

Covid-19 Newsletter

Good afternoon,

It has been heartening to receive a number of supportive emails from parents this week, on a range of themes and I would like to send the schools' thanks back to you. Coping with lockdown has become too much a part of everyone's lives but there is always a great sense of unity that we have as the LHEA community and I appreciate your support, suggestions and thanks as much as I applaud the efforts of my staff to always go the extra mile in making sure that your children are safe, happy and able to learn.

The children in school will no longer be tested on a weekly basis. The government has amended its guidance regarding testing and it is only the teaching staff who will continue to be tested. Any new student joining during lockdown will ideally be tested, with parental consent. I am anticipating a period of 'mass testing' as was initially planned for January, before all students return but will confirm when I hear more.

The consultation period on GCSEs and how best to assess the Year 11 students this year has ended so I am hopeful that I will soon be in a position to share more details about that.

School remains open every day to any students that fall into these two categories:

1. Students whose parents are Key Workers – this list is widely available and has been sent out. **Students should only attend school if no other care is possible. Home remains the safest place.**
2. Vulnerable Students who have been **contacted by the school.**

I would ask that you contact the office if you intend to send your child into school because they fall into one of these two categories and they have not been coming in already. This way we will be better prepared for any students that we receive.



Free School Meals

The vouchers have now been ordered for all eligible students and we will also be ordering additional vouchers to cover the first two weeks of this term.

A reminder that students who are in school will not be entitled to vouchers

I understand that for some parents and carers, these are very challenging times financially and you may now wonder if you are eligible for Free School Meals after a change in your circumstances. **Click here** to check whether you are eligible for Free School Meals and here to fill in the online application form.

Remote Learning English

Your English Teachers are learning too!

As part of the school's blended learning approach to teaching, the English Team have embraced teaching sessions using Microsoft Teams.

Students have been a patient and supportive audience, whilst we, the English Team, learned to navigate the platform and the new way of delivering the curriculum!

We are having fun exploring the features of MS Teams and are getting used to the new vocabulary, phrases and actions, including:

'You can unmute' to encourage students to share their ideas...

'In the lobby' when students are lining up in the 'corridor' or waiting to join the session...

'In the chat' when students want to reconnect with their Teacher, Peers or ask a question...

'Schedule a meeting' to invite students to their English session...

'I've got a Live at 14:00 this afternoon' instead of **'Period 5? I am teaching Year 9'**

'Add channel' to add our class to a live session...

'Admit' allows you to welcome students at the 'door' or into the session...

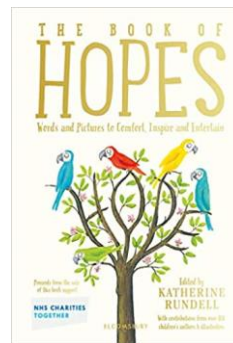
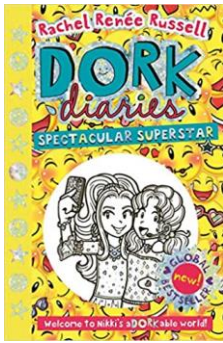
'End Meeting' class dismissal and farewell!

We have been presenting whole class feedback sessions, reading from novels and students are presenting aspects of the session to their peers.

Like learning to drive or a new dance sequence, Microsoft Teams has been both a challenge and a pleasure for us as a Team. With time though, we will only get more efficient and creative!

Elsewhere and online, students have been busy reading for pleasure, sharpening their writing skills and learning words for their virtual spelling Bee!

To our Students and Parents/Carers: Thank you, for your patience, energy and determination.



Year 7 - Star Reader: Wictoria Orlowska

"I have been reading a few books every day. I have also been reading magazines like **First News**.

One of the best books I have read is ***Dork Diaries: Spectacular Superstar*** because it is a very humorous book!

I have also listened to a really good audiobook called ***The House with Chicken Legs*** by Sophie Anderson. I really enjoyed listening to the book because I loved the humour and the adventure was crazy and fun!

