



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS  
building the future

# Weekly Update

Friday 15 May 2020

## Key information

### Possible return to school

We have spent a considerable amount of time this week planning our response to the government's announcement about possible reopening of schools after half term.

A letter has been sent out to parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6 regarding the possible reopening of school on 1 June and further details will follow in the coming week. We are monitoring the situation regarding the government's thinking about pupils in Years 10 and 12 and will be in touch once that position is clearer.

Once again, we thank you all for your patience and consideration during this time.

### Pupil Satisfaction survey

Our thanks to all of the pupils who completed our recent survey regarding our provision of distance learning so far. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

We're pleased to note the recent introduction of live lessons via Google Meets has been a welcome addition, with almost 80% agreeing it has helped their learning. It was also wonderful to see pupils agree or strongly agree they still feel connected to the DAS community despite lockdown conditions.

Alongside our commitment to providing the best teaching and learning opportunities we can in the present circumstances, ensuring we can still provide the excellent pastoral support, community spirit and family-feel environment we're known for is of the utmost importance to us at this time.

### Micro-volunteering

The residential care homes our Sixth Form students attend as part of their Community Service activity are understandably having a difficult time during the current conditions; residents are missing loved ones and visitors, some are poorly and the staff are giving their total devotion to care for their elderly residents.

If you could spare a few minutes to send a handwritten card with some cheerful words or send them poems, drawings, well-wishes, it would brighten their day. They have "feel good" / "well-being" / "think positive" tables and notice boards. Mrs Whitehouse has some great ideas and contact addresses which you can find at:

[Micro-volunteering at Residential Care Homes](#) (students) and [Volunteering](#) (parents)



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## Dame Allan's @ Home

### VE Day Afternoon Tea

Huge thanks to all of the students (and no doubt parents and guardians!) who took up the challenge set by Mrs Crawley last week. There was a fantastic array of baked delights and decorations - it looks like you all had a lot of fun in the process as well, which is the main thing!

From a tasty looking Victoria Sponge by Scott (Year 7) to the ultra-stylish winning entry by Matilda (Year 11), [click the link to see all of the entries](#).



### Dame Allan's Bake Off

The Dame Allan's Bake Off has got off to a great start.

In Week 1, students were set the challenge of making a pizza using their own choice of home-made base, e.g. bread dough, scone-based, flatbread, home-made pastry, etc. [Click here to take a look at the results](#). That's amore!

This week, Mrs Crawley challenged students to create a biscuit / meringue dish with a Spring theme. We can't wait to see how this turns out. In the words of Sandy Toksvig and Noel Fielding: "On your marks... get set... BAKE!"



### Squash news

Fantastic news for Max (Year 13) who has still qualified for a four-year sports scholarship at Yale University in the USA despite the current situation regarding this summer's A Levels.

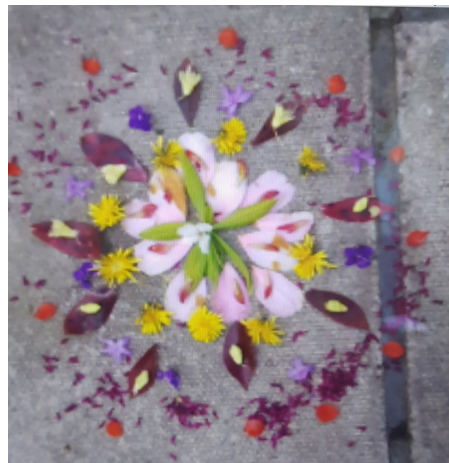
Well done, Max!



## Natural art

Pupils in Year 1 have been studying the sculptor Andy Goldsworthy and his natural sculptures. The children were challenged to create their own natural sculpture inspired by his work.

We're sure you'll agree, the results were amazing - great job, Year 1!





## Helping others

The lovely Mrs Forster at the Junior School has spent the last few weeks sewing much needed PPE for the NHS (scrubs, hats, headbands and washbags).

In the first batch, she used leftover backing fabric from the Elmer project last year - which you can see in the junior school hall - to make 22 large wash bags for doctors and nurses to allow them to transport home their dirty scrubs and uniform for washing without contamination. These went to the Pediatric A&E at the RVI.

Alongside this, Mrs Forster made 36 headbands with buttons to protect ears from soreness due to prolonged rubbing of face mask elastic. These have been donated to nurses at Walkergate Hospital.

Mrs Forster said: "I thought this was a nice way of using up the leftover backing fabric from and a lovely way of DAS saying thank you to the front line medical staff for all their hard work, keeping everyone safe."

