



# Headlands HEADLINES

ISSUE **12** FRIDAY DECEMBER 4th 2020

## Headteacher's message

I am delighted to report that this week, through working with our community partners at Morrison's supermarket in Bridlington, we are now in a position where we are able to offer a free Christmas Meal to some families who we know this Christmas will be finding things even harder than ever.

Letters, with enclosed free vouchers, are being sent to eligible families next week. Should you have any queries in respect of this, please contact Mrs Westcott (Director of Student Services) or Mr Fairlamb (Extra-Curricular Co-Ordinator) via the school's main reception.

A huge thank you to the community team at Morrison's for making this happen for some of our families at this very busy time of year!

Next Monday (7 December) is our annual Mock Interview Day. It is a day that is a highlight of our school calendar.

This year our students will experience a mock job interview virtually - an experience that may well become the norm for many businesses moving forward.

Historically, we know Mock Interview Day can lead to offers for our students of apprenticeships, direct employment and university scholarships. It is a day not to be missed and we will report back on its success next week.

At the time of writing the Government has announced the extra measures it intends to put in place to support Year 11 and Year 13 students ahead of next Summer's exams, which are now only 19 weeks away.

To summarise the measures they are:

- Grades awarded will be "more generous".
- Students will be given advance notice of some of the topic areas.
- Exam aids - like formula sheets - will be provided in some exams.
- Additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper later on in the Summer Term if they miss the main exam due to illness or self-isolation.

Whilst we welcome the news that the Government has now clarified the measures, we do still have concerns that they perhaps do not go far enough to make up for the significant disruption students continue to have during the pandemic - nationally as well as locally.

Here at Headlands School, we remain concerned about how it seems unfair:

- To measure a student's exam performance in high COVID-19 impact areas against students who have studied in low impact areas. Students in low impact areas will have had little, or in some cases, no disruption to their studies in Year 11 or Year 13.
- To measure a student's exam performance, when there remains a significant "access to technology" gap, depending on the socio-economic demographics of the school the student attends. For example, during the first national lockdown we know the independent sector was able to switch to delivering "live" lessons pretty much from the start, because students had the technology already available to them in their homes.

Their "lost learning" will be minimal.

Yet in the state sector, it has been widely reported access to technology provided by the Department for Education came far too late for many schools, and in turn students, to make any noticeable difference to their home learning experience.

- To expect that in the future, Scottish and Welsh students will be able to apply for the same jobs and university courses as English students, and yet they won't have had to sit any exams? Clearly, placing Scottish and Welsh students at an inequitable advantage.

The Government has also announced this week, the creation of an expert group to look at how COVID-19 has affected different students in different ways.

This group will also monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

It will certainly be interesting to see who makes up this expert group, how and when this group reports back its findings to the Department for Education, and indeed the general public, and how, if any, suggestions for change to the Summer exam series are made by this expert group are received by the Department for Education and implemented.

In the meantime, please be reassured we continue to do everything we can to make sure our students have the best possible success in 2021 - whatever the examination landscape looks like.

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## Headteacher's message

Over the course of the next two weeks the Senior Team and I will meet with every student in Years 7 - 13 (socially distanced, of course) to enquire about their emotional well-being and discuss their most recent Academic Report.

Academic Reports will then be emailed home to parents and carers with a short comment from

a member of the Senior Team on their progress.

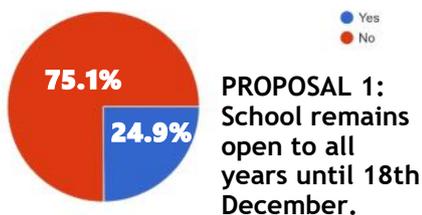
These meetings are a really important feature of our vision to make sure every child at Headlands School is happy and has the opportunity to engage and access top quality teaching and learning.

Please continue to encourage your child to talk openly to members of the Senior Team in these meetings, as their voice and views really do help shape your child's experiences in school, during these extraordinary times.

Stay safe and well.

*Sarah Bone*

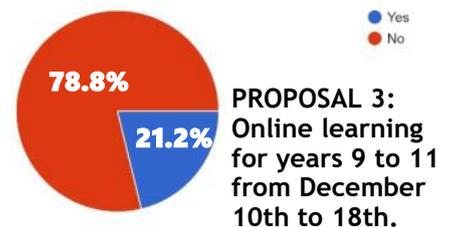
## Results of our parents' survey



**PROPOSAL 1:**  
School remains open to all years until 18th December.



**PROPOSAL 2:**  
Online learning for all years from December 10th to 18th.



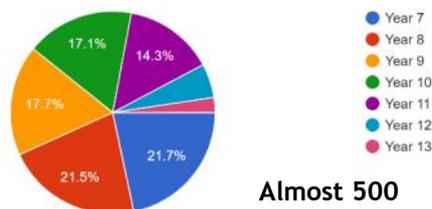
**PROPOSAL 3:**  
Online learning for years 9 to 11 from December 10th to 18th.

Thank you to all those parents and carers who completed this survey.

Proposal 2, where the school would remain open for students who are vulnerable in Years 7 to 11 from Thursday, 10th December, until Friday, 18th December, and all other students would learn from home online via live lessons, was the preferred option by parents and carers who completed the survey.

However, as many of you will have seen reported in the national media, the Government remains steadfast in its stance that schools must remain open as normal (our Proposal 1) until Friday, 18th December.

As such, we will continue to be open as normal - unless we are



Almost 500 responses were received.

directed otherwise by the Government.

A polite reminder, student's lesson plans remain on Google Classrooms for those children who are self-isolating.

Completion of work and virtual attendance to lessons continues to be monitored by the Senior Leadership and Student Services team.

## Careers Corner

On the back of the great work we continue to deliver here at Headlands School in respect of careers advice and guidance, Mr Stamper (Assistant Head - Community) was invited this week to present to 26 other secondary schools at a Humber Careers Hub Meeting.

This was a great opportunity for Mr Stamper to showcase the outstanding careers offer we have here at Headlands School and how we are leading the way regionally - in a new, virtual careers world.



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## New trampolines arrive



Our Team Headlands PE staff and students were jumping for joy when new trampolines arrived in school this week. Huge thanks to the Lords Feoffees and other agencies which helped with funding for the project.



## Save the Children CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Next Friday, 11th December, is the annual Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day.

Headlands students can wear non-uniform with their Christmas jumper, or other bright and festive clothes, and donations for Save The Children are invited.

## This week's Bit Lit



This week, Team Headlands was incredibly lucky to receive a video from Stephen Kelman - author of Pigeon English and Man Booker Prize nominee - as part of our Bit Lit project.

He was talking about one of his favourite books, A Kestrel For A Knave, by Barry Hines. You can watch the video on the Headlands School YouTube channel.

## The Headlands Elf causes mischief



Like many homes in Bridlington, Headlands School welcomed a new arrival at the start of December.

Our very own mischievous Elf on the Shelf has even got his own email address and has been sending staff photos of his adventures each day.

So far he has been getting 'toasty' warm in the staff room and making a unique portrait of assistant headteacher Mr Edwards in the art classroom. What will he do next?

