

# ACS NEWSLETTER

Monday 04 May - Friday 22 May, Issue #23

## COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Please click on the links below for  
COMMUNITY and EMERGENCY support  
information available in your area.

[BRENT COUNCIL](#)

[EALING COUNCIL](#)

[HARROW COUNCIL](#)

## LIBRARY NEWSLETTERS

Click on the images below to see this  
month's editions of our ER and SA Library  
Newsletters with information about books  
and library events.

ER Library Newsletter

SA Library Newsletter



[વીડિયો ગુજરાતીમાં જોવો](#)

[Afka soomaaliga ka daawo Video-ga](#)

### Headteacher's Message Transcript

Hello and welcome to our first video parents newsletter.

I hope you and your family are staying safe and well in this difficult time. We know that our community has been affected by coronavirus. Families have experienced personal loss, they have experienced stress and in some cases financial difficulties. We want to let you know that support is available, so please contact the school directly on 020 8902 2038 or email your child's pastoral manager and let them know how we could help you and your family.

I am sure you are also aware of the current debate in the media about schools reopening. I wanted to explain our position on this. Much of the discussion in the media has been about primary schools. We know that reception, year 1 and year 6 will be returning in the first week of June. But as a secondary school there are different expectations the Department of Education has put on our school. We are expected to prepare for face to face contact with year 10 and year 12 before the end of the summer term. So for us it will be bringing year 10 and year 12 students in for meetings at some point in the summer term.

We discussed this with our Governors last Wednesday and we agreed we would begin planning for these meetings. We will of course proceed cautiously and safely; the health and safety of students and staff is our first and most important priority. But most importantly we will wait and we will need to wait for the government review of lockdown which will take place on 28 May. The Government review will decide whether the year 10 and year 12 meetings should take place after half term. So to clarify our position after half term, there will be a further message which will go out in the first week of June. To give us a better picture of your needs as parents we will be sending you a parent survey later this week and this will give us information about how things are going at home for you and also what we can do to help.

Our current position in the school is that we are open to four groups of students and the first group of students have already been contacted by direct phone calls. These students are students that have an education health care plan (these are special needs students), students where there is a social worker involved with the family and the third group of students who are vulnerable. All of these students have already received phone calls from our staff. The fourth category are the students of critical workers and this is quite an extensive list of people, where parents work in:

- Health and Social Care, e.g. doctors, nurses, midwives, care workers
- Education and Child Care, e.g. teachers, support staff, social workers
- Public Services, e.g. the justice system
- Local or National Government, e.g. benefit payments
- Production, Processing, Distribution, Sale and Delivery of Food
- Public Safety and National Security, e.g. police, ministry of defence, fire and rescue services, prison probation staff
- Transport
- Utilities, e.g. oil, gas, electricity, postal services, waste disposal.

So if your child could benefit from coming into school and you are involved in any of these critical services you can contact the school and we will provide a place for your child during the day. In summary, this provision is for children with an education health care plan, the children who have social worker involvement and children who are vulnerable. Phone calls have been made to these students. However we will also have children in school whose parents are critical workers.

Please remember if your child comes into school they will be following the normal school day, but without their normal teacher because our teachers are setting work from home. They will not be with their normal teacher, they will be with a volunteer teacher or a teaching assistant and they will be working by and large in a computer room following the same work as their other classmates at home. It is of course very important that any student who comes to school follows the necessary social distancing rules such as washing their hands and making sure they keep themselves two metres away from other students.

I would like to finish by thanking you for all the tremendous work that you have done at home to support your child's education. We do know just how challenging this must be for you and your family - supporting children at home and supervising a number of children - so thank you very much for all the fantastic work you are doing.

A reminder that next week is half term week. We will be returning on 1 June and we will be sending out a parents newsletter during that week, so please do check our website which has all this information. If you are a critical worker please contact your pastoral manager who will advise you about the next steps to bring your child back to school.

Thank you very much for listening.

## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING



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Looking after your mental health and wellbeing is really important while staying at home because of coronavirus (COVID-19). To support parents and carers in keeping children safe, happy and able to enjoy life, we have put together a range of resources that you can access online.

