

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter February 2021 Volume 3 - Issue 63 Website:
www.oaklands.hounslow.sch.uk

Head Teacher's News

Dear parents and carers

As we reach the first half term break of 2021 the year has already brought us challenges in delivering your children's education. Having so successfully reopened to most of our pupils in September it was disappointing to find that once again we have entered another lockdown period. I am sure you will all agree that Oaklands staff have risen to the challenge and that the home education and remote education programmes which are in place have been of really good quality. I know from the quantity of positive feedback that so many of our pupils are enjoying and continuing to learn at home.

We do understand that supporting your children in home learning is a challenging and time consuming task, and appreciate all you are doing, especially thank you for your detailed feedback which enables the teachers to plan work precisely to children's learning needs. Please do keep the teachers updated with how things are going and anything we can help with.

I have particularly enjoyed the video lessons that teachers and support staff are making so that young people can take part in their own time at home. We know how popular this is, in fact last week alone students watched 570 video lessons!

As I write community infection rates in Hounslow continue to be very high, which has affected both our pupils and families and our staff members as well. We understand that we need to wait for Government guidance on when it is judged to be safe to be fully open again. This lockdown the Government have given an undertaking that there will be two weeks' notice before changes happen. We will keep you informed as soon as we have more information.

This half term we have had seven classes of young people in school, and they have received the best education possible with similar activities to those being sent home. Pupils have particularly enjoyed meeting their friends on line. We are all hoping that the students will all be back together soon.

Thank you for your ongoing support

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Accessing local services

There is various support available for you to access during lockdown. I would like to share with you all the following services that are provided by Hounslow local authority. If you are located in different boroughs, please check with your local authority, as they may be offering similar services by checking on their council website or social services departments. Also please try to check your emails regularly, as I send information from local services that are offering support to families.

Hounslow Local Offer

Hounslow Local Offer is a very informative site, and is a guide to services available for children and young people aged 0-25 years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). For more information visit; https://fsd.hounslow.gov.uk/synergyweb/local_offer/

Hounslow Parent/ Carer Forum

The Hounslow Parent/Carer Forum gives you an opportunity to meet with other parent/carers of disabled children, and to discuss issues surrounding SEN with them and meet various professionals.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Parent Forum meetings are being held online via Microsoft Teams. Please email the PCF on hounslowpcf@gmail.com to be put on their mailing list, where they will keep you updated on the meetings and other news.

Short Breaks for Disabled Children Newsletter

The Short Breaks for Disabled Children Newsletter should already be sent directly to all families by the Short Breaks team Wednesday 27th January, but if you have not received this please do contact them on 0208 583 3636 or download the newsletter from; [file:///H:/Downloads/Short_Breaks_Half_Term_Newsletter_jan21%20\(1\).pdf](file:///H:/Downloads/Short_Breaks_Half_Term_Newsletter_jan21%20(1).pdf)

Hounslow's Housing Allocation Policy - How To Understand & Advise Residents

Date: 19 February, 10:00-11:30 zoom

What is a Housing Allocation policy? A guide to understanding, navigating and advising people on how best to secure suitable housing. Delivered by Vicky Fewkes, a highly experienced Solicitor from Ealing Law Centre who will share her insight on how to practically use Hounslow Council's Housing Allocation

Hounslow Connexions Service

Connexions service are available to support young people age 16 to 25 that have a learning difficulty and/or disability to help with their options. By providing Information, guidance and advice about education courses, training courses and job opportunities. As well as support for Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) transition reviews.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Connexions Service is only available via telephone or email. If you need support call (020 8583 5151) to book an appointment or drop them an email on connexions@hounslow.gov.uk

Family Learning

Family Learning and Adult and Community Learning Hounslow, offers a range of free courses for parents and families (learning with your child). Please visit <https://www.hace.ac.uk/> for more information or call 0208 583 6000 to enrol or find out more.

Here is the latest Family Learning Offer: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u7MW8E-CCgukBWkwrC0aT_UuNrx0a-hx/view

Here is a video clip of the workshops families enjoyed in 2020;; <https://youtu.be/7ylggNp7MQ8>

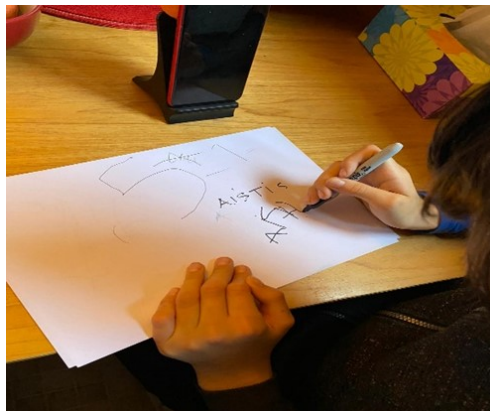


Have great break and stay safe, Muna

Most of our Kew 3 students have been enjoying working from home this terms. We have been revising the skills we learnt the previous term to consolidate our learning, and parents have been very supportive with engaging our pupils with homeworking. We are looking forward to having you with us, when it is safe to do so.

For the students that have been with us in school, it has been a fun term as well. We have been watching the videos our teachers have made, and we have been engaging in practical activities practicing our 'Look-Listen-Do' skills.

Great learning everybody!



Kew 6 students have been working hard both at home and at school!

Well done to parents and students home learning, keep up all of the good work and hope to see you once it is safe to do so.

Students at school have done well settling into a new routine! They have particularly enjoyed making cous cous salad... Yum yum!





