



# Headlands HEADLINES

ISSUE **29**

FRIDAY, MAY 7th 2021

## Headteacher's message

**O**n Wednesday, the national educational publication Schools Week reported that the number of students absent from school because of potential contact with COVID-19 cases has almost doubled in a week.

It stated: "Attendance survey data from the Department for Education shows 46,900 students were off last Thursday because of potential contact in school, up from 25,200 on Thursday 22 April."

More on this article can be found here: <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/attendance-isolation-due-to-potential-in-school-covid-contact-almost-doubles/>

Unfortunately, we have been in the position once again this week, like so many other schools across the country, where students are now required to revert to online 'live' lessons.

We are acutely aware for our students, your children, this situation brings with it additional pressures. Should your child(ren) require any additional support please contact your child's Year Leader in the first instance.

Our School Counsellor continues to offer virtual support for students working from home and, if

necessary, a member of the Student Services team, including myself, can carry out socially distanced home visits to support families - if that would be helpful. This includes providing delivery of food parcels, if required.

In the meantime, this week is once again a stark reminder of how we must all continue to remain vigilant in respect of COVID-19 and its rapid ability to transmit.

**T**his week also saw Dame Rachel de Souza (the Children's Commissioner for England) launch a survey called 'The Big Ask'.

Her role is to speak up for children in England, stand up for their rights, and make sure that the people in power listen to what children need and want.

It is expected to be the largest ever survey of children and young people in England. Dame Rachel will use what children tell her to show the government what they think, and what children need to live happier lives.

This survey will only take students five to 10 minutes and can be found here - <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask> - please encourage your son or daughter to complete.

**F**inally, over the course of the last two weeks Mr Stamper (Assistant Head - Community) has met with representatives of our Student Council.

The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive with 100% of students reporting our "Making it Stick" teaching and learning initiative at the start of every lesson, is really having an impact on their learning and knowledge retention.

This scheme was launched by Mr. Woolley (Lead Practitioner - School Centred Initial Teacher Training) when we returned to school on 8th March.

It aims to provide students with short, snappy learning activities that require them to recall and recap prior knowledge and skills and apply it in a new context, thus providing cognitive challenge and helping to build students long term memories.

Well done everyone and thank you, as always, to our students for their positive constructive feedback!

Stay safe and well.

*Sarah Bone*

## Arrive on time

Please support us in our renewed focus on punctuality. This follows an increase in the number of students arriving late recently.

As a reminder, students must be in tutor groups by 8:30am. Students arriving after 8.30am will be marked as late.

A letter to all parents is being sent today with a reminder of the procedure and sanctions that will apply to students who are late on more than one occasion per week.

Miss Massey enjoyed meeting some of the Year 6 students who will be joining Team Headlands in September on video calls for the start of our transition appointments this week.

We have added extra dates for transition appointments, including a Saturday.

It is also fantastic to see so many of our new students have managed to get on the transition Google Classroom - keep an eye out for any news and some exciting competitions.





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A new scooter storage rack has been installed, next to the bicycle shelter, at the Martongate entrance. Students need to bring their own padlock to secure their scooter.

## The great outdoors



### Careers Corner

- T Levels are a two-year qualification that you can do as an alternative to A levels, other post-16 courses or an apprenticeship. You'll spend 80% of your time in the classroom and 20% on a 45-day placement with an employer to give you the skills and knowledge companies are looking for.

One T level takes two years of full-time study and is equivalent to three A-Levels. The first T Levels have started at selected colleges and schools in England, with more coming in the following years.

Find out more at <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/about>

- 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. The code is auz5ijv.

Here are some photos of students at the Geogra-fun after-school club.

Mrs Malarkey said: "The students did lots of weeding, tidying up, they planted a tree and had some fun with cardboard boxes before using them to put onto raised beds to clear them.

"They also sowed lots of vegetable seeds ready for the growing season.

"Lots of fun, fresh air and mud was had by all Geogra-funners!"



Check out this fantastic piece of homework submitted by Alfie (Year 10) as part of his research into the Arts and Crafts movement for GCSE 3D Design. Mr Boulton was impressed and said: "This work demonstrates good observation along with a range of quality drawing skill."