



# Malton School

A Specialist Science School

SUPPORT INSPIRE THRIVE

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

### **Coronavirus Response Update**

I would like to start by thanking all of you with children in Year 10 or Year 12 who have taken the time to respond to my previous invitation to share your views around a potential return to school this term. There has been an extensive response. It is simply not possible for me to write back individually but I do want to assure you that I have taken time to read every one and the value that has come from reflecting on these deeply held views and concerns is important. I could not have gained the same insight from a quantitative poll.

A clear majority of you are not keen to send your child back into school this term, with the prime concern being around the health of your child or a family member and a recognition that our remote learning system has been very good. So, in a balance of risk, the majority of you felt that your child was still learning well with the remote system, albeit not the same as being in school, and that therefore the heightened chance of coronavirus infection by attending school was simply not worth it. However, there were some very heartfelt comments shared around the lengthy absence from school causing anxiety, low mood, social isolation, a negative impact on mental health and wellbeing and these are all important considerations. There were also strong points made, particularly from parents of Year 12 students, around concerns being caused by the uncertainties over future careers choices and university applications.

There is no right or wrong here, and all your views matter.

It is my responsibility to steer a sensible route forward that takes all this into consideration. I will not be able to please everyone but I hope you will all feel that you have been listened to and that the approach proposed strikes a judicious balance between the health and safety of students and staff alongside the best provision possible for the ongoing education of the students.

The government does not expect secondary schools to be making any additional provision for Year 10 and 12 students before 15<sup>th</sup> June at the earliest. I have taken the opportunity to finalise our planning with the staff team this week in light of the most up to date information, including our transition offer for Year 6 students. I will write to you again on Friday with full details of our proposed provision for the rest of this term.

## **Week 5: Inspire Challenge Winners – Best Lockdown Book Review**

This was incredibly hard to judge, the most difficult so far! This was partly because we had so many entries and partly because it covered such a wide range of different books, with quite different approaches to the review process.

I was interested to see how many of the young people are reading and enjoying mystery books. I was also very pleased to see a high number of responses from both boys and girls. I don't like reaching "split" decisions but on this occasion I was defeated, through sheer enjoyment of the entries!

As we have had a week off this week without a challenge I have decided to award 6 winning entries instead of 3. Well done to all who took the time to enter. Voracious reading is a habit that will, perhaps more than any other single activity, assist with a young person's education. Let's continue to encourage and promote it together in a strong home-school partnership (about which, more later).

The successful entries this time were,

Joint 1<sup>st</sup> Place:

Tom Fowler - Yr7 – "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio

Harry Culkin – Yr8 – "Star Wars" by George Lucas

Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:

Isabella Stockill - Yr9 – "The truth and lies of Ella Black" by Emily Barr

Josh McDonald – Yr7 – "Why the whales came" by Michael Morpurgo

Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Place:

Scarlett Grainger – Yr7 – "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng

Molly Storey – Yr7 – "Tom's Midnight Garden" by Philippa Pearce

These winning entries will be available to view on the Navy Blazer - [www.thenavyblazer.maltonschool.org](http://www.thenavyblazer.maltonschool.org)

As regards the promotion of further reading the English staff have promoted the following link for KS3 students to access free, on-line books:

The Myon library page - <https://readon.myon.co.uk/>

Audible are also offering a range of free audio books for children - <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

JK Rowling has created 'Harry Potter at home' with lots of reading activities and celebrities reading sections of her novels <https://www.wizardingworld.com/collections/harry-potter-at-home> plus she

has written a new story 'The Ickabog' which has a website with the story and activities - <https://www.theickabog.com/read-the-story/>

#### How to join NYCC library online

- Follow the link below. There is a quick form to complete.
- <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/how-join-library>
- Joining the North Yorkshire Library Service allows you access to thousands of eBooks, graphic novels, magazines etc.
- Remember you can find the Accelerated Reader book level for any book they have quizzes on through <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx?RedirectURL=%2fdefault.aspx>

The winning entries for challenges 6 and 7 will be revealed shortly.

#### Future Inspire Challenges

<b>Submission Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Task</b>
15/06	Most Inspirational Sports Personality	To celebrate the gradual return of some sporting activity, albeit behind closed doors, explain who is your most inspirational sporting personality and why are they so inspirational to you.
22/06	Beat the Head of Maths challenge!	Devise a Mathematical question or puzzle. I will send them all to Mr Muir. See if you can beat him! Or if not, he will award the winners based on who set the hardest puzzle that took him the longest to resolve.
29/06	Best recorded dramatic monologue	Choose a famous monologue, or write one of your own, practice it and then record your delivery of it (video recording) on your iPad. Costumes not required but dramatic poise is! (3 minute maximum)
06/07	Best design concept for a home improvement	We all think from time to time about practical improvements we could make in our own homes. Try out your design skills in producing a concept sheet to explain your best home improvement idea.
13/07	Most Inspirational Message in French for Bastille Day!	Either script an inspirational message of your own or choose an inspirational message written by somebody else (in English!), and then translate it yourself into French.
08/09 (Summer Challenge!)	Best round local walk	As a summer challenge, and only if safe, devise a circular route for a family walk with points of interest and/or beautiful views. Your finished piece should be no more than 2 sides of A4 with approximate timings and snippets of information at each stage of the route. You should include a map with clear markings.

Remember, submissions have to be made electronically, via email to myself – [rjw@maltonschool.org](mailto:rjw@maltonschool.org)  
- by 9.00am on the date shown. If your work is on paper please just take a photograph of it and submit it as an attachment to your email (not in the main body of the email). And good luck!

Until my next letter on Friday, best wishes from all of us at school.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. S. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Williams

Headteacher