



BLOXWICH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020 FEATURING...

- SCIENCE FUN!
- YEAR 11 CELEBRATION VIDEO
- HOUSE NEWS



MESSAGES FROM YOUR HEADTEACHERS



Dear Parent/Carer

It is safe to say, the 2019/2020 school year has been one we shall never forget. Through the hard work and determination of the staff and your children, the Primary school was on track to achieve its best ever results exceeding last year's good performance.

Lockdown has been a challenging time for us all but I want to thank you for supporting the online home school learning work. It has been fantastic to see the range of children's work uploaded. The online 'live' lessons have also been a success with many children participating.

Staff have been busy preparing the school and classrooms for your child's safe return in September and transition information will be available to view shortly. All staff are excited and eager to welcome all our families back after the summer break.

On that note, I would like to take this opportunity to bid you farewell. Having spent almost 2 years at Bloxwich Academy, I will be moving onto pastures new. It has been a wonderful experience and I feel privileged to have led the school and been part of your community. I wish you all a healthy and safe summer and know that Bloxwich Academy will continue to thrive and achieve further success.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs S Davies
Headteacher



Dear Parent/Carer

It has been great having some of our pupils back over the last few weeks, in line with Government guidelines. You should be really proud of everyone who has attended as their conduct has been exemplary. In particular, our Year 6 pupils have made the move to the secondary site and enjoyed having a taster of what life will be like for them when they join us in September full-time.

Our pupils have continued to work from home and actively engaged in all of the home learning assignments. May I thank all of the parents/carers who have continually shown their support. Please find attached some of the activities our pupils have been participating in. It is important that they have a relaxing holiday and recharge their batteries and get ready for their full return in September. We cannot wait to be welcoming everyone back.

Have a great break.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Seager
Headteacher

NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS

We give a warm Bloxwich Academy welcome to the new Year 7 in September. Over 250 Pupils will be joining the Academy in September. It only feels like yesterday we were saying hello to our last transition group who are now moving up to Year 8.

The new Year 7 have unfortunately not had the usual Induction Days nor evenings, which you all will have had. This is obviously due to the current Covid-19 situation. However, staff have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure the new Year 7 are ready for September and ready to meet their new friends in their Forms and Houses. There is an Academy walk through video on the website, as well as a question and answer section and a moving up booklet for pupils to see, this may answer any potential questions you may have.

Year 6 summer school is also running, this allows pupils to see the Academy up close and get used to where everything is, and how to navigate around the Academy, as well as meeting teachers, and of course making new friends.

We look forward to seeing all the new Year 7's in September.

BLOXWICH ACADEMY COMBINED CADET FORCE (RAF)

The academic year started with a bang with two back to back flying days in the first half term. Nearly all the Cadets took part. Cadet D took the opportunity to conduct a couple of barrel rolls over a cloudy Wolverhampton. The flight experience gave the Cadets the very basics in the principles of flight. The experience was split into two halves 50% towards the Cadet curriculum and the other 50% having some fun in the Grob tutor aircraft.

Moving on to November the Cadets delivered their annual service of Remembrance. This included several Veterans and representatives of the Royal British Legion, Bloxwich and Great Wyrley branch members. The Cadets also conducted adventure training as part of their syllabus. This was designed to teach the Cadets teamwork, boost confidence and to have faith in their training and equipment. The 30 metre climb was conducted at Llanymynech Nature Reserve, just outside Oswestry. The Cadets actually climbed from England into Wales as the border runs straight through the quarry. Because the Cadets enjoyed this activity that much they didn't get time to abseil down the cliff face.

December saw the Cadets annual Christmas social event. Fun, games and a quiz on the RAF were conducted with A Flight winning the Spitfire cup for this year.

January saw Bloxwich Academy's first Skill at Arms Course this was held at Queen Mary's Grammar School. This was an intensive course that all Armed Service personnel have to conduct every time they use a weapon. This was slightly modified for the Cadets to be inclusive. 10 Cadets took part and they passed the Annual Personal Weapons Test so they now can move to the live fire stage of Skill at Arms. Many thanks For QMGS for hosting us.

