

ACS NEWSLETTER

Monday 4 January - Friday 12 February, Issue #6

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 check out this
month's editions of our ER and SA Library
Newsletters with information about books
and library events.

[ER Library Newsletter](#)

[SA Library Newsletter](#)



Photo: Mr Gerard McKenna BSc(Hons) NPQH

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the half term break I would like to thank you for your tremendous support during lockdown. We fully appreciate the difficulties you have faced as parents and carers, having to look after your children while at the same time supporting their learning. In spite of these challenges we know that you have been very successful. Our attendance to lessons has been extremely high and the engagement of children in lessons and the quality of work submitted has exceeded our expectations. So, please make sure you and your children take a well-deserved break and please give your family the opportunity to refresh and recharge ahead of the next half term.

I am very pleased to inform you that we received a very positive report from our School Improvement Partner who we commissioned to conduct a review of our remote learning provision. The report was overwhelmingly positive. Here are some quotes from the report: "Students said they felt safe online, focused and calm"; "Students have been able to maintain continuity and momentum in their learning"; "Across all subjects, adjustments have been made to ensure that appropriate topics are taught online"; "Live marking and a range of resources have ensured that pupils stay engaged"; "Live teaching has been successful and the school has ensured that safeguarding procedures remain robust during this period". You can find more information about our remote learning provision on our [remote education webpage](#).

I am sure you are just as keen as we are to see your children back in school. The Government has informed us that the earliest children will be allowed to return to school is Monday 8th March. We therefore expect the Government to make an announcement on their return very shortly after half term. We will of course communicate our reopening plans as soon as we have received clarification from the Department for Education. We anticipate that children returning to school will be expected to take a Lateral Flow Test. Please look out for the online Lateral Flow Test (LFT) consent forms which will be delivered to your email address very shortly.

Shortly after half term we expect to hear from Ofqual about the way in which our Year 11 and Year 13 students will be assessed for their GCSE and A Level qualifications this summer. Again, as soon as we receive this information we will explain how we plan to

The new NHS Test & Trace app

The NHS COVID-19 app is a vital part of the NHS Test and Trace service and is available to download for FREE in England and Wales. The app is the fastest way to see if you're at risk from coronavirus and has a number of tools to protect you. Brent Council has also put together explainer videos in some of the most commonly spoken languages in Brent: **English, Somali, Arabic, Gujarati**. For more information about the app, please visit our [website](#).



Be alert to Vaccine Fraud

Criminals are using the Covid-19 vaccine to obtain sensitive information from the public. Please be alert to vaccine fraud and remember the NHS will:

- X NEVER** ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- X NEVER** ask for your bank details
- X NEVER** arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- X NEVER** ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents, such as your passport

BE ALERT TO VACCINE FRAUD

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing, looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly, pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.

PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS

The NHS will:

- NEVER** ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- NEVER** ask for your bank details
- NEVER** arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- NEVER** ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

FURTHER GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

National Cyber Security Centre - If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to reportphishing@nsc.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.

Action Fraud - If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft, you should report this directly to Action Fraud either online, actionfraud.police.uk or via phone 0300 123 3333.

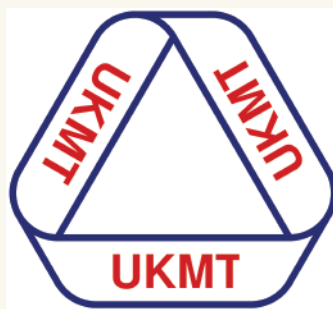
CrimeStoppers - If you have any information relating to weed fraud you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting CrimeStoppers COVID Fraud Hotline online, weedsolutions@nsc.gov.uk or phone 0800 857 8006.

support your children. We know that assessments will be very different to the Centre Assessment Grades we were asked to provide in 2020. This year we will not provide “predicted grades”, but we will need to gather evidence to verify the grade children are working at. This is likely to mean that we will need Year 11 and Year 13 to sit assessments after the Easter break to ensure we have gathered sufficient evidence about the quality of their work. We are fully aware of the pressures these assessments will place on young people and we will do everything we can to make sure students perform to the best of their ability.

Having gathered the views of students about their challenges of remote learning and their concerns about the return to school, we would now like to gather the views of parents about your experience with home learning under lockdown. Please look out for a link to our online survey in your emails or in the MyEd mobile phone App.

Finally, I would like to thank the many parents and carers who afforded very kind feedback to our administrative team who have been calling to check on the wellbeing of our students. The comments really helped to cheer our teachers and support staff. I am sure you will be pleased to hear you will shortly receive a report about the attendance, quantity and quality of your child's work since Christmas. Please do contact the school to speak to your child's Pastoral Manager if you have any concerns about the report.

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Winners 2020 1 Gold, 3 Silvers, 9 Bronze



Our A Level Mathematicians at Alperton took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and are celebrating great success with 1 gold, 3 silvers and 9 bronzes in this year's challenge.

Chandru Suresh was “Best in School” and received the **Gold Certificate**.

Esther Engola, Kundan Mahitkumar and Om Gami received the **Silver Certificates**.

Corey Date, Dhruv Patel, Kavya Shah, Abdulrahman Dahir, Himani Dharmendra, Disha Kirticumar, Priyanga Magindan, Smit Navinkumar, Mathushan Sivanathan and Jiyal Vala received the **Bronze Certificates**.