In addition, I have been reading the stories in ***The Book of Hopes***. My personal favourites is 'New Shoes' in the 'Kindness' section."

Year 8 Star Writers: Vicky and Abdullah

Class Example: Vicky

I looked out of the transparent, double-glazed window, tirelessly rocking my head left and right like swaying a baby to make it fall asleep, until I caught a glimpse of an off-white, sleek car. As I opened the window to get a closer look at the car, a pungent smell started to appear. As much as the vile scent was bothering me, my eyes were glued to the shiny Maserati.

Success criteria

✓ First person - I

✓ Senses – looked, glimpse, pungent smell

✓ Verbs – looked, rocking, caught, opened, bothering, glued

✓ 3 complex sentences used

What else has been used?

✓ Adjectives – transparent, off-white, sleek, pungent, vile, shiny

Class Example 2: Abdullah

- The burnt sky flickered above the building. Glowing ash danced in the heat like angry sprites biting the skin on contact. Crackling, spitting flames could be heard beneath the wild wind howling, which whipped the flames, taunting them to lash out in the space between the red, fire sky and the dark buildings.

Success Criteria

- ✓ Simple sentences followed by complex sentence - variety
- ✓ Sentences starting with present participle – ing
- ✓ Sentence with subordinate clause (relative clause)
- ✓ **Use of verbs as adjectives**
- ✓ Simile
- ✓ Alliteration

Year 7 Virtual Spelling Competition 2021

One of the goals of the English Department since the last academic year was to improve in literacy and spelling across the year groups. We wanted to promote and encourage good spelling practices, starting especially with the Year 7 students. **A Spelling Bee Competition** was launched to boost reading, writing and communication!



The Competition

The competition comprised three rounds. Two rounds were completed by the students before the Christmas break with the intention to complete the final round on our return for the Easter term.

Since we went into distance/remote learning from home, the final round of the spelling bee was conducted online via SMHW where students had to spell 15 words. They had 3 chances to spell each word. The students received their results after they completed their test. They were able to see the mistakes they made and recognise the correct spelling of the word.

Since its launch, students enjoy the idea of spelling words online. They love tests and quizzes online. At least 50% of the students in each class attempted the quiz on the day it was posted.

The students who gained 90% or over were awarded Achievement Points. The top 3 spellers from each year group will be recognised with certificates and pins!

Spelling and Reading?

We find that when students read more their spelling skills are better, as they are better able to decipher the spelling words, having seen it used in a sentence in a book or online and remember how to spell it. Reading encourages students to write messages and emails using standard English and avoid text messaging language. There is a real correlation between reading and spelling - a reader makes a better speller.

Advice for students and families learning at home (February 2021)

1) GCSE set texts:

Invest in your **own** copies of the text/play. This will be great for group reading, annotations and provides the perfect opportunity for revising the text/play.

Online versions and audiobooks of the text/play are also available online/YouTube.

2) Parents/Carers and students can ask the following questions as you read your texts/play:

- Who are the **main characters** in the stave/chapter/section? 'SO WHAT?'
- Which **themes** are explored in this stave/chapter/section? 'SO WHAT?'
- What does the **audience/reader learn**? What are they challenged by?
- What is **significant** about this stave/chapter/section (structure)?
- What are **the relationships** like in this stave/chapter/section?
- How are the **characters presented**? 'SO WHAT?'

3) Audiobooks:

Research shows that March 2020 (lockdown 1) saw a 63% increase in the demand for e-books and audiobooks! (First News, 2020).

Our School Librarian has compiled a list of audiobooks to listen to at home, on the move or whilst studying.