February saw selected Cadets participate in Bloxwich Academy's first ground school training for the glider. This consisted of the principles of flight revision and further learning. The Cadets got to fly in the glider simulator and earned both ground and air school wings for their uniform. Unfortunately Storm Dennis showed up so the Cadets couldn't get to fly the gliders. Another days' climbing was brought to a sudden end as the weather decided to change from a nice spring day to a snow storm where you couldn't see in front of you. The Contingent Commander made a dynamic risk assessment and the rest of the day was spent at the RAF Cosford Museum.

Then Lockdown came.

Whilst in lockdown Cadet activity has been minimal. The Cadets have received two large training packages to revisit skills previously taught with some new learning. This is in readiness for when we return to some sort of normality and qualifications can be awarded subject to assessment.

The Cadets have also produced a presentation for the school website in remembrance of VE Day. This was led by Lcpl H.

Commissioning paper has been submitted for A/Plt Off S and A/Plt Off W with Mr S conducting and passing his commissioning interview and is now awaiting his full commission.

We look forward to recruiting from the current Year 7 group as some of the existing Cadets are in the position to run their own lessons and activities.

A big thank you to the CCF Team, school staff and of course the Cadets for a successful short year of training.

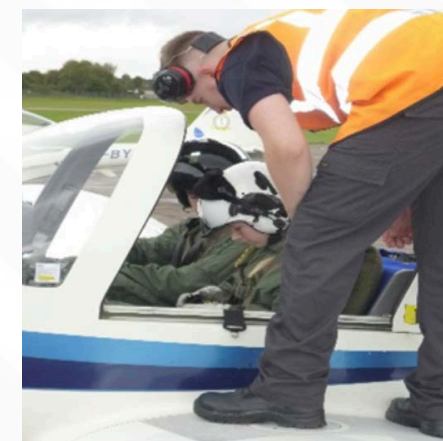
Pilot Officer Hall R J,
Contingent Commander,
Bloxwich Academy Combined Cadet Force RAF.



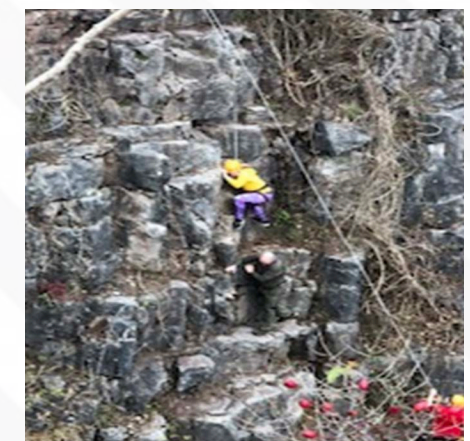
Weapons course held courtesy of Queen Mary's Grammar School.



Contingent commander showing the cadets how to climb.



Pre-flight safety checks. (straps, parachute and sick bag)



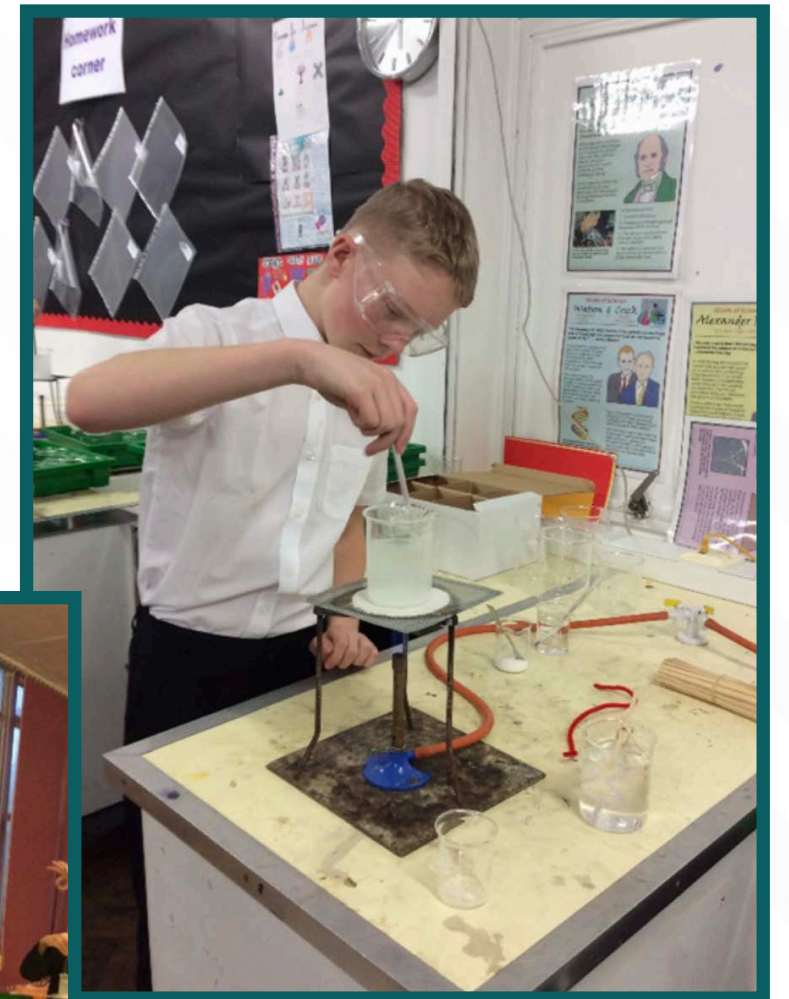
Cadets climbing and belaying the safety line.

