

Teaching and Learning Newsletter - 20 May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It is that time of the week where show case some of the work our students have been doing during remote learning. Students are gaining different learning opportunities, accessing new software, portals and showing their creative flare in so many different ways.

In the words of Dr Seuss ***“Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try”*** .

This week is the turn of our Music department and our Science department. Please look at the attached work to be inspired by the student work and to make us smile.

See you all soon (we hope) and stay safe, Mrs Young (Assistant Principal)

Music Department

The music department have been extremely impressed with the engagement of KS3 students in their remote learning. Many of our year 7 students have completed listening tasks and quizzes on pitch, temp, dynamics, musical signs and Indian music, whilst our year 8s have developed their knowledge of harmonic intervals and Latin American rhythms. Many students have embraced using on-line resources such as Songmaker (on the Music First website) and the Chrome Music Lab which enables them to compose their own music at home. We've had some awesome compositions submitted so far, some of which are attached for you to enjoy!

Key stage 3 students are now exploring how to create tension through 'incidental music' and have been challenged to consolidate this knowledge by composing a piece of music suitable for a video game in which a character enters a cave. We are so proud of our students' resilience and determination to continue with their music learning at home particularly as it is such a practical subject. We are very excited to listen the cave compositions.

Year 10s have continued to work hard on their music analysis and theory skills. Pupils have been continuing to use these skills to analysis their set works. They have also started to apply their music knowledge to exam style questions. This week they have been asked to complete a solo performance to enable them to have feedback on their continued music practice.

Last week Year 11s started to work through their A Level bridging work which links to the skills they have developed over the past two years to analyse music, and will help support their future studies of music.

It has been especially heart-warming to hear that some of our students are now using new skills gained by accessing music technology as a means to relax and have fun. We have students transposing their favourite songs using the Chrome Music lab! We would encourage all of the Thomas Estley community to enjoy music for their wellbeing, either listening to it, singing along or playing instruments (authentic or homemade)!

Miss Plumb and Mrs Dickinson

Science Department

Our pupils and staff had to adapt quickly to learning and teaching from home and my worry was how this new way of working would affect a subject such as science which relies heavily on practical work. However, thanks to the creativity and resilience of the Thomas Estley family I hope that you will agree that it has been a relatively smooth process. Attached are a few snapshots in to science lessons at home to show that science doesn't stop at the school gates.

Year 7 have been working on a variety of different topics including, reproduction and acids/alkalis; year 8 have had a focus on plants, electro circuits and magnets; Year 9 have begun their GCSE journey and have been investigating cell biology; Year 10 electricity, rates of reaction and forces; whilst year 11 have been getting to grips with their targeted bridging work on.

I hope that this glimpse into home-based science makes you smile as much as it does me. I love the idea that despite the challenges that the current situation brings, families are learning that science isn't just possible at home but in fact it belongs there. Keep experimenting and stay safe!

Mr Ansley