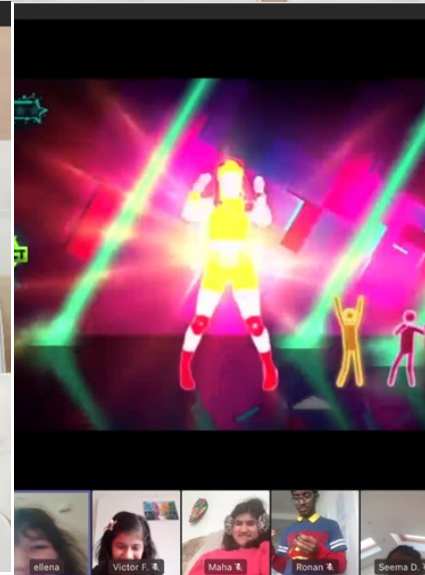
Richmond



It has been non-stop in Richmond department even with the lockdown! Since the start of January- staff, students and families at home have been working very hard on the remote learning lessons over Teams. For the students working from School we have been working hard on the targets and lessons such as E.C.T. The Richmond department have also been in the sensory room and outside exploring the climate. We also set up a Safari lesson and looked at the different animals in the Jungle.

At home, students have been outside looking at the cold weather and working on their TAC-PAC lessons. We hope you are safe and well.





This term Jam Master Jim and his MC

Let's see what

Sixth Form

have been up to





6th form students not at school this term have all been busy at home doing different activities, including learning how to fold and organise their clothes and lots of cooking!



Project SEARCH (GSK & London Borough of Hounslow)

Project SEARCH is a supported internship model that runs in many countries. West Thames College currently runs a Project SEARCH internship across two sites: GSK in Brentford, and The London Borough of Hounslow, at Hounslow House.

We have a maximum of 24 places each year, 12 on each site.

The programme is aimed at **17-24 year olds with a learning disability and an EHCP**, ensuring that they get the same opportunities as everyone else. We have a success rate for getting our trainees into work or apprenticeships of 70-80%.

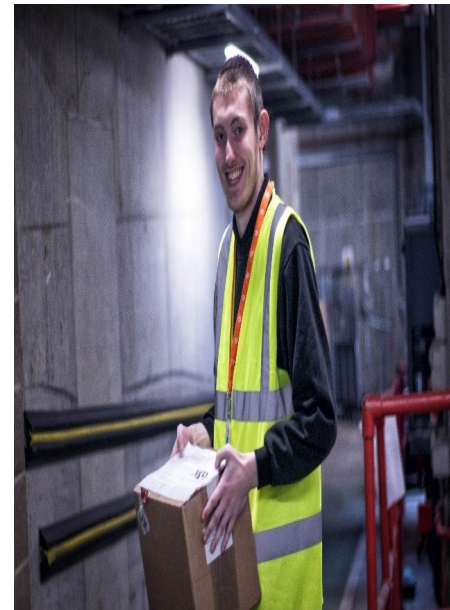
Interns are supported by a tutor, job coaches, and industry mentors through three different training placements over the course of a standard college year. They will gain an employability qualification and receive training in a work sector of their choosing, in order to become employable.

We hold assessment days at which we assess applicants for suitability to the project, looking at IT and literacy levels, team working skills, attitude to work, and ability to follow instructions. We take trainees that are assessed as being likely to benefit from a year of learning work place skills and attitudes.

At the end of the programme graduates are supported by job coaches through job searches, applications, interviews, and through the training and induction phases of employment.

Placements currently* offered:

Security, grounds, Catering/Hospitality, Housekeeping, Portering, Mailroom, Care work, Office work, Reception, Bike workshop, Business Support, Customer Service, Library and Audio Visual.



Project CLARK

at GSK and Hounslow House



Our supported internships are work-based programmes for young people with learning disabilities, which support their move from education to employment. Up to 12 students on each programme have an extended work experience placement at GSK House (Brentford) or the London Borough of Hounslow, taught by West Thames College teachers and supported by full-time job coaches. The project is for young people aged 17-24, with an EHCP, who wish to progress towards employment.

They are doing individual one-to-one video calls with anyone who is considering applying for the programme. If you are considering or thinking of applying, or have questions about the project, please email: stuart.x.tait@gsk.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2021 –UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1st March – National Careers Week

INSET Days Monday Half Term 15th February - 19th February 2021 Inclusive

Students return Monday 22nd February 2021

Easter Holidays Thursday 1st April - Friday 16th April 2021 Inclusive

Students return Monday 19th April 2021

May day 3rd May 2021 school closed to staff and students

Half Term Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June Inclusive

Summer Holidays students finish Wednesday 21st July 2021

INSET days 22nd and 23rd July 2021

REMINDEES

Annual Review Reminders

As you are undoubtedly aware, all student annual review meetings have been scheduled in and parents/carers notified via email.

Upon receiving the reminder of the AR (2 weeks prior to the meeting) please contact us to confirm your attendance .

ALL AR'S WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS OR TELEPHONE CONFERENCE!



Please be reminded that all ParentPay accounts need to be cleared by the end of term, and should remain in balance for student lunches at all times. Please note if account debt exceeds £10, a packed lunch must be provided for pupils. If you have any queries or need any assistance with this please contact the office: office@oaklands.uk.net

Medical Appointments

If students have a medical appointment during the school day, please ensure proof of said appointment is emailed to office@oaklands.uk.net beforehand. Unless we have ob-