



Update Letter 17-07-2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

We have made it to the end of term! I am so proud of you all – the students have worked hard and have done some amazing work in lockdown ... and parents and carers, you have all done a fantastic job of balancing home-schooling with your own work commitments. We are very grateful for all your support and for the inventive ways you have found to home-school your children. We look forward to having them all back in September. I am also grateful to our wonderful teaching staff who have provided brilliant, challenging and inspiring work for us all to do. As a team, we have supported families: we have adapted our teaching to a new online environment, we have taught critical worker students and Year 6 students in school and we have challenged ourselves to explore and learn.



### The Museum of Happiness

Reflecting back to the start of lockdown way back in March, it is amazing to think about everything we've done together. To have an insight into what has been done, have a look at The Museum of Happiness. This was our 'Value of the Month Challenge' set by Mrs Donnellan and we have had lots of contributions from students, families and staff. Mrs Donnellan has been curating all of the exhibits and you can now visit our virtual gallery via this

[link](#). It is truly a joyous creation and you will find some of the exhibits funny, some are very moving, some will make you cry and some will have you crying with laughter. A huge thank you to Mrs Donnellan for being our museum manager and we look forward to putting the exhibits on display in

## THANK YOU TO EVERYONE IN THE HOLYWELL COMMUNITY WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE MUSEUM.

We would like to share the happiness these things have given us with everyone, and bring some smiles to the faces of people in the Holywell community whose lives have been touched with sadness in the last three months.

### HAPPINESS

- Happiness is that feeling that comes over you when you know life is good and you can't help but smile. It's the opposite of sadness. Happiness is a sense of well-being, joy, or contentment.
- We have discovered new things that give us happiness- "Zoom " calls to family and friends for instance and have discovered a new appreciation of things we may previously have taken for granted such as afternoon walks close to our homes and familiar TV programmes.
- Friends, family, baking, nature, pets, crafts and music all feature widely in our museum.

school soon.



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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## Good Luck to Year 8

This week has also seen the return of most of the Year 8 students back on site – they had a short socially-distanced-small-group-mainly outdoor opportunity to meet up with their form tutor and some of their form class. They also picked up their Yearbooks full of memories and messages ... along with some gifts (kindly provided by the PTFA).

This lovely (and poignant) message was written last year by Alvin as part of The Diocese Lenten project: "God in this Place":



Life is a precious gift given to humanity  
 appreciate each moment of it so whenever you  
 feel hatred to a loved one or get angry at  
 someone remember you only have a couple years  
 to spend <sup>time</sup> with them... and live life to the fullest

Thanks to Miss Norman for organising the meetings and to Miss Dell for co-ordinating the Yearbook. There is a fantastic praise assembly for Year 8 to watch here on this [link](#).

Mr Crapnell has been expanding his own ICT skills during lockdown. He has put together a brilliant video montage for Year 8 charting their Holywell journey – Mr C has definite potential in the film-making/video area. His video tribute can be found [here](#).



We wish all of the Year 8 students every success for the future – they are an outstanding group of young people who will go on to achieve great things.

## Assemblies

There are End-of-Year video assemblies for [Year 7](#), [Year 6](#) and for [Year 5](#). These include messages from form tutors and some memories of form time.



In addition, the lovely Rachel Foster has sent us a final end-of-year assembly – students love Rachel's assemblies and our end-of-year would not be the same without something from Rachel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5CheG72nBM&feature=youtu.be%7Emenu&app=desktop>