FUN WITH SCIENCE!

Pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 have been having a fantastic time in Science Club. The aim of the club is to explore all aspects of science in a fun and exciting way. Since the start of the club our pupils have completed a variety of chemistry based activities including fire writing, making sparklers and exploring the making of fireworks. They carved pumpkins for Halloween and completed a reaction in them. They have also had fun with physics and biology by making and racing hovercrafts and exploring organ systems.

On the run up to Christmas the pupils have been making crystal tree decorations using salt solutions and chromatography bubbles as part of our festive science fun. As soon as we are all back in school science club will start again with activities including making birdfeeders, the egg drop challenge and lots of other exciting experiments.

Two star students are P Hampton (9T1) and J Garbett (9T1). Both work really hard to make progress in science but in addition they support the running of the Science Club. Every week they help by setting up and clearing away equipment and by supporting Year 7 and 8 pupils to complete the fun activities.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Parents/carers have been sending in their thanks to Bloxwich Academy Support Staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure Free School Meal vouchers reached all the families entitled to this funding.

The system allowed families with email access to download e-codes, which are then converted into food vouchers. For those with no Internet the school has been happy to support by undertaking the download and posting out the vouchers.

The Edenred system, contracted by the Government, became well known for crashing under the sheer volume of the demand across the country. The Support Team chose to work late into the night when it was less busy to get e-codes ordered and vouchers downloaded. There have also been many hours spent on phones explaining the download process. We know of several families who also stayed up late into the night to secure access to the system.



Interesting statistics:

Over 17 weeks, £160,650 worth of free school meal funding has been issued to Parents/Carers

The Summer Food Fund will total £56,610

Postal costs to send out vouchers has so far totalled £3,000

Staff would also like say a big thank you to Parents/Carers who have shown patience and understanding as we resolved issues presented by the system.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ART COMPETITION 2020

As part of their 70th Anniversary celebrations, Walsall Society of Artists launched a free to enter art competition for young people which they hope would become an annual event. Prizes of art vouchers would be awarded to individual children in each age group.

Pupils at Bloxwich Academy participated in the competition and did submit their entries, and we are delighted to announce that some of our young artists won!

We are proud to announce that the following pupils won prizes for their outstanding and talented Artwork. Prizes and certificates will be disclosed to the winners.

The following pupils are:

Age 12-13 – 'Commended' M Mane - 'Bottle and Glass'

Age 14-16 – 'Third place' J Benton - 'Turtle'

Age 14-16 – 'Commended' C Spellman - 'Glasses'

