

## **Teaching and Learning Newsletter - 27 May 2020**

*Dear Parents, Carers and Students,*

*I hope this message finds you all safe and well, and enjoying the beautiful weather we are having. I hope you also taking the opportunity to have a well-deserved rest from the hard work that you have been producing.*

*I would like to draw your attention to the Careers competition that has been advertised. It would be great to see lots of fabulous entries. It might also be worth mentioning that there is a new and exciting reading project coming your way ... WATCH OUT FOR THE FIRST INSTALLMENT ON FACEBOOK*

*A reminder that if you struggle with accessing SMH at all please email myself, but also there are some quick help guides on the school website <https://thomasestley.org.uk/coronavirus>*

*This week's focus is on two very different curriculum areas; our ADT which includes textiles, food and resistant materials, and our Business and Economics curriculum, a particularly popular Key Stage 4 option.*

*Stay Safe*

*Mrs Young*

### **Business and Economics**

When the college closed our year 10 had nearly completed their first unit of work (there are 2 units over the 2 years) so we spent a couple of weeks finishing that off – covering business plans which we leave until the end of the unit on purpose so that the students can understand all of the sections that have to be completed prior to submission to a bank to secure finance. We have now moved on to look at the second unit, starting with how a business grows and what it has to consider when it grows. We have been amazed and proud of the work that our students are completing and the desire to produce top quality notes is fantastic and shows how much the students care about their progress in their GCSE subjects. We have also been impressed by the quality of written exam answers that the students are producing – they have been listening well to the guidance prior to closure.

Well, I just know that in a couple of years' time (if not next year!) I will be using so many examples of how this challenging time has affected our economy. We are hearing on a daily basis about the impact to economic growth, job losses and cost to the economy. This will be something that the students can draw on as they have experienced this time. I wonder when it will appear in the exam papers. Prior to closure, we had completed Unit 1 and were making good progress on Unit 2 (there are 2 units in total). Economics is a challenging subject and one that can be difficult to learn independently. Lessons are being created to try and guide students through the topics with relevant notes and tasks to embed the knowledge. I would strongly recommend the use of the revision guide to enhance student learning and obviously for students to contact me about any topic we cover

## **Art Design Technology (ADT)**

In Design and Technology at KS3 we have been completing projects based on the Design process and practicing skills of independent research, product analysis, sketching techniques, modelling and design development. We have also been learning about the theory side of Design and technology by looking into materials like papers , boards and textiles and we have recently started to consider the environmental impact of designing new products. We have been thrilled with the work that's been produced and have received messages from students telling us how much they are enjoying their design work. We've even been learning from our students during this time, as some students have been creating work in really ingenious ways. For example using 'itailor' software and Nike's customise your own trainers. Below are some examples of the wide range of outcomes.

At KS4 we have been studying a wide range of Design theory topics from sustainable materials, iconic designers, energy generation and storage and technical drawing techniques. They have had to combine all these elements to produce a creatively designed building that is environmentally friendly. This is a snapshot of the fantastic work. Food and Nutrition students have been working hard on a variety of topics from Food Safety and Hygiene to the Importance of Water in our diets. It's been really pleasing to see how much pride students are taking in the presentation of their theory work and they are responding to teacher feedback given in order to make improvements to their work. They've also been continuing their practical skills where possible and it's impressive to see what's been achieved; cheesy pinwheels, chow mein, pizza and even a roast lamb dinner!

It's clear to see there's a lot of time and effort going in to work at home. Well done Year 10!