

Teaching and Learning Newsletter - 6 May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Just a few short months ago, none of us could have predicted that school and education would look like this with pupils accessing work remotely rather than being in our classrooms. It has been a challenge but as ever, our students, parents, carers and staff have risen to the challenge and have wowed us all with their resilience and hard-working attitudes.

Setting work remotely and introducing our new online learning platform, has been a challenge and my own personal IT skills have magnified immensely at this time. If you do have any worries with this please do contact myself at myoung@thomasestley.org.uk.

Each week we will be sharing what different departments are organising for remote learning opportunities, and sharing messages from the teachers as well as examples of work to inspire and make you smile. This week our Maths department and Dance department are sharing what has been happening with them over the last few weeks.

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

Maths Department

Our students have been working very hard and it has been a real pleasure to be sending out so many maths postcards in recognition of this. We have also been able to celebrate the success of our year 10 pupils who took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge earlier this year. It is such an achievement to be awarded a certificate in this and we were so proud to receive so many. Special congratulations for Harry Braithwaite and Alex Green who were awarded the best in school certificates.

We have also heard that the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge which was scheduled for April 30th will take place later in the year which is something for our year 8 pupils to look forward to!

As a department, we have tried to set a variety of engaging tasks that will challenge our pupils so that they can continue to make excellent progress in maths. Here are some snapshots from each of our teachers about what they have been doing with their classes.

Click on to the maths department attachment to see examples of works and up dates from the staff in the department.

Stay safe, Mrs Taylor (Head of Maths)

Dance Department;

Our Year 9 Dance specialism has been involved with crating their own Tic Toc dances and taking inspiration from the many that already out there. Some super creativity and ideas.

Year 10 GCSE Dance have been keeping-up with their dance appreciation skills. We are currently looking at the professional work Emancipation of Expressionism, a Hip Hop work, in particular the way that the choreography, costume and lighting have been used to communicate the intentions of the work to the audience. A really high-level of extended-written work have been submitted.

The year 11 students completed their practical exams (60% of the course) before lockdown started. So, to expand and develop their critical appreciation skills, they have been independently researching a professional work that is outside of the prescribed works – Scattered, by MotionHouse.

See you soon, Ms Bancroft (Head of Dance)