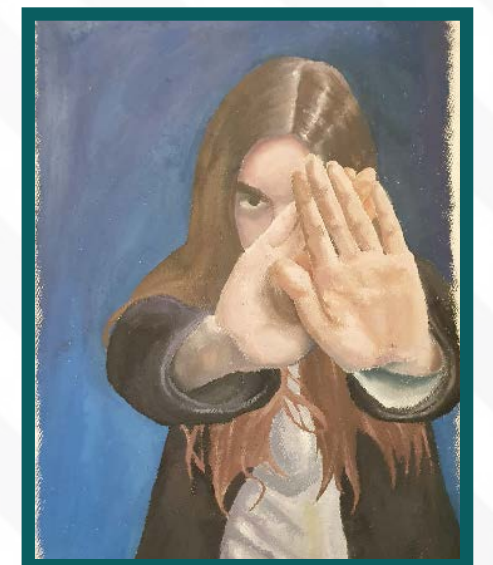
Age 16-18 – 'Second place' L Perkins - 'Kingfisher'

Age 16-18 – 'Third place' N Capalbo - 'Flower'

Age 16-18 – 'Commended' O Sukhorukova - 'Untitled'



Age 16-18 – 'Third place' N Capalbo - 'Flower'



Age 16-18 – 'Commended' O Sukhorukova - 'Untitled'



Age 14-16 – 'Third place' J Benton - 'Turtle'



Age 16-18 – 'Second place' L Perkins - 'Kingfisher'



Age 12-13 – 'Commended' M Mane - 'Bottle and Glass'



Age 14-16 – 'Commended' C Spellman - 'Glasses'



SPORTING NEWS

In PE we have encouraged pupils to take part in physical activity at home. We have set many programs which supports pupil's physical development whilst also contributing to their social, mental and emotional enhancement. Some of the work set include:

Beat the Teacher Challenges

Pupils have had the chance to compete against their teachers with 4 different challenges of trying to complete as many 'sit ups in a minute', 'press-ups in a minute', 'star jumps in a minute' and 'burpees in a minute'. Mr Seager is still trying to beat Mr Woodall's 33 Burpees in a minute.



RECEPTION

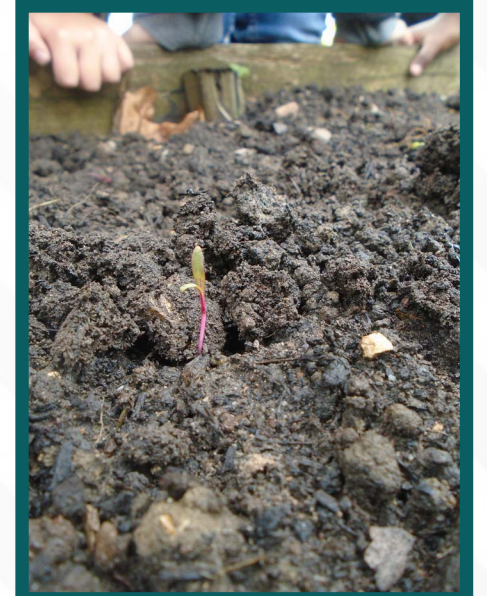
We have enjoyed welcoming back some of our reception children following school closure. They have enjoyed choosing activities that promote our early years curriculum. We hope all of the reception children have a lovely summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming them all back into Year 1 in September.



KS1 HAVE BEEN GROWING VEGETABLES!

During the last few weeks, we have planted 4 different seeds with Miss Brisband and Mrs Watkins. These were cabbages, chives, beetroot and radishes. We planted the seeds into small planting pots with damp soil. The children have ensured the plants have the 5 things they need to survive. Once the seeds had started to germinate, we could see the seedlings and the roots. We then re-planted the seedlings and roots in a larger planting pot, to ensure they had enough space, to grow.

We talked about the different months and the best seasons for the plants to grow in. The children looked at the packaging and found out that some plants grow all year round and it doesn't matter about the weather.



YEAR 5

Year 5 have returned to school and have settled very well into the year 6 classrooms. The children are being taught by Mrs Baxter and Mr Mcfarland and have begun to access various topics such as: maths and reading.

