

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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

Update Letter 28th September 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we are already almost at the end of September! It has been a real joy to have some semblance of normality back in school since the start of the year.

Covid-19 Update

Covid-19 is still with us. Since the start of the year, we have had a number of students in all year groups who have tested positive with Covid-19 (with varying degrees of impact – from no symptoms at all to mild doses of the virus to being really rather poorly with all of the Covid-19 symptoms). We have been keeping a watchful eye on numbers and, **following advice from Public Health, we need to revert back to some precautionary measures for an initial period of 14 days.** From tomorrow (29th September), we need to wear **face coverings in communal areas and classrooms** – NB. this is advisory and we will be mindful of people's preference, however, this is a mitigation which does help reduce transmission. **Large gatherings** (ie. assemblies) **will need to return to online delivery.** **KS3 should do regular lateral-flow testing** – at least twice-weekly. We all need to be vigilant in and out of school, making sure that we continue with our hygiene measures. We will keep you updated.

Key Stage 3 students and staff have already been invited to take part in a quality assurance exercise, involving taking a parallel PCR test with one of their regular lateral-flow tests.

Vaccination Programme

We have also been invited to host Covid-19 vaccinations for students aged 12+. Children who are 12 years old and over on the day the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) team visits the school, will be offered a vaccination as part of the in-school vaccination programme. Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the vaccines will be administered by healthcare staff working closely with us and following the usual approach to school-based immunisation. The SAIS will be the primary provider of the vaccination programme for healthy 12 to 15-year olds and will be legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccine. The SAIS provider will be contractually responsible for the service, as they are for other school vaccination programmes. The expectation is that the vaccination programme will be delivered at school.

Consent will be sought by the SAIS provider from the parent or person with parental responsibility in the same way as for any other school vaccination programme. When we have been given a date for the vaccinations, a consent form and information leaflet will be provided by the SAIS team in advance of the vaccinations to seek parental consent. Parents will also be provided with a contact number for the SAIS team in case of any queries.

Our role in this programme will be:

- to provide information to their SAIS provider on which children on their roll are eligible for the vaccine
- to share the information leaflet, consent form and invitation letter supplied by the SAIS team with parents and children
- to provide the space within school, and the time away from the timetable, to enable vaccinations to take place

The decision as to whether students have the vaccination or not will be a matter entirely for families to make. We will contact eligible families when we have an allocated date.



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss A Stewart
Assistant Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead / SENDCo: Mrs J Davies – Senior Leader: Mr James Ulph

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Year 6 English and Art Trip to Wrest Park

Last Wednesday, we had an amazing day at Wrest Park with Year 6. This was a joint English and Art trip. In English, students have been exploring World War 1 with their work culminating in a piece of extended narrative writing. The narrative is a two-part story about a soldier in the war. In the first part of the narrative, the soldier is in the trenches. Students have been learning about why the trenches were constructed, what life was like in the trenches and have been creating an exciting storyline which communicates the camaraderie, the boredom and the horror experienced by the soldiers. The climax of this first part involves their soldier being injured. The second part of the narrative sees the soldier transported to Wrest Park which, during World War 1, was used as a convalescence hospital (and later a full-on operating hospital). During the visit to Wrest Park, students explored the Gardens, the Grounds and the House, imagining what their main character would have experienced. We look forward to some wonderful writing.



The Art Department took advantage of the late Summer colours and foliage to create art installations based on the work of Andrew Goldsworthy along some situational sketching.



Emotional Health and Wellbeing Support

Navigating the pandemic has been a challenge for us all and, throughout, we have been so impressed with the way in which students have been resilient and have dealt with everything that has happened. We know that some have coped better than others and I'm sure that we have all had moments of not being OK (I certainly have!). In these 'darkest moments' (as we describe them in our school prayer), this is when we most need our faith, our values (especially LOVE, HOPE and CARE!) and each other. Please remember that we are here to help and support everyone in our community. If you need any support, please reach out and talk. Our colleagues at Central Bedfordshire have put together some key contacts and links, you might like to use too.

Kooth

Young people aged 11-19 can access support for their mental health and wellbeing from [Kooth](#).

Kooth is free, safe and anonymous and is here to help and support young people with their mental health and is available 365 days a year. Kooth offers more than just counselling, including Kooth magazine, forums, live discussion boards, journal, goals, and a mini activity hub.

[How to sign up to Kooth!](#) - Guide for signing up to Kooth.

Please see [flyer/poster](#) to disseminate to young people within your setting.

Chat Health

Chat Health provides confidential help and advice for young people aged 11-19. It's safe and easy for a young person to speak to a qualified health professional.

Chat Health is discreet and quick, the young person simply sends a message, they don't have to give their name. It only takes one message to start making a difference and to receive confidential advice from trained health staff in our area.

Please see [flyer/poster](#) to disseminate to young people within your setting.

Parent Line

Parent Line is a confidential text messaging advice and support line for Bedfordshire parents and carers of children aged 0-19.

