

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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

Update Letter 16-11-2021



Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Our value for the month of November is 'Courage' and I had not expected myself and the staff to have had to demonstrate so much courage in the face of the recent abusive postings on TikTok. We were heartened and guided by the words of our Values ambassadors: *Show courage to notice the good and ignore the bad; Show courage to stand up for what is right.* We were also very grateful for the kind words and messages of support from parents and students. We have continued to work with the police and TikTok to resolve the matter and this

is proving to be very challenging – especially with regard to TikTok. Thanks to Safer Internet UK, all the accounts have now been taken down and we have identified the creators behind the accounts. The students who are currently in school have been harshly sanctioned and the matter is still being processed by the Crime Bureau and the CyberCrime team. As mentioned in the letter last week, we were also very disappointed, shocked and saddened to see that many students were involved in 'liking' the offensive posts and that several had 'followed' the accounts. There were, however, some very brave and responsible students who made comments saying that this was not acceptable, that the postings had gone too far and that the creators should stop. We have had special assemblies with all students to talk through the dangers of TikTok and, more widely, about keeping themselves safe online, but also about treating others with respect.

As you may have seen in the news, this has happened in many schools across the country and although TikTok say that they are being responsive and responsible, we have certainly not found this to be the case. As adults, we have all found this 'virtual attack' difficult to process and deal with. It is a testimony to the resilience, dedication and belief in the goodness of the vast majority of our students that staff have still come into work, have taught amazing lessons, have cared for students and have been there for each other in spite of this abuse. I sincerely hope that none of our students (or you as parents/carers) ever have to experience anything like this. **I therefore, urge all students and parents to delete the TikTok app from phones immediately** – students are not safe (and in some cases, are not able to make safe decisions). Only with a consolidated and significant reduction in accounts will TikTok possibly start to take notice, demonstrate their responsibility and adhere to their own community guidelines.

Anti-Bullying Week

This week is 'Anti-Bullying week' (the unfortunate irony is not lost on us!). This year, the theme this year is 'One Kind Word'. At Holywell, we define Bullying as behaviour which is:

- intentional,
- deliberately hurtful
- and repeated over a period of time.

Bullying, in any form is NOT tolerated at Holywell. Where we are made aware of bullying, we act swiftly and decisively to address and stop this unacceptable behaviour.



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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We want all of our students and staff to feel safe and able to enjoy, learn and achieve. This is our 'Call To Action':

- Be Kind; Ask if someone is feeling okay. Are they having a good day?
- It can be easy to follow a kindness 'trend' by posting online, but it is harder to commit to kindness in our daily words and actions. Take the time to be kind to others. One Kind Word really can make a difference, especially for those who may be struggling. It can be a turning point. It can make their day and it can help break the cycle of bullying.
- Kindness fuels kindness. One kind word or one act of kindness leads to another. So, whoever you are, wherever you are, online or offline, remember one act of kindness can create a ripple effect that spreads outwards, touching the lives of others and inspiring kindness everywhere.
- It starts with One Kind Word. It starts today.


At Holywell, we try to be peaceful problem-solvers, always aiming to find an assertive solution to a challenging situation. Throughout the week, students will be exploring different scenarios and thinking about how they can combat bullying and bullying behaviours with ONE KIND WORD.




What does the Bible say?

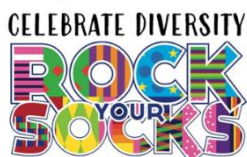
God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
2 Timothy 1:7

Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them
Matthew 7:12

 ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

Anti-Bullying Week 2021 – One Kind Word





Today – Tuesday - we will be celebrating our diversity in school with 'Odd Socks Day'. We are encouraging students and staff to come to school in different, odd socks - it's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week! It's also an opportunity to encourage everyone to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or to buy expensive costumes. All people have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school – parents and carers could also take part at work or at home; it couldn't be simpler! You do not have to raise money to take part - the most important thing is the message of Odd Socks Day.



Fund-raising

I'm delighted to announce that we collected an amazing £602.66 for The Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Appeal through our charity non-uniform day. This brilliant gift to 'Water is Life' will bring safe clean water to the communities in the Congo, so transforming daily lives and giving hope for the future.

We have another opportunity to support a different charity on the 19th November when Holywell will be holding a non-uniform day in aid of this year's 'Children In Need' event. The theme for the day is 'Be Bold, Be

Bright, Be Brave'. If students would like to take part in this non-uniform event, the commitment is a £1.00 donation ... if students do not wish to participate, normal school uniform is expected.