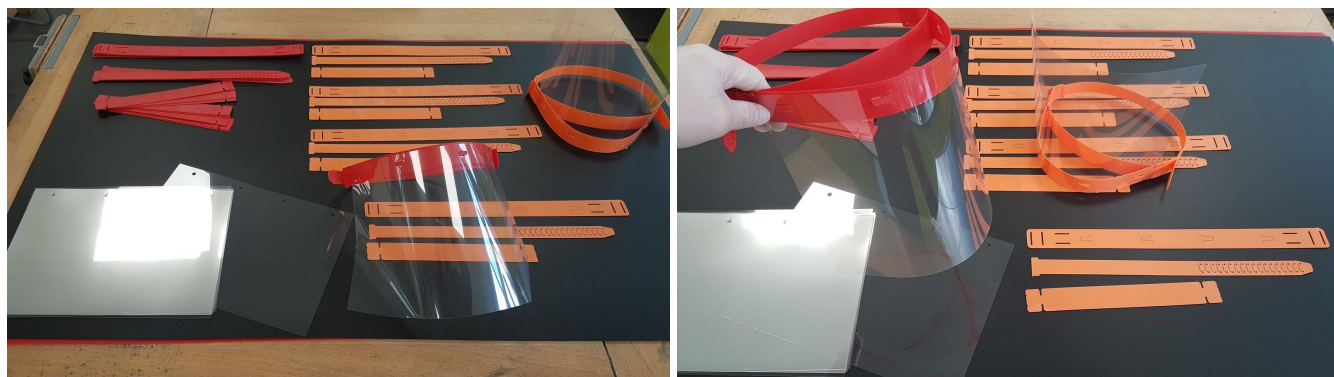
We thought this was the most wonderful act of kindness - thank you Mrs Forster!



Following the batches of goggles donated from the DT and science departments, our DT technician Mr Morris has been putting the DT workshop to good use with the production of protective visors. Our thanks to Mr Morris for taking the time to come into the Senior Schools to make these - as you can see from the photos, there are various elements needed to manufacture the visors.

Further thanks must also go to our School Nurse Mrs Procter, who has personally delivered the PPE to Fawdon GP surgery and the local care home they look after as well as Sutherland Court with whom we have long-standing connections through Mrs Whitehouse's Sixth Form community service programme.

Earlier this week it was International Nurses' Day (12 May) so we're sure you'll join us in sending virtual thanks and appreciation to Mrs Procter for all she does looking after the students and staff at Dame Allan's and to all of the frontline NHS and care workers we have in the Dame Allan's family.