It offers parents/carers advice and support on a range of issues such as emotional health, speech, behaviour, diet and exercise and much more. It is also a great mechanism to find out how to access other local services.

Please see [flyer/poster](#) to disseminate to your families.

Emotional Health and Wellbeing Roadmap for young people 0-18

The flyer, '[How you feel matters. Getting help in Bedfordshire](#)' outlines the support that is available in Central Bedfordshire. The roadmap allows professionals, children and young people and their families to identify the levels of support available and how to access it.

VISION
"Live life in all its fullness"

The Good Shepherd
 John 10, 10

We choose ...
 ... to live our values
 ... being the best we can be
 ... in community




Holywell School
 A Church of England School providing a vibrant and excellent education
Enjoy ... Achieve ... Excel ... Care

School Vision: Live Life in all its Fullness

Over the last few weeks, students in school have been exploring what our refreshed School Vision looks and sounds like in reality.

We have used a discussion strategy called 'The Miracle Question' to help us. Students have imagined going to bed one night. Over night, while we're sleeping, a miracle happens and our vision becomes a reality. We then thought about what we would notice as being different – what would we see and hear if our vision became reality. Here are some of the students' ideas:

5SMa



7SCH's responses were:

- We would be able to focus more in lessons because no would be distracting.
- The school would look calm and be quiet.
- Students wouldn't give up on their work straight away if they found it hard.

8ES

Within our community we are going to keep getting kinder, smarter and more committed to being respectful whilst encouraging each other to reach for the stars.

5AJS

A Recipe for Success – ‘to live our values’ Holywell Middle School

Ingredients:

- A handful of **HOPE**
- A huge amount of **HAPPINESS**
- A pile of **POSITIVITY**
- A cup of **KINDNESS**
- A packet of **PEACE**
- A tank full of **TOLERANCE**
- A really rather large amount of **RESPECT**
- A ramekin of **RESILIENCE**
- A cake tin full of **COURAGE**

Method:

1. Mix a handful of **HOPE** and a huge amount of **HAPPINESS** to achieve your goal for the day.
2. Collect the pile of **POSITIVITY** and a ramekin of **RESILIENCE** and be ready to learn with a growth mindset.
3. Add a cup of **KINDNESS** to ‘be the best we can be’ in community.
4. Pour in a packet of **PEACE** to help keep a calm and a caring environment.
5. Stir in a rather large amount of **RESPECT** and a tank full of **TOLERANCE** and together ‘we will find a way’.
6. Place all the Holywell ingredients into a cake tin full of **COURAGE** and bake for success to ‘live life in all its fullness’.

6NC – The miracle question

Live our values

- Be caring and kind
- Show honesty and responsibility
- Show respect to all

Being the best we can be

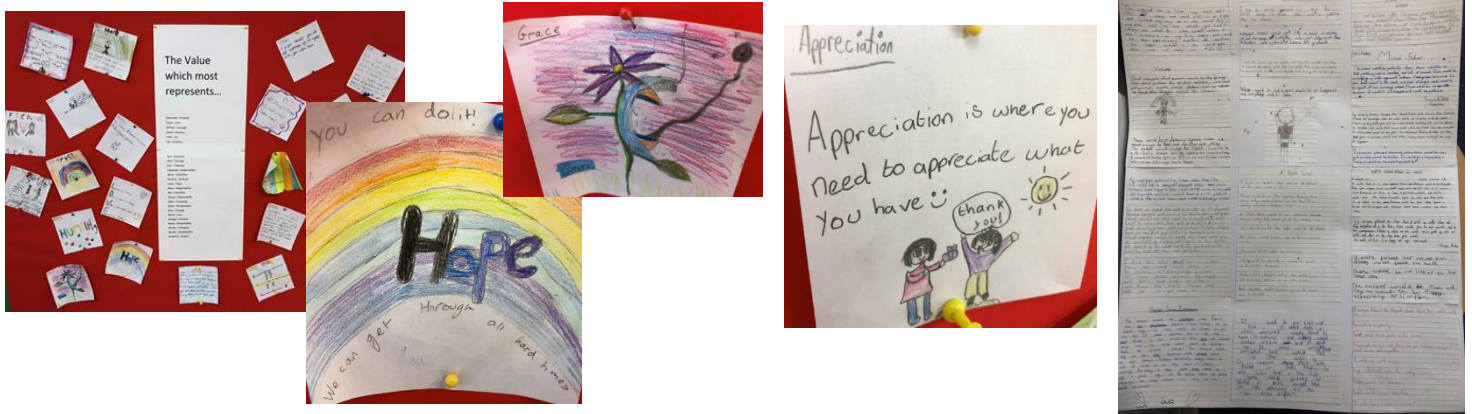
- Everyone would wear their uniform with pride
- Have high standards in all that we do
- Behave well in all our lessons
- Accept and follow our rules
- Complete all our work
- Keep our work neat and well-presented
- Show effort and focus on our learning tasks

