

# The Scholar Ship

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education." - Martin Luther King Jr

## The Lowdown From Lockdown...

Maya Govindasamy (Y9) gives us an insight into what has been going on in recent weeks during her period of learning from home.

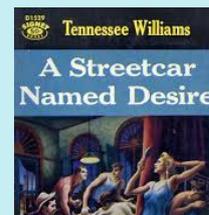
In Compass we have written letters to alumni. I think that this is very important, as it helps us and them understand how the school has evolved. I think that it is especially important that, during this pandemic, senior citizens have the chance to communicate with other people because otherwise they may get lonely. I think that this year is very special as hopefully we will be able to help people who may be struggling to have a brighter day by asking about their experiences. Also, it is a good way to find out more about the history of our school and what it would have been like back then when things were very different.

Year 9 pupils have also completed Junior EPQs, which I believe is a good way to prepare us for the real thing. This has given me a greater understanding of what an EPQ is and I think that it will benefit us in the future. The EPQ really has a lot of room for imagination and how you will present it. I think that it is a really interesting task for our brains. My work was about the evolution of language and I was so surprised about things that I had learned; things that I have never even heard of. It has really helped me understand how to research and gather information effectively.

Finally, in Compass we have been nominating our PSHE hero of the month; mine is Captain Tom. I think that he is very inspiring and a brilliant choice for PSHE hero of the month. He has raised the unbelievable amount of £32 million for the NHS (£32,795,065 to be exact). Captain Tom originally only set out for £1,000 by lapping his Bedfordshire garden 100 times before his 100th birthday. He has raised a lot more than he thought and completely exceeded his target. The money he has raised will be able to help many people and will factor in to helping prevent this pandemic from further spreading.



## Upcoming Events



May 21st, 7pm  
National Theatre Live  
@ Home  
*A Streetcar Named Desire* (available via the National Theatre's YouTube channel)



May 21st, 6:30pm  
Take a brain power masterclass  
Go to eventbrite and search for "work in Tara Swart"



Explore the British Museum online  
Visit their website to explore...

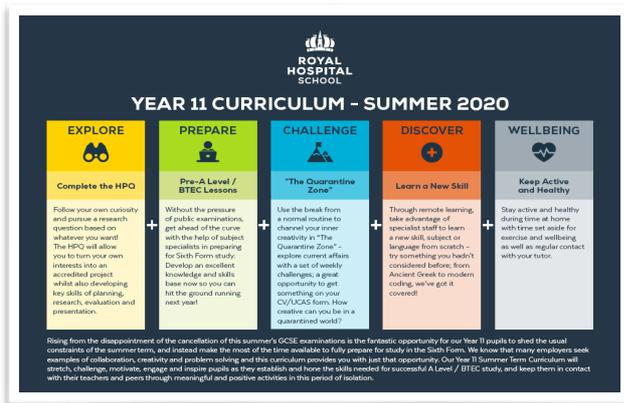
## Headmaster's Distinctions

Max Dias  
Jaz Skingle  
Laura Tickle  
Bruce Qi  
Leila Gbelia  
Sophie Scarff  
Harry Lewin

Teresa Torres  
Ellie Davies  
Cara Peters  
Jessamy Lloyd  
Bella Prestney  
Hannah Akinlosotu  
Carerina Brigliadori

# No examinations? No problem!

Out of a period of uncertainty, Year 11 pupils have had the opportunity to embark upon a different kind of curriculum. Ollie Tang (Y11) explains what he has been up to and what he thinks of the new school day...



The past few weeks have been enlightening and completely different from anything I've ever experienced before. Due to enforcing the act of social distancing and many people having to stay in their homes, our daily lives have changed and so has the concept of going to school.

I was quite confused and was wondering about what was going to happen to my studies and classes, due to GCSEs being cancelled. I was pondering whether we would have our GCSE classes or maybe even have a head start to our A-Level classes. The latter thought has been proven correct, as the school has managed to create an interesting curriculum for Year 11 pupils in place of examinations. We have six periods per fortnight with our chosen A-Level courses, which for me are Classical Civilisation, Chemistry and Mathematics. We are getting a preview and head start to our chosen courses, which I have found useful and informative. We also get to choose an extra skill for us to learn during the pandemic. I chose Ancient Greek, as I could learn a new language and it has useful links to one of my chosen courses. It is very interesting and it was a skill that I was very interested to learn more about. We also have the Quarantine Zone, which has a new project every week for us to do. We have had business and geography/biology-based projects and we currently can choose between a project in music, art or poetry. The projects have been engaging and sometimes challenging, which is perfect for people who are learning from home. They also provide more in-depth knowledge of those specific subjects and provides new skills to be learned. There is also the HPQ, which stands for Higher Project Qualification and is worth half of a GCSE grade. Pupils get to create their own question that sparks their own interests and answer it in their own way, such as writing an essay or maybe creating a documentary. I felt that it was extremely useful, due to the fact that I am taking EPQ next year, so the skills that I have learned from the HPQ could help me in many ways. It is also very fascinating, as I could choose a topic that I have an interest in, which develops creativity.

Learning from home has been unusual and might take a long time to get used to. It is quite confusing that I am learning skills not from sitting in a classroom with a teacher in front of me and my classmates around me, but I am instead in my own home with an iPad in front of me and my classmates all scattered in different places. There are many uncertainties in these confusing times. However, one thing I am certain about is that the curriculum will prepare me for what is to come next and will keep me busy during social distancing.

## "THE LAST WORD"

I wrote to the school (and indeed the wider internet) through The Scholar Ship at the end of March, referencing the importance not only of education, but community and service. Over the course of the last couple of months I have been truly impressed not just with how our pupils have adapted to learning from home, but also the way in which they have stepped up to support their friends, families and wider communities. Whether it is fundraising, supporting the NHS, writing to alumni or supporting one another through the various #PartofRHS initiatives, I have been heartened by our school community - it makes me very proud to be associated with this school and this community. As we approach the summer months I extend my good wishes to everyone reading this; I hope that you are keeping safe and well, and we look forward to being able to meet again on the RHS site.



-Mr Routledge