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

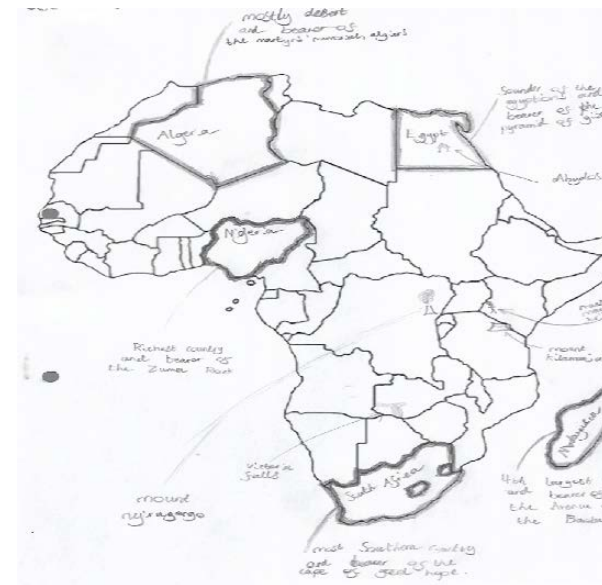
Year six returned to school at the beginning of June and to help their transition they attended Bloxwich Secondary Academy.

This transition was a huge success and all the children who returned have benefitted greatly. Children have been given the opportunity of being taught by Secondary teachers and they have enjoyed the variety of lessons , such as: Science, Maths, PE and art. We are incredibly proud of the children and we are looking forward to celebrating their success during their final assembly on the last day of term.

GEOGRAPHY UPDATE

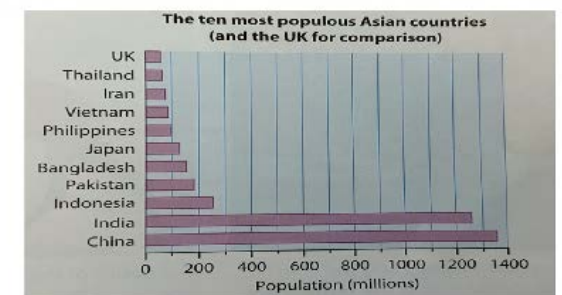
The Geography Department are thrilled with the home learning that our pupils have completed. The level of independence really does show that our pupils at Bloxwich Academy are great geographers. The pupils have shown great creativity when researching and reading around the subject to complete the tasks set. The department are very proud and we look forward to another great year ahead in Geography!

J. Mills 7B1

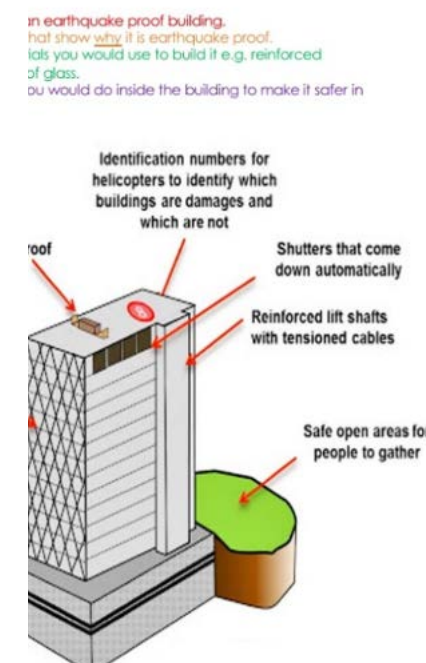


T. Spellman 7B1

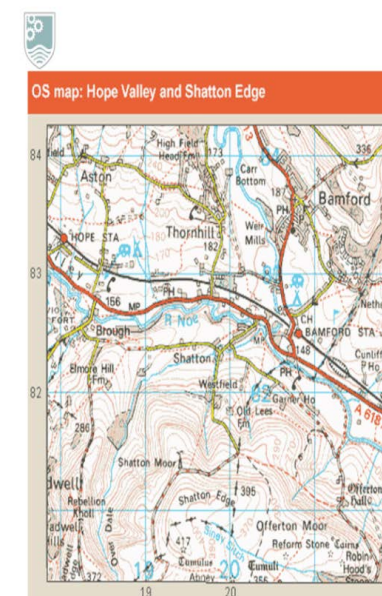
<p>Trend</p> <p>{what can you see}</p>	<p>I can see that UK and China have a large difference in population.</p>
<p>Example</p> <p>{give numbers and countries}</p>	<p>This is shown by the graph and how the UK only has nearly 100 million and China has nearly 1.4 billion people.</p>
<p>Anomaly</p> <p>{what is unexpected?}</p>	<p>I thought UK and China had nearly the same population but obviously I was very wrong.</p>



L. Hawkins 8T1



P. Hampton 9T1



If you were to do each journey below which direction would you need to travel in?

