

# CANFORD

Canford School

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From the Headmaster  
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2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents, Guardians and Colleagues,

At the end of Week 2 of the remote learning experience I remain hugely impressed by the levels of engagement and energy you are all showing in so many ways. I would like to extend my thanks to you all for demonstrating that sense of purpose and commitment in what is a real community effort. We are all learning and it is extremely important that everyone continues to show patience, flexibility, support and consideration for each other. There is a long exeat weekend to look forward to at the end of next week.

Next week the Upper Sixth embark on the College programme which I have no doubt will provide real stimulation and opportunity alongside giving flexibility from the constraints of a more routine timetable. I would urge the Upper Sixth pupils to really take all they can from this excellent programme in the weeks ahead whether it's directed or self directed activity.

We have received the survey results and we are analysing that feedback closely to see what issues have arisen and also to review the suggestions that have been made. There was a great deal of positivity and praise for what is happening in all of the surveys alongside some things to ponder. Everyone will have their own concerns and their own ideas, of course, and so our analysis will seek to draw out themes which we can consider and respond to either with appropriate actions to adjust the programme where possible, or to explain more clearly why things are as they are. I will be sending out a Survey Response next week.

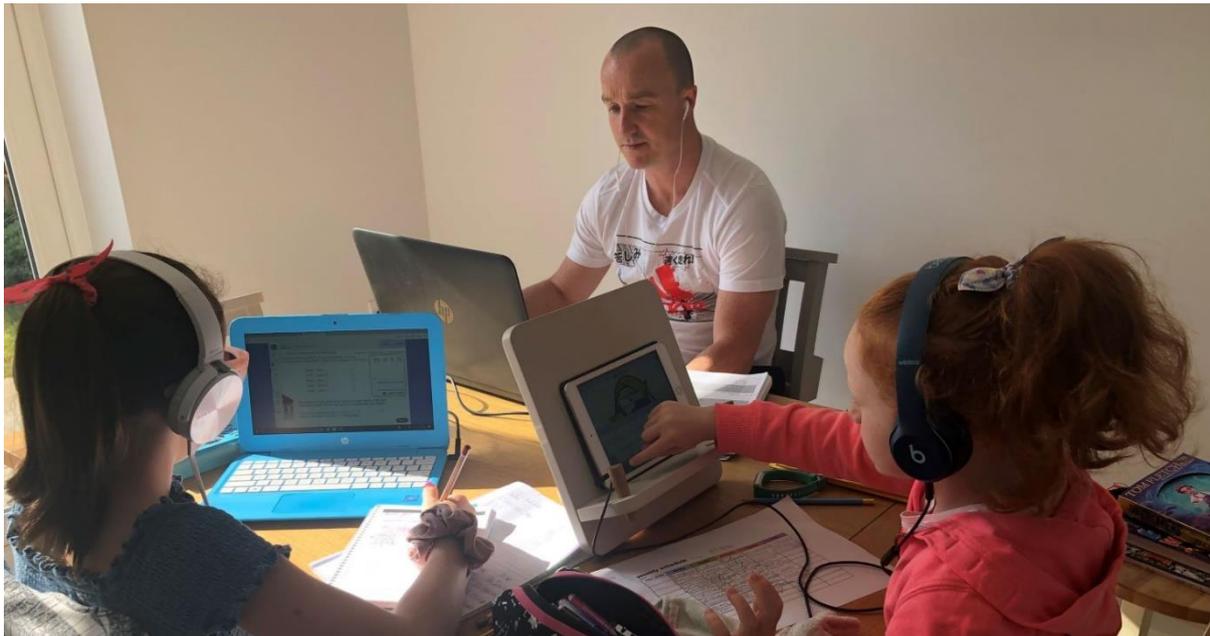
Looking ahead I need to draw your attention to the fact that all day next Thursday and over the Bank holiday weekend we will be carrying out the School's Academic Data Rollover. This is where we update the school information system and this will move all the pupils up and create new year groups, teaching groups, timetables ready for the new timetable and programme which commences on 11<sup>th</sup> May. In order to do this, certain systems need to be updated and that means we will not be able to teach normal classes via Teams on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Instead, work will be set that pupils can do independently. This will not affect the new U6 College programme which will run through Teams as planned. Individual music lessons with visiting music teachers will also still run via Teams on Thursday too.

Change is always a challenge but what has been wonderful to see is the continuity which Canford's pupils and staff have shown in their capacity to be constructive, creative and innovative in so many different ways. From podcasts to poetry to pictures of famous people using a photograph of one's knee, I have been privileged to see, hear and read some of the amazing things which are going on this regard. It was

fantastic to receive news that Canford has been awarded the Eco Schools Silver Award for work done to achieve a more sustainable approach to life. This was driven by Tessa Marley over the past months in her capacity as Environmental Pupil Leader and I know that she is working hard with Ed Loveridge and Alice Milton, the new Environmental Pupil Leaders, to keep this environmental focus and momentum going through lockdown and beyond. It was also a delight to hear live the remote Sounds of Canford concert on Thursday streamed direct from our Upper Sixth musicians' homes. Celia Leavesley is Canford's very own 'Delia' and her online baking programmes have been inspirational to many. The 5K challenge is gathering traction as PBs are posted and more and more pupils sign on for this activity. The remote Community Partnership programme is also gathering pace as pupils remotely support local primary schools, charities, care homes, isolated and vulnerable people in a range of imaginative and valuable ways. A number are also helping to produce facemasks for the NHS. From my end, alongside meeting various pupils and staff remotely, it was an interesting and enlightening experience delivering a 'Virtual Open Day' last Saturday which was very well received by the many prospective parents who tuned in. A wide array of individual and group initiatives are under way as Canfordians, their families and the staff seek to make things happen and to make a difference in these testing times.

Thank you one and all for your ongoing support and your excellent efforts - #Canfordtogether!

I would like to close by sharing with you a photograph of the Collison Family working in perfect harmony to ensure that learning for all is as fruitful and fulfilling as it can be in this 'new normal' environment!



Warmest wishes,

*Ben Vessey*

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