The Senior Mathematics Challenge is a national competition organised by the UKMT annually and is aimed at 16-19 year-old pupils. The aim of the competition is to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency using basic mathematical techniques to solve problems. Congratulations to the winners! We wish them the very best of luck in their future maths competitions!

Congratulation to the winner of the Zebra Crossing Design competition

COLOURFUL CROSSING DESIGN WINNER!

All is the vehicle that allows local communities to express what cannot be put into words and it is extremely effective at doing precisely that on Ealing Road.

Ealing Road is a lively animated High Street that perfectly blends British and traditional Indian cultures. This is the first community colourful crossing in Brent and forms part of the public realm improvements. I wish to thank everyone involved in making this happen and look forward to the launch in 2021.

Designer: **Shweta Teller**
Lead Designer: Dr. Supriya, Shweta & Planning

Logos: Brent, London Borough of Culture 2020, Alperton Community School, AIR

Congratulations to the winner of the Ealing Road zebra crossing design. The talented students of Alperton Community School worked with Andria Zafirakou to produce designs for the local zebra crossing on Ealing Road, a project supported by Brent 2020, London Borough of Culture. Thanks to everyone who voted. Please click on the image to the left to see the winning design. We look forward to seeing this painted on the road later this year.

Alperton student wins the Maker Challenge competition run by Imperial College

Congratulations to our student Rafiatu in Year 11 who won the Maker Challenge competition last week. The Maker Challenge is a programme run by Imperial College London for young people aged 14-18 with a passion for 'making' and it covers a wide range of activities including: Arduino, Business and Soft Skills, Prototyping, Design Thinking, Electronics, Laser Cutting, 3D Printing. The programme gives the participants the opportunity to develop an idea and see it through to completion with the support of staff and students from Imperial College London.

Our student Rafiatu was involved in a project designed to help people who struggle with comfortable writing and pen/pencil grip due to several factors, such as poor grip, disability or old age. Below you can read more about her experience with the project and the products developed:



"My project for the Maker Challenge, called Writer Aid, was inspired by someone very close to me. He has Cerebral Palsy and greatly struggles with writing grip. Despite being provided with different products to assist him with this problem, they were all ineffective. Hence, I decided to come up with a writing aid called MagnoPen, designed to completely support someone's grip as well as showing correct finger placements and providing absolute comfort whilst writing."

The pen comes with a pair of copper gloves which can act separately as compression gloves to help circulate blood flow in areas of pain and aid people with arthritis. The pen is attached to the hand through the gloves and an adjustable strap located at the back of your hand, below the area in between your forefinger and thumb. The gloves have metal fingertips which are placed in a curved magnetic hole. The resulting attraction provides a secure grip and freedom of movement, which in the long term can help improve the overall condition."

Rafiatu has shown extreme dedication in taking part in the project as well as the STEM Potential Programme and we are really proud of her achievement. A special thank you to Mr Lazaroo for all his support. Please [click here](#) to view Rafiatu's Maker Challenge Project Submission which includes her video presentation and also a link to her Writer Aid website.

How to support your child's mental health

Below you can find some useful websites and guides to help you find the support you need for your child's mental health during the coronavirus pandemic. The Young Minds website has a dedicated section with tips, advice and where to find further support if you need it.



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.



Are you passionate about your community?

Volunteer to become a [Parent Champion](#) to support parents/carers of young people.

Excellent A Level Tamil examination results

Congratulations to our A Level Tamil students on an excellent set of results in the November 2020 examinations. Nine students sat the A Level examinations last autumn and we are pleased to announce that they achieved 4 A* grades, 4 A grades and 1 B grade. These are tremendous results particularly under the current coronavirus restrictions. Our students have demonstrated incredible resilience and determination to succeed and achieve the results they deserve. A big thank you to all the teachers who encouraged and supported them and well done to these students on their tenacity and resilience!

For further help and advice to help you look after the mental wellbeing of your child, please visit Every Mind Matters website below.



Receptionist and Admin Assistant

Please [click here](#) for the job description. Apply by Sunday 28 February 2021.

Online safety during school closures

Now that people are spending more time online, it is important to ensure our children stay safe when using the Internet. Below you can find some useful resources about online safety for parents and children. If you have any concerns about online activity, please seek advice by contacting the school office or using a recognised helpline, such as NSPCC.

Below you can download a poster with information about screen time, useful apps and other internet safety advice.

Below you can find a poster from National Online Safety with further tips and advice on how to support your child to safely express themselves online.

Safeguarding during lockdown

The pressures of being in the house all the time and not having much access to outside space or exercise during lockdown can create problems other than the coronavirus. Family members and people in the household might change their behaviour and become less tolerant, argumentative or even threatening. We know that families are facing so many challenges at the moment with disruptions to school, work and family life. Below you can find some lockdown specific articles to help you and your family stay safe and improve your wellbeing.

Surviving family life under lockdown	Online Mental Health Support
Screen Time: Should I be worried	Video games during lockdown

We want all families to be safe in these extraordinary times and there are many places you can turn to for help. If you need any assistance, please contact:

- Your Pastoral Manager
- Your Designated Safeguarding Officers
- Your Form Tutor
- Email: safeguarding@alperton.brent.sch.uk
- Childline
- NSPCC



AT HOME SHOULDN'T MEAN AT RISK: #YouAreNotAlone

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic abuse - controlled or physically, emotionally, sexually or economically abused by a partner or family member - you can now access support safely and discreetly at locations across the UK. Please check out the posters below for more information.

THREE WAYS TO ESCAPING VIOLENCE