Remembrance Day



On Sunday, Holywell took part in the Acts of Remembrance in Cranfield and Wootton. We had our own Act of Remembrance on Thursday 11th, November at 11.00am – our first via Zoom! All students in school also had the opportunity to take part in our annual Remembrance Day Art challenge. This year, the focus was on the 60 Cranfield soldiers who died in World War One and World War Two. Each Tutor Group created Poppy-Wordles of the names of each soldier ... and we are researching the stories behind the names. We have been discovering all sorts of family links. Charles Parker was Miss Warren's Great, Great Uncle! He was Miss Warren's Nan's Uncle – Mary King was Miss Warren's Nan and Charles was Mary King's mum's brother. (NB> Mary King was also Amelia King's (5HSH) Great Nan!!). Charles was born in Cranfield in 1892. He lived in Holly Cottage (where the RGR garage now stands). He lived there with his parents and his family – he was the 7th child of George and Hannah Parker. In 1913, Charles emigrated to Australia to work on farms there. In 1916 he enlisted in the Australian Infantry Force and sailed to France in December 1916. For most of 1917, he fought in Belgium where he survived several battles. His last letter to his wife was on the 6th June 1917 where he said he was 'just going into action'. He died from wounds from that battle on the 10th June and is buried in Baillieul Cemetery in France. We are grateful for all the sacrifices made by our local heroes in each and every conflict and pray that we never have to experience the horrors of war for ourselves.



Teaching and Learning

Throughout all our recent challenges, students have been enjoying some wonderful teaching and learning. We have been doing tours for prospective parents and students and they have all been impressed by our polite, kind industrious students. In **Food Technology**, students have been busy cooking. Year 8 have been designing and making their own pizzas, Year 7 have been making scones, Year 6 have been making cookies and Year 5 have been making fruit salad. In **Technology**, students have been designing boxes, casting pewter necklaces and using all the wonderful equipment we have – from sanders and saws to designing on the new laptops for the laser-cutter. In our new timetabled **PSHE** lessons, students have been exploring and labelling feelings, they have been debating ethical issues about personal identity, they have been exploding stereotypes and learning about conflict resolution.



Science have been exploring molecules (one group was spotted out on the playground with Mr Colbourne re-enacting the different behaviours of gases, liquids and solids), they have been filtering water and creating strong structures ... and even exploring parachutes. Art lessons have ranged from designing gargoyles to be created in clay to sketching cuddly toys and other objects as they develop their still-life drawing skills. Last week was **Maths** Week so students had various challenges – everything from times-tables to quizzes to complex puzzles and games. Speaking of games, students have been really enjoying using the new desktop computers in **ICT** to create their



own games using KODU and Scratch ... whilst also taking some time out to use the 'Paint' programme to create remembrance displays. In **English**, Year 5 have just about completed reading and exploring 'Kensuke's Kingdom', Year 6 no know how to write balanced arguments and are about embark on 'Journey to the River Sea', Year 7 have been reading 'Holes' and Year 8 have completed their Gothic writing, ready to start studying Dickens' 'A Christmas Carl (with a trip to see the Old Vic production in January). **History** have been exploring the Anglo-Saxons (everything from



crop-rotation pop-up books to one group having a fascinating discussion about whether they would like to live in Anglo-Saxo times ... or now!), Year 5 have been exploring Cranfield and its history and Year 7 went to Mountfitchett Castle – only our second post-lockdown trip!. In **RE**, Year 8 have had some fascinating discussions about miracles and the nature of God, whilst in **Geography** students have been discovering what makes volcanoes erupt.



Music lessons have been full of composing using the

keyboards, whilst also taking time out to analyse film music. There was an interesting analogy between different movements and variations in music and varieties of Haribo! ... and in the **Year 8 Option**, the new Musical Theatre option has started rehearsing and preparing for a Spring production of 'High School Musical'. This will be our first-ever full-scale musical



productions and we are hoping that Covid-9 will stay away long enough for us all to enjoy this together. There is also a new **Spanish** option and the ever-popular songs from Mr Johnson are helping students to learn **French** along with immersive target-language teaching. In **PE**, students (and staff) are still loving our new sports hall where this term badminton has been one of the main sports studied. Other year groups have explored hockey, netball, rugby and there has even been some orienteering.



...and finally ...

It's also been a relief to see our Covid-19 cases reduce and 'slow down'. We had our in-school vaccinations on Monday for students aged 12+ (120+ students were vaccinated and several have had vaccinations at walk-in centres too). We hope that this will give us an extra layer of protection. I hope that we all stay safe and I thank you all, once again, for your continued support and interest.

Best wishes

Mike Simpson
Headteacher