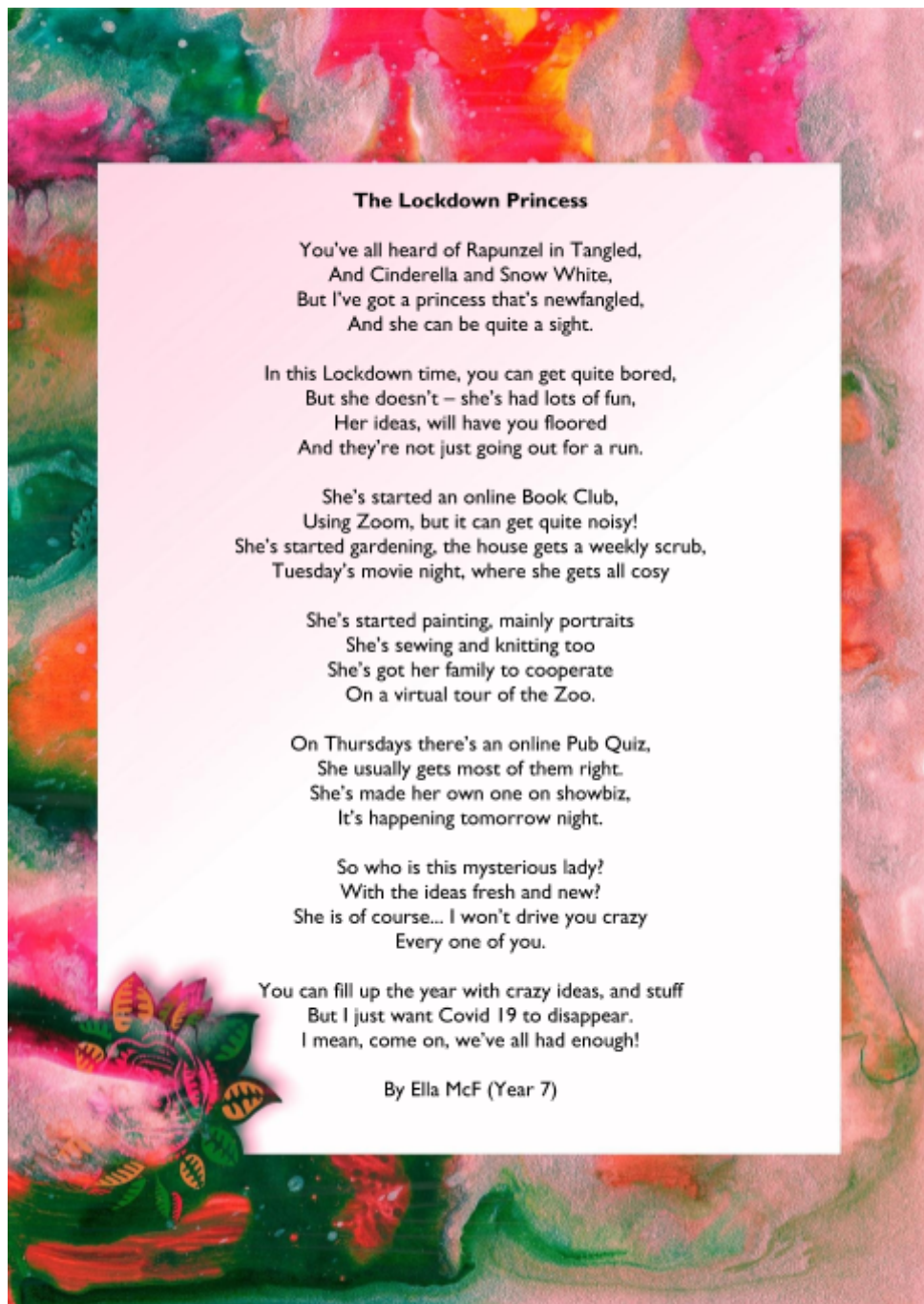
## Generation Lockdown

Whilst the outbreak of coronavirus and subsequent lockdown measures have already been compared to various moments in history, it is certainly something most of us will never have experienced before in our lifetimes - particularly children and young adults.

The Generation Lockdown competition is giving children aged 7-17 the opportunity to write about life during lockdown and the coronavirus and have this work published in a book published by John Catt Educational called 'Generation Lockdown Writes.'

Interested? [Click the link to find out more.](#)

On that note, Ella in Year 7 recently shared with us this lovely, light-hearted poem about life during lockdown. It certainly made us smile!



And finally...

## A Message from our Chaplain

### *How are you dealing with being alone?*

However lockdown has looked for you, my guess is that you've been spending a little more time alone than before. You might have found, whilst you've rarely left the house over the past few weeks, you've ended up occupying a different part of the house to everyone else and have become increasingly solitary. Even the most sociable of us need some time alone from time to time, but too much and we might begin to tip the balance into being isolated, anxious and worried.

For students, you might have been physically in the house, but you've been focussed on keeping up to date with your studies and with friends via social media.

For parents, you might have been trying to juggle the task of work, additional challenges of trying to reorganise a routine and keep supporting your children. My wife and I have never spent so much time together in the house, yet there are many days when we reach nightfall and realise that we have hardly said more than a few words to each other in between looking after a toddler, a ten year old and our own work.

It's an odd thing to reflect on the experience of being alone whilst at the same time physically being present in the same space as others all day every day. And of course, there are many in this time who are experiencing being alone in every possible way; for them the isolation is something that they cannot escape.

The space of being alone can offer time to focus and evaluate. For many people regular times of reflection are key to maintaining focus, hope and purpose. In a moment alone, I encourage you to reflect using the [Lockdown Labyrinth](#). You might want to skip some of the questions, you might want to think about them all. Let this moment of time alone be about reflecting on your journey through lockdown so far, as you look onward to what might come in the time ahead.

During this lockdown period, a new project called [AloneTogether](#) was launched by the BAFTA winning production company CTVC. They produce media that explores ethical and moral issues from the perspective of those of faith and those of no faith. The project describes itself as a collection of

'online resources [that] are offered to help people live through the coronavirus pandemic. Their special quality is that they don't come from theories; they all come from those with experience of social distancing or isolation, people who have lived this reality either intentionally like monks and nuns or against their will like hostages or the housebound. This is a new and difficult journey for most people but experienced guides give us hope along the way.'

No matter which way being alone looks for you, we look forward to the weeks ahead when our face-to-face encounters might increase. Until then, don't forget that our school community has a great network of folk ranging from our teaching staff to a multi-disciplinary support team who are here for you either in conversation on the telephone or via email.

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## Get in touch!

If you have any stories or photos of your children getting creative with their remote learning, email us at [enquiries@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dameallans.co.uk)



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