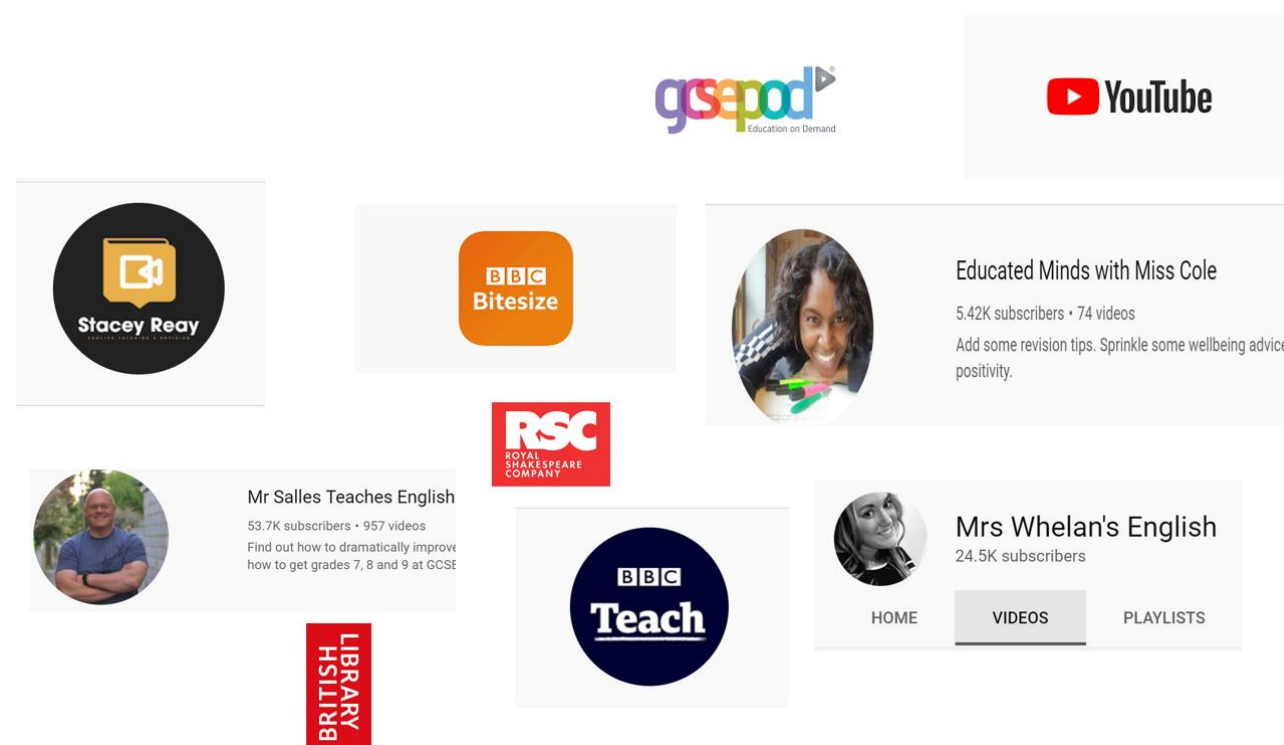
Please visit SMHW for the full list of recommended titles. www.audible.co.uk also gives customers a FREE audiobook. Visit their website for further details.

4) Note Taking:

Some students are using their exercise books to complete work and others are using their notebooks. Remember to use a variety of note taking strategies such as bullet point lists, mind maps and summary sheets. They are all worth doing to ensure that you are applying your learning and organising information.

5) Here are some useful KS4 platforms to explore:

Please ensure that you are actively watching the videos by making notes, re- watching and exploring similar content. **Please ignore the comments, views and number of subscribers. This usually has nothing to do with the content or information that you need!**





At LHEA we know that reading empowers our young people to be more confident and successful in all areas of their lives. Here are some words from successful people about what reading did for them:

Frederick Douglass: "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free"

Elon Musk (when asked how he learnt to build rockets): "I read books"

Oprah Winfrey: "Books allowed me to see a world beyond the front porch of my grandmother's shotgun house ... (and) the power to see possibilities beyond what was allowed at the time"

Here are some of the reading opportunities that we have provided for our students this week. We hope you will encourage them to read every day and maybe read, enjoy and discuss with them too.

