

# HOLYWELL SCHOOL

Red Lion Close, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0JA

Tel: 01234 750381

Email: [school@holywellschool.co.uk](mailto:school@holywellschool.co.uk)

Website: [www.holywellschool.co.uk](http://www.holywellschool.co.uk)



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
DIOCESE OF  
ST ALBANS



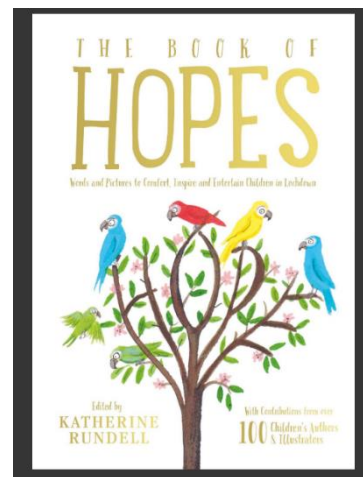
*A Church of England School  
providing a Values Based Education*

## Update letter 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you all well at the end of a very hot and beautifully sunny week; it does help to lift the spirits when the sun shines!

As we come to the end of our month of HOPE, you might want to have a look at a link Mrs Donnellan found to this lovely online book called: 'The Book of Hopes'. It is an anthology of stories and poems to inspire comfort and entertain children in lockdown - edited by Katherine Rundell: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>.



Watch out next week for the launch of our final value of the month for the year: HAPPINESS. We have a very exciting project. As lockdown measures begin to be eased, we have had a few enquiries as to whether we will be opening up school more widely over the next few weeks. Unfortunately, the guidelines for schools remain in place (protective bubble-groupings of no more than 15, no contact between bubbles, limited staffing-student contact, etc.) and we are almost at our maximum capacity for Critical Worker places. When we offered Year 6 places, we made this a 'one-time only' offer so that we could manage and organise the staffing and the groups safely and so that we could plan our provision effectively, so we are not adding any additional Year 6 students to this provision. We do not have the capacity to welcome back any other year groups. We are working hard to provide some virtual 'end-of-year' activities for Year 8 and we hope to be able to have a 'reunion' in the Autumn Term.



With regard to our home learning, we have had a few enquiries about feedback on work. Most work set is self-marking and, where students are asked to do some extended writing, staff are providing feedback where this work is submitted via 'Show My Homework'. You can also use the messaging facility in 'Show My Homework' to keep in touch with tutors and teachers. If you need any further support, please email a message via the school office ([school@holywellschool.co.uk](mailto:school@holywellschool.co.uk)) and we will contact you.

Another area of concern, which has been raised, has been 'Show My Homework' deadlines. Please don't stress about these! Unfortunately, there isn't a way of excluding a due date. Show My Homework sorts your 'to-do list' by due date. However, you have full control over your 'to-do lists', meaning you can mark any task as 'Completed', even if you haven't submitted anything for that task. This should help you to manage the workload and, hopefully, not get too overwhelmed. This article (<https://help.teamsatchel.com/en/articles/2912066-what-is-the-to-do-list>) is worth reading, as it explains how the 'to-do lists' are organised and how you can mark tasks as 'Completed'.



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

Operated by Holywell Church of England Academy, Registered in England, Company Number 08224216

It has been a real joy to be part of the Year 7 Zoom Tutor Group catch-ups this week – by next Wednesday we will have done our first round with *all* tutor groups. We will try to do some follow-ups; however, this may not be possible for all groups before the end of term. It has been brilliant to hear about everything everyone has been up to. There have been many walks and cycle rides (some students reported getting a bit lost!), lots of baking and lots of football practice in the garden (there were also many happy Liverpool supporters online and in school today!). In terms of what everyone is missing, seeing friends ‘for real’ has been the main thing mentioned. Here is a list of some of the things people are hoping for and looking forward to:

- Seeing friends in person
- Dancing (in a big space)
- Having a haircut
- Football
- Ice-skating
- Having stuff to do!

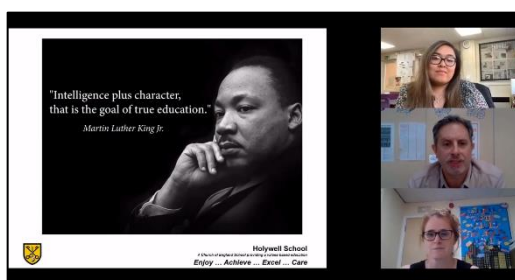
I’m looking forward to having everyone back at school, being able to sing (although a virtual choir project has been fun to do) and being able to go to the theatre. I shall have to wait a while for that to happen, but in the meantime, it’s been good to watch some ‘live’ theatre on TV – recommendations at the moment are: ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ (the Bridge Theatre production is available free on YouTube until next week) and, from next week, ‘Hamilton’ – the hit American musical is streaming on a pay-to-view channel (probably more for our KS3 students – I know some are big fans of the musical already).



If you are missing your music, watch out for a whole-school musical challenge from Mrs Purves ... coming soon ... it should be ‘live’ by Wednesday next week!

One thing that was not on the ‘looking forward to’ list was the annual school report!!! Over the next few weeks, we will be releasing these to each year group. Teachers have been working hard to complete these when they have not been teaching. They will be available with a data sheet (NB. the data sheet will be based on where students had got to before school closed). You will be able to access the reports through WEDUC so please make sure you either have downloaded the app or enrolled online: <https://weduc.co.uk/>.

The UK Mathematical Challenge is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the UK Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience. Yesterday, Ms Mollis organised for thirty-four Holywell students to complete it online (and we hope that a few more might be able to still be able to participate before the final deadline next week). We look



We have continued adding to our new video channel: <https://sites.google.com/holywellschool.co.uk/holywell-school-videos/home>. As well as some more excellent lessons, we now have some examples of student work – please send in your videos to share with everyone. This week there is also a great new assembly for all students from Mr Ulph, Miss Lau and Mrs Purves (watch out for some very special guest appearances)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iNINiQbGx4qHMiZoAbsu9W--Ghxd2scv/view>

So, Holywell, have a great week, keep in touch, stay alert and stay hopeful.

Mr Simpson