### **Weduc**

Please sign up for our new messaging and news App ... an individual letter with details of how to download the App and how to log in will be sent home separately. This will enable us to communicate much more effectively and efficiently. If the letter does not arrive home, let us know and we will forward an electronic copy.

### **InVentory**

If you visit school for a meeting, you will see our new sign-in system: InVentory. This will help us to ensure we have a GDPR-friendly signing-in system.

### **Health and Safety Update: Coronavirus**

We are monitoring the situation with the Coronavirus and following DfE and Public Health guidelines. You should not be overly worried about the possibility of children contracting the virus at school, and students should continue to attend school as normal. Current advice is that: if you have travelled from Wuhan City and Hubei Province in China, Iran, Daegu or Cheongdo (Republic of Korea), or any Italian town under containment measures within the last 14 days, you should self-isolate for 14 days, call 111 and let us know. If anyone has travelled from Cambodia, any area of China not mentioned above, Hong Kong, the North of Italy, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, any other area of the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand or Vietnam within the last 14 days, and you are well, you can continue to attend school as normal. If you do become unwell, you should self-isolate and call 111 to be assessed.

With regard to both the planned Year 8 trip to France and the Ski-Trip to Italy, we will continue to be advised of the status of the trip from the travel company – Halsbury Travel. At the moment both trips are going ahead. With regard to the French trip later this week, France remains an open nation free to travel to and from without concern. Halsbury Travel have advised us (and parents) to take the normal precautions related to avoiding contagious illnesses - washing hands, using tissues, hand sanitiser gel etc. Halsbury Travel are continuously monitoring the situation.

A UK-wide campaign has been launched to provide clear advice on how to slow the spread of coronavirus. Please find attached the latest guidance from the Department for Health.

### **Year 8 Parents' Evenings**

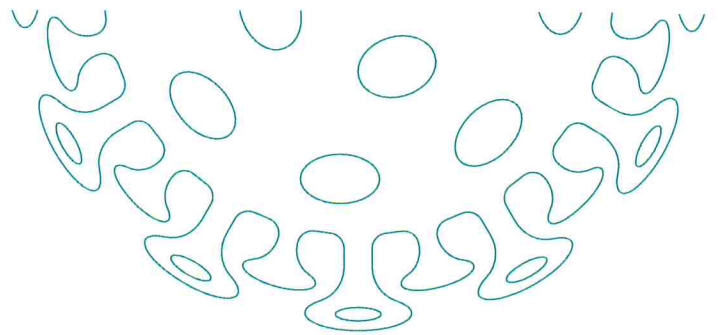
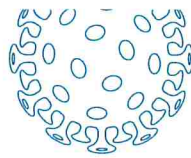
We look forward to the last of our Parents' Evenings on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March. It has been a delight to meet with parents and carers to discuss students' progress in Years 5 to 7 and Year 8 have their final Parents' Evening to meet with staff. We have also been updating the format of our end-of-year reports and these will be issued towards the end of the Summer Term. Reports will include a subject overview and details of students' progress, areas of strength and their developmental needs moving forward.

Thank you for your continued support.  
With all best wishes



MG Simpson  
Headteacher





# Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

## How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

## How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

## How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

### If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser

### You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser



After breaks & sport activities



Before cooking & eating



On arrival at any childcare or educational setting



After using the toilet



Before leaving home



Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading with our e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene lesson plans for KS1, 2 and 3: [campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools)

## What should you do if you feel unwell?

Keep away from others and stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call **NHS 111** for advice. Follow the UK Government advice for childcare or educational settings [gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19). Parents can visit [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) to find out more information. Teachers and support staff should follow the UK Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Wuhan and Hubei Province in China should self isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days. See [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) for advice on coronavirus.

**If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately**