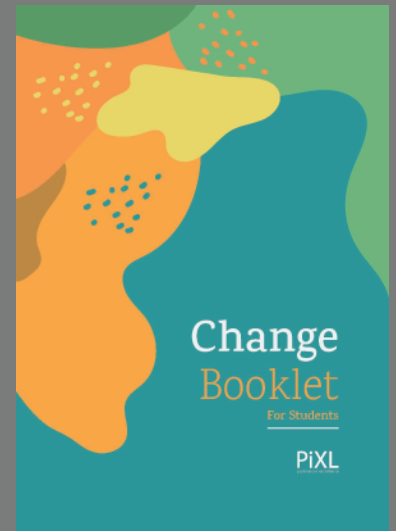


- Action for happiness monthly calendar
- Young Minds - questions to ask your child in self isolation
- Anna Freud Mental Health Advice

## Coping with change

Are you finding it difficult to cope with all the changes caused by the Coronavirus?

Check out the student booklet below from PiXL with helpful information and advice on how to cope with change.



## Mental Health Awareness Week

The theme for this year's Mental Health Awareness Week is kindness. Displaying an act of kindness not only benefits others, but it can be good for our own wellbeing too. Check out the guide below from the Mental Health Foundation with steps you can take to become more kind to yourself and others.



## UNESCO Arts Education Week

Would you like to take part in the UNESCO International Arts Education Week 2020? Click on the poster below for more details:



## Creativity during lockdown

Check out this brilliant presentation of works made by our textiles students during lockdown. A challenging task without the proper equipment, but students have managed to be very creative with paper manipulation - one student has been dying his own fabrics at home using spices!



## ACS Poetry competition

Do you enjoy writing poetry? Are you good at expressing yourself in a creative way? Mr Osmany is organising a poetry competition for students - and there are prizes to be won! More details will be coming very soon. In the meantime, head over to [Authority](#) to watch a poetry masterclass with Kwame Alexander or to [BBC Teach](#) for lots of videos with tips about how to write your own poetry.



## REMOTE LEARNING TIPS FOR PARENTS

### Stick to a routine

As lockdown continues, our routines are even more important and will help your child to be in the right frame of mind for learning. At the start of the day this includes getting up at the same time as a normal school day and eating a healthy breakfast. At the end of the day encourage your child to switch off from school work at a fixed time. We are posting lessons according to your child's normal school timetable, but we understand that it might not be possible to follow this exact schedule at home. The most important thing is that your child has a routine of logging on regularly and completing the work.

### Ask your child to explain the specific tasks they are working on

Your child's teachers are posting lessons and tasks on Google Classrooms. Try asking your child to click into the classroom for each subject and show you the lessons they are working on and the tasks they have submitted. This is important for two reasons. Firstly, we've found that some of our students are very good at making it look like they are logged on and working when they are actually doing something else online! And secondly, explaining an idea or concept to someone else is an important part of the learning process and can help us clarify ideas in our own mind.

### Plan time away from the screen

We don't expect students to sit in front of the screen all day and many teachers are now posting tasks which can be completed by hand, away from the computer. Your child just needs to take a picture of their work and upload it to Google Classroom so that the teacher can see how they got on.

### Encourage your child to read

Reading is one of the most important things for your child's development. Your child should be reading every day. Brent Libraries [link: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/elibrary>] have a fantastic selection of e-books, audiobooks, magazines and newspapers which you and your child can enjoy free of charge.

### If your child doesn't understand, encourage them to ask the teacher

We have lots of online textbooks and support, so re-reading something slowly and carefully is an important first step. This initial struggle to understand something is part of the learning process, so encourage your child to be resilient and not give up too easily. If that doesn't help, your child can post a comment on Google Classroom. Your child's teachers are here to help. Encourage your child to be as specific as possible; for example, they could say which specific question, step or idea they are struggling with.

## Britain's largest series of maths contests

## ACS student achieves 1st place in Sumdog's Brent Maths Contest

Congratulations to Aniksha (Y7) for achieving 1st place in Sumdog's Brent Maths Contest. Sumdog is an online platform where students can play maths games and earn points to increase their ranking on the leaderboard. We are also pleased to announce that four other students across Year 7 and 8 made it into the top 10 as well, each being awarded with a certificate of merit. We had an impressive total of 24 students from Year 7, 8 and 9 making it into the top 50! A really big congratulations to all those who participated.



To help keep your children as safe as possible online, please check this interactive guide with practical instructions on how to set parental controls on their devices.