FirstNews EDUCATION

This week's student newspaper's front cover sees Marcus Rashford tackling more than other footballers. Read about Premier League footballers speaking out.



Inside there is the usual sprinkling of animals, from badgers, Siberian dogs, hedgehogs, dinosaurs and even blind guinea pigs with a 'guide-pig'!

On top of all the news, students can find out about what to do for red nose day, get advice about bullying, and find out why a sculptor would pose with an army of white turtles. Plus, there are the usual pages of fun, games and quizzes.

We hope everyone has now signed up to this brilliant, free read.

This week's LHEA choice:

This week is storytelling week!

There are many sites online that are dedicated to Storytelling – see a few suggestions below, including the brilliant family bookclub from Slough Caribbean Forum. Why not tell your own story to your children - either a story you remember, or your own?



The Weekend Read

Every Saturday morning we choose an article from a newspaper and the link is sent to years 10 and 11 on Show my Homework and to all staff at LHEA.

Last week's article was an opinion piece from The Guardian about 69 memorials that have been taken down or changed because of their connection to slavery.



Below are just a couple of comments from readers of the article this week.

Here is the link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/29/tributes-to-slave-traders-and-colonialists-removed-across-uk>

Student comment on The Weekend Read:

"I cannot answer how the atrocities in society should be remembered but I do believe that they should not be forgotten or ignored."

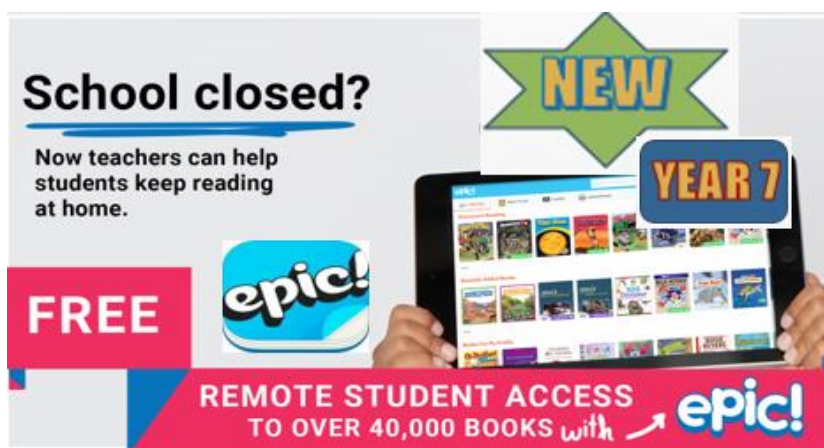
Teacher comment:

"We need a special day to honour the heroes, resistors and descendants of the slave trade."

Lynch Hill Library during Lockdown

EPIC for Year 7 Students – FREE ONLINE LIBRARY – EBOOKS and Audio Books

Brand New to LHEA Students! Whilst schools are closed our students can now access the fabulous EPIC online Library. <https://www.getepic.com/students> All Year 7's have received instructions this week and are able to login to EPIC. This is a free app and can be accessed via a laptop/phone or a tablet. The EPIC library has over **40,000 fiction and non-fiction E-Books and Audio books** which LHEA students can enjoy viewing, reading or listening to. All Year 7 students can must use their **Reading Cloud ID** to login. Please email Mrs. Ikram for further information.



Harry Potter Book Night Competition

All students at LHEA are invited to enter a Harry Potter Wand making competition to celebrate the annual **Harry Potter Book Night** this week. This is a fantastic opportunity for our young Harry Potter fans to be creative and imaginative as they wish to. A wonderful Harry Potter Themed Gift Hamper is the prize in store!



Upcoming Virtual Event - Meet Author Kwame Alexander

LHEA students can join award winning children's and young adult author KWAME ALEXANDER as he discusses his new book "Becoming Muhammad Ali" and other books too, during a Q&A conversation with Wade Hudson.