Just over 5 weeks ago, Mr Van Der Merwe sent out a 'road map' to all staff explaining how we would like to move our online learning forward. At the time, one of the potential outcomes was that we might have a few videos on a secure website to do with lessons and a zoom call for each form if possible. Today we have over 100 videos. Not only have we had lessons for ICT, Music, English and French, we have

managed to have a virtual sports day, a trip down memory lane with the museum of happiness, a musical extravaganza (still to be published!), a virtual induction for our new Y5 students, Key Stage assemblies and a special 'waves' video. We have had videos submitted by families and, all-in-all,

we have surpassed our expectations and then some. We have completed Zoom catch-ups for all tutor groups and have managed to add in some additional Zoom sessions for our Year 5 students as they move into Year 6 – giving them a chance to meet with their new tutors. If you like listening to audiobooks, try out the English department reading to you. There is a huge thank you to say to staff for all the hours they have put into making videos – it takes a long time to get the videos right and to edit them. We also say a huge thank you to everyone that has helped on the technical front. From reception fielding calls of ‘lost zoom calling parents’, to Miss Watson sending out countless letters about Zoom meetings and Thomas in IT solving every problem that we have created. For some families, there has been a demand for even more online support – it has been a learning curve for us all and I know that we will continue to explore this new way of learning. Here is the link and you will find all of the videos mentioned in this update letter on this site: <https://sites.google.com/holywellschool.co.uk/holywell-school-videos/> ... and a big THANK YOU to Mr V for co-ordinating all of our online work.

### Staff update

We have a number of staff who are moving on from Holywell this year or who are retiring. We are grateful for their contribution to our school community and we will miss them all. Our 2020 ‘Roll of Honour’ includes:

- Mrs Page – Mrs Page is retiring after MANY years of service to Holywell. Mrs Page (or Miss Boniface as she was until her recent wedding) joined Holywell in 1991 and, in addition to being a brilliant English and Art teacher, she has been a Head of Year, Head of PSHE and has taken on many other roles in school. We will miss her kindness and thoughtfulness.
- Mr Matthews – Mr Matthews is moving down to London to take up a teaching position there.
- Mr Wade – Mr Wade has done a brilliant job covering Miss Jones’ maternity leave in the Geography Department. He has also been a fantastic addition to the PE Team and we hope to see him back at Holywell in the future.
- Mrs Walker – Mrs Walker is our Science Technician and she is moving on to do a teacher training course.
- Mrs Morris – Mrs Morris has been supporting students across the year groups with Maths intervention and is moving on to support her family business. We hope to see her again sometime soon!
- Miss Scarr – Miss Scarr is one of our teaching assistants and she is also moving on to do a teacher training course.
- Mrs Armstrong – Mrs Armstrong is our Assessment and Data Manager. She joined Holywell in 2006 and has kept all of our assessment records up-to-date in immaculate style ever since! We wish her every success for the future.

We have some new staff joining us in September too:

- Mr Jolley, Ms Tsadiosou and Mrs Eatly are joining our English team.
- Mr Evans is our new Science Technician

... and, while Miss Stewart, Mrs Craffey, Mrs McEwen, Miss Warren and Mrs Stephenson continue their maternity leave, we are delighted to welcome back Mrs Warner and Miss Jones.

**Tutor Groups and Tutor Rooms for 2020-2021 are as follows:**

<b>Year 5</b>		<b>Year 6</b>	
MBA Mrs M Bassett	29	MBV Mr M Brook / Mrs E Vincent Previously 5DS	10
LJM Miss L Jones / Miss E Martin	13	GLJ Mr G Jolley Previously 5TM	18
HL Miss H Lau	11	CDP Miss C Dell / Mrs M Purves Previously 5MBa	26
TMP Ms T Mollis / Mrs K Playle	16	MF Mrs M Fossey Previously 5SMa	33
DS Mrs D Saunders	30	JF Mrs J French Previously 5HS	27
AJS Mrs A Selby	20	SJ Mr S Johnson Previously 5HL	5
HSH Mrs H Shirvington	4	CSG Mrs C Simpson / Mr L Griffin Previously 5AJS	14

Year 7		Year 8	
ABE Mrs A Blissett / Mrs N Eatly	25	TCM Mr T Crapnell / Miss E Martin	9
PB Mr P Brown Previously 6PM	12	PGE Mrs P Gough / Mrs N Eatly	32
LH Mr L Hillard	28	ME Mr M Eames	17
AJ Mrs A Jeavons Previously 6SW	24	PS Mr P Salamon	21
GJ Mr G Jones	34	RSA Mrs R Sheppard / Mrs J Austin	STEAM
BS Mrs B Smullen	31	CS Mr C Smith	19
EVT Ms E Tsadiosou Previously 6SCR	3		

### September !

In line with the Government guidance, we have continued our planning for all students returning from September. You will find some detailed notes about how we intend to operate in a separate document. We will send out a reminder and some further notes before the start of term. Please remember that we are having a phased return during the first week of term:

- Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5 only
- Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5 and 6 only
- Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September – all Year groups.