In community

- Listen well
- Be friendly to everyone
- Give compliments to each other
- Understand each other’s needs

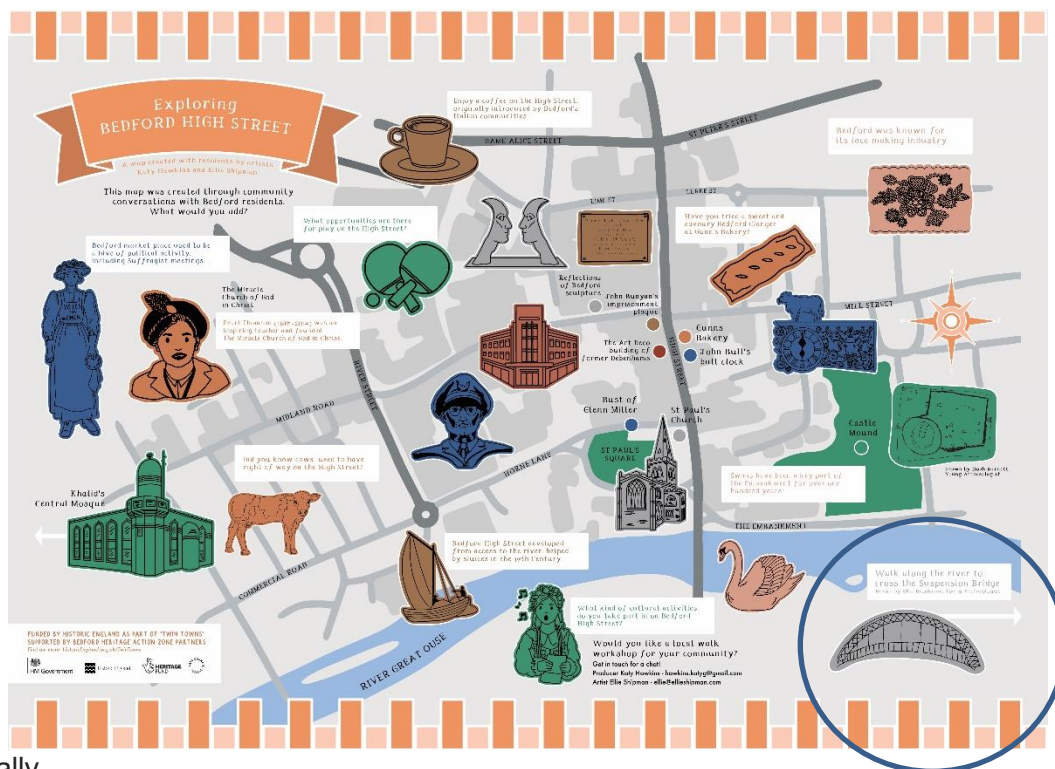
For much of the time, we do see these things in school – our challenge is to see and hear these things *all* the time (well, at least 99% of the time!). That is our challenge for the next few years!

6EV



Young Archaeologist

We're always delighted to share student successes – Ellie in Year 7 is a member of Bedford Youth Archaeology club (Y.A.C) and a few months ago they, along with people all over Bedfordshire, were asked by Historic England, to draw a part of Bedford they like to visit and explain why. The leaflet has just come into print, and Ellie's drawing was chosen to be in it – she is really proud – as are parents ... and we are proud too! Ellie drew the suspension bridge on the map.



...and finally ...

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL CRANFIELD

Too often we underestimate the power of touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn life around.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Value of the Month
October 2021

KINDNESS

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."
Ephesians 4:32 ESV

My wish for you is that you continue. Continue to be who and how you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness.

— Maya Angelou —

IN A WORLD
WHERE YOU CAN BE
anything
BE KIND

choose choose choose
KIND KIND KIND

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Enjoy ... Achieve ... Excel ... Care

choose
KIND
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As we move into October, our Value of the Month is 'Kindness'. Our Values poster also marks our celebration of Black History Month by citing the words of Martin Luther King and Maya Angelou. In addition, the poster references some of my favourite books – Wonder (which Year 7 have been reading in Community Time). Wonder tells the story of August Pullman – an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face. It is a story of kindness and treating everyone with respect, dignity and care. The novel inspired the 'Choose Kind' movement. If you haven't read it yet, it is a wonderful read – whatever your age! Our Christian faith is also rooted in

kindness. During his life on earth, Jesus showed us the perfect example of kindness in action. For three years of ministry, he looked toward the needs of others, never turning them away. He could be counted on. Whatever your faith, or whether you have no faith, showing kindness to others is something we can all embrace. As Martin Luther King suggests – the smallest act of caring, a kind word can have a huge impact. When we are angry, annoyed or frustrated, it is easy to be unkind and to lash out ... that is the moment when we all need to step back, let the feelings settle and then be intentional in showing kindness – 'astonish a mean world with your kindness'.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mike Simpson
Headteacher