



Headlands HEADLINES

ISSUE **24** FRIDAY MARCH 19th 2021

Headteacher's message

Yesterday was Mars Day 2021 - a big thank you to Mr Anison (STEM Co-Ordinator) for arranging a variety of activities throughout the day which included hearing from Tim Peake - the first British ESA astronaut to visit the International Space Station - examining engineering in space and discovering the solar system and beyond. Galactic work from Team Science!

Then, today has been Red Nose Day. This year it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives. We need the power of "funny" to turn laughs into lasting change. So thank you in advance to all those students who made donations to this national charity event.

Over the last two weeks nearly 200 children have undertaken three Lateral Flow Tests. Their behaviour and maturity has been impeccable throughout the process - a big well done to all concerned.

As you will be now aware, this week Year 9 re-commenced their "live" online learning. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Year 9s on their high levels of maturity and how sensibly the vast majority conducted themselves as they left the school site and went straight home on Wednesday.

It is also important to reiterate that teachers are confident students are not 'behind', nor do they need to catch-up on lost learning. This is because throughout the last lockdown, the levels of student engagement and work submission were simply excellent.

From a health and safety perspective, as I am sure the vast majority of the school community can appreciate, it is incredibly difficult for the team and I - with over 1000 people within the school

building - to scientifically pinpoint and determine exactly where or when asymptomatic COVID-19 transmission occurs.

As a result, our cautious response as a school, in consultation with the Local Authority and Public Health England, has always been to place our students and their families' health first.

Indeed, our strategic decision to require Year Group bubbles to self-isolate worked very effectively in reducing community transmission in the Autumn term of 2020 - with data taken from the [schoolcovid-map.org.uk](https://www.schoolcovid-map.org.uk) to support this.

Furthermore, we know that our model of "live" teaching works for our students - all of which now have access to an appropriate ICT device thanks to the superb financial donations and laptop gifts made by members of the school community.

We are aware some secondary schools locally and nationally continue to isolate proportions of year groups. That might be completely the right response for these schools. We are mindful this strategy has been raised this week on various social media platforms.

Could I take this opportunity to thank those parents and carers who have contacted me directly via email or telephone to discuss. Parents and carers' considered thoughts and alternative views are always welcome.

However, if we were to adopt the "some students in, some students out" model, to do this, we would not be able to offer our "live" online teaching model. Students in school would access in-person classroom lessons. Students isolating at home would have to work independently through learning resources on Google Classrooms.

The Governors and Leadership Team are confident this approach for our students would mean those

in self-isolation, would certainly fall behind in-school peers and be placed at an academic disadvantage - through no fault of their own.

We would also be concerned about the increased loss of social interaction with their teachers and peers and the further impact this could have on their emotional well-being and mental health.

So our students need to be truly celebrated. Yet again they have faced some challenging news and shown considerable resilience and determination. Online engagement yesterday was 99%.

This is phenomenal! Well done Year 9! Remember to make sure you keep your online Google Meet Options Appointments with Miss Roberts please. Keep up the great work and we will look forward to seeing you all again after Easter.

Could I also use this opportunity to continue to urge parents and carers to access the Government's Home Testing Kits - more information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

The more parents and carers testing their children for asymptomatic COVID-19 before they come into school should in theory, help to reduce the opportunity for COVID-19 to spread within the school community undetected.

Finally, thank you again to all our parents and carers who continue to support Headlands School. As always, should you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via appropriate communication channels including email at admin@headlandsschool.co.uk or telephoning the school's main reception.

Stay safe and well.

Sarah Bone



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Mock Exams

Students in Year 11 and 13 have now received their Mock Exam/PPE timetables.

The exams will run from Monday, 19th April to Friday, 30th April.

A full timetable can be found on the Examinations page of the school website for parents and carers to view.

Careers Corner

- BBC Bitesize has a brilliant page about 'where could your favourite subject take you?' Follow this link to find out more www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zhst2sg
- Amazing Apprenticeships' latest parents information pack can be found at the link below, this issue includes the following topics: International Women's Day, preparing for a virtual recruitment process, latest announcements on traineeships, exciting new T Levels, understanding an apprenticeship in the fashion industry, SEND Post-16 options, and apprenticeship standards you may not know about. Head to <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2021/03/Parent-Pack-March-2021.pdf>
- The Team Headlands Careers Google Classroom is suitable for all year groups and is updated every week with links to videos, motivational talks and toolkits to help students decide on the right career for them. We would encourage parents to take a look with their children on a regular basis at the resources.

JOIN TEAM HEADLANDS

GORSE SCITT
School Centred Initial Teacher Training

GORSE SCITT is an Ofsted Outstanding teacher training provider working in partnership with Headlands School.

Do you have a degree, GCSE English and Mathematics, strong literacy and numeracy skills and a desire to work with young people to make a positive difference to their lives? Have you thought about training to teach?

Our School Centred Initial Teacher Training programme means you spend 80% of your time training on placement at Headlands School with mentoring and learning from expert teachers.

Applications are open for starting in September 2021 with tax-free training bursaries of up to £24,000 available in applicable subjects.

Further information is available at hey.gorsecitt.org.uk/

Does this sound interesting? Send your CV to info@hey.gorsecitt.org.uk

Any questions about the course? Email adam.woolley@headlandsschool.co.uk

If you have items of Team Headlands uniform, or school shoes, which your child has grown out of during lockdown, and they are still in good condition, students can hand them into Student Services and we will pass them on to families who will be able to re-use them.

PGL trip places

All remaining places for next Summer's rescheduled PGL watersports trip to the south of France have now gone.

If your child is interested, email admin@headlandsschool.co.uk to secure a waiting list place in the event that places become available.



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Mrs Bannister's running story

"Last year, I started running in memory of my late husband, Mark. He was a great runner, I followed him to every race proudly cheering from the sidelines.

"When the first lockdown hit I was only three months into my grief and his first birthday without him was fast approaching.

"I decided to organise a virtual 5k on his birthday and raised £1,500 in his memory for CALM - the Campaign Against Living Miserably, a charity leading a movement against suicide - in order to try to unite people in the strange times we were experiencing.

"From this, I was approached by CALM and Puma after they chose me to be a part of their new campaign Spark Change Run, and share my story. This week they released the trailer in their social media and my story will follow in a couple of weeks' time.

"I am currently training for my first half marathon, taking Mark's ballot place in the London Landmarks Half and will be organising a virtual 5k again in April for Mark's birthday. I would love to invite you all to take part."

"Team Headlands have been an incredible support to me through the past 15 months and I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart. I sometimes run after school so if you see me, please do say hello and shout your encouragement...it really does spur me on!"

Watch the official trailer video at
<https://youtu.be/sgul0CN8CgQ>

Find out more about the campaign at
www.thecalmzone.net/sparkchangerun



You can donate at www.justgiving.com/thiswiferunsforthisbeardrunsforpizza

#thisbeardrunsforpizza #teamCALM #sparkchangerun