Please be aware that these dates may be different to other local schools – our dates are in line with Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough dates. We are only delaying our original start dates for some year groups by 1-2 days and hope you appreciate the reasons for this. It will enable us to establish routines and explain procedures to students. There are some aspects of our planning that we will develop over the Summer (especially arrangements for lunchtime – this will be one of our key areas of challenge and we will need all students to help and co-operate with our arrangements). There are some measures that will be for a short time and everything is dependent on the situation with Covid-19 and subject to change in the light of any subsequent Government guidance. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Please re-assure students that they have nothing to worry about – they will undoubtedly be anxious in the lead-up to September, but, once we get them into their tutor groups and we start with some learning, they will be fine. Please go through the guidance notes with the children and we will send some further information (and hopefully a video message) before the start of term.



### Charitable donation

During Lockdown, we have had several families who have been unable to access our online learning as they did not have a laptop at home. Only a few students were eligible for the DfE laptop scheme so we have been exploring other ways of funding some laptops which we could loan to families. We have just received confirmation of a donation of £8,000 from the Gale Family Charity Trust. This will enable us to purchase 20 new laptops which we will be able to

loan to families while at Holywell. We are truly grateful for this generous contribution.

### Cathedral Thinking

At the start of the year, we had a focus on the concept of cathedral thinking – basically, planning with the end in mind! There is also a very interesting story that came from the rebuilding of St. Paul's. One morning, Sir Christopher Wren, who was not personally known by many of the workers, stopped and asked three different labourers, all engaged in the same task, what they were doing.



He got three different answers.

- The first said, "I am cutting this stone."
- The second answered, "I am earning three shillings, six pence a day."
- The third man straightened up, squared his shoulders, and still holding his mallet and chisel, replied, "I am helping Sir Christopher Wren build this great cathedral in praise of God."

Each worker had three different ways of looking at the same job.

- The first one was just doing a task.
- The second one was just earning a living.
- The third was doing a small part of a great work. He did not personally know the architect or understand how his task fitted into the overall plan but he believed that there was a plan and that by following it, he would help create something greater than himself.

At the start of the year, we challenged students and staff to think about how their work at Holywell is part of a bigger endeavour. In a way, what we have been doing during Lockdown has been similar. All of the sacrifices, adjustments, amendments we have made could be viewed as 'just doing as we are told', they could be seen as keeping ourselves safe ... or we could think about the bigger picture: we have all been working together to defeat Covid-19 and to keep everyone on the planet safe from this deadly virus. Through the coming Summer months and as lockdown measures are eased, please remember the 'long-term goal' – be brave, but be safe and stay alert.



We set out to build cathedrals  
We planned, we created, we learned  
New ways, new paths, new bricks  
The pages of new books were turned.  
Then something intervened:  
A shadow on the world  
A threat, a danger, an unknown,  
Into a silent battle we were hurled.  
We hunkered down,  
Some lived, some died, some thrived, some cried.  
With patience and hope, we endured,  
We did our best, we tried and tried.  
Now we stand together looking skyward once again.  
We set out to build cathedrals  
With kindness and care, in sunshine and in rain  
On the cornerstone of the Lord.

... and finally

There is one final project to share with you ... and that is the Holywell version of Viva la Vida – with over 80 contributions and tracks, Mrs Purves has done an incredible job to piece this altogether. The audio link is [HERE!](#) Enjoy!

Thank you for all your kind words of support over the last few weeks and months – please keep in touch and stay safe. Have a good Summer break and we look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Best wishes

*Mr Simpson*