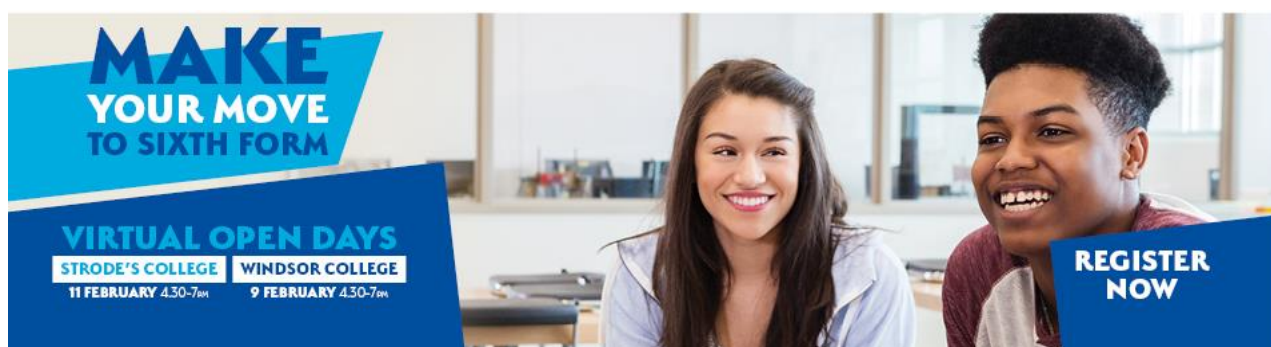
Presented in partnership with the Reginald F Lewis Museum. Click here to book a free space on this Awesome Virtual

Event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kids-writers-live-kwame-alexander-tickets-133108554269?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>



Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, publisher, and *New York Times* Bestselling author of 37 books, including **BOOKED**, which was longlisted for the National Book Award, **SOLO**, **REBOUND**, which was shortlisted for prestigious UK Carnegie Medal, The Caldecott Medal and Newbery Honor-winning picture book, **THE UNDEFEATED** and **THE CROSSOVER**.

Windsor College Virtual Open Day



To register for Windsor College Virtual Open Day [click here](#)



4.30 - 5.30pm

Principal's Live Presentation and Q&A

Join Principal, Amanda Down, and some of our students for a presentation and the opportunity to ask questions in our live Q&A.



5.45 - 6.15pm

How to Apply and Q&A

Hear from our Head of Admissions, Daljit Bains, on how to apply to the College, the interview process, and setting up an account. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end.



6.30 - 7pm

Student Services

Join this session to learn about our friendly Student Services team, who are there for help and guidance during your time at College. In this session, we will talk about Careers Services, Financial Support, Transport, Learning Support and more. There will be opportunities to ask questions.



4.30 - 7pm

Tutors Online

We may not be there in person but join our Heads of Department on Live Chat throughout the evening and have a private one-to-one conversation. Ask questions about courses, careers and more. Visit the website throughout the evening to join the Live Chat.



4.30 - 7pm

Application Station

Talk to our admissions team and get one to one help completing your application. We're here to help.

Success Beyond School: Parent Events

A termly series of events designed to give parents insider knowledge about the industries young people aspire to break into; delivered by top professionals from those fields.

- ✓ Key industry-specific knowledge to guide your children
- ✓ Experience of the industry through interactive simulations
- ✓ Coaching on how your child can gain a competitive advantage in the race for top jobs
- ✓ Q&A time with industry experts



SPRING TERM PARENT EVENTS

THE SKILLS SURGERY

How to break into careers in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science

Wednesday 24th February | 7-8pm GMT

[REGISTER
HERE](#)

THE POWER OF NETWORKS

Expert advice on how your child can build a powerful network

Wednesday 3rd March | 7-8pm GMT

[REGISTER
HERE](#)



These events are free of charge and will be delivered via Zoom.

To register for the Skills Surgery [click here](#)

To register for The Power of Networks [click here](#)