- ◊ Carr Bottom to Weir Mills: South
- ◊ Brough to Bamford: North-East
- ◊ Shalton Moor to Offerton Moor: South-east

Using the scale $2\text{cm} = 1\text{ km}$ to try to give the distance between the following places on the OS map

- ◊ Elmore Farm to Hope Station: 2km
- ◊ Old Lees Farm to Rebellion Knoll: 4km
- ◊ High Field Head Farm to Weir Mills: 1.5km

Give the 4 figure grid reference of point on a map

- ♦ Thornhill telephone:19.83 ♦ Hope Station: 18.83
 ♦ Bamford Public House:20.83 ♦ Bamford Station: 20.82
 ♦ Offerlon Hall:21.81 ♦ Bamford Campsite: 20.82

Find the point on a map using a 4 figure grid references

- ◊ What is the name of the town in grid reference 1983?
- Thornhill
- ◊ Where can people stay in grid reference 1883?
- Caravan or Aston Village
- ◊ What is the name of the river flowing through grid reference 1982?

River Noe

Black lives matter.

'Black lives matter' the slogan, powerful when first launched by black people after the shooting of Trayvon Martin in 2012 in the USA, has almost lost its meaning. The way people keep repeating 'I hate racism' endlessly without doing anything to stop it. It's useless. I assume neither you nor anybody likes the idea of people being treated as inferior just because of the colour of their skin. However it's clear that not everyone is participating or supporting the movement even though they totally understand the situation and the impact that this movement can make. How big of a change this would bring to the world. The problem is that even racist hate racism; hence they always find excuses for their behaviour. 'It's not my fault, it's just that black people tend to be criminals more than white people'. 'I'm not racist, they just don't quite fit in this world'. These are the words people only say in private or don't say. It's clear that nobody is born racist it's taught as we grow up; therefore if we get rid of these thoughts it wouldn't be an issue anymore. Back in the 1950s and 1960s white people fought alongside black people as they have had enough of staying quiet about the oppression that black people have to suffer. And they have successfully ended slavery. So I strongly believe that we can change what we have done it before and we can do it again.

Over the past few days I've been wondering why? Why is it that people are only now taking actions? Is it that they have had enough? After all we've known about police brutality against black people since a long time, but no body had anything to say. Why is it now that enough is enough? Why did we wait that long to take actions. Questions like that keep crossing my mind from time to time. I came to the conclusion that there are two main reasons. First, given the lockdown, there aren't much left for young people to do. The anger is true. But the typical distraction that usually blind people is not here anymore. It's such a rare occasion where there is a lot of free time for young people. So I strongly believe that there is no excuse for them not to respond to the movement and support it.

What if the other reason was guilt, white people feeling guilty for ignoring the issue, for treating black people with oppression and violence which they obviously could have avoided. In addition to that I wonder if it's the fact that white people couldn't believe that this could happen to them. A white police officer could be so harsh to the point of ignoring passer by screams for Floyd's life. That's why this time there was an incredibly large amount of white people taking place in the protests asking for forgiveness. Although not all of the active has a valid understanding of racism issues, at least they're starting to notice.

When I saw Floyd's life slowly drain away. I felt my heart being shattered to many pieces. I wondered why there weren't a big change since the beginning of black lives matter movement back in 2013. And I came to the conclusion that the movement needs everyone support no matter what age, gender or ethnic group we're from. Together we can change, and the protest is a peaceful way to do so. The 'black lives matter' movement should and will always be highlighted. It will stay like that until we achieve our goals of equality and justice for everyone.

YEAR 11 CELEBRATION VIDEO

Unfortunately due to the current circumstances, we couldn't hold our annual Year 11 celebration assembly where we share memories and celebrate the hard work and dedication of our Year 11 cohort.

Staff at Bloxwich Academy, however, did not want to miss out on the opportunity to send well wishes and act a little silly on video. You can watch the video on the school website!



BRINDLEY HOUSE NEWS

Unfortunately, the school year has been cut short and we have not been able to finish in our traditional, celebratory fashion; we have missed House competitions, Sports Day, commendations for the year and most of all, celebrating with Year 11's amazing leavers' assembly. However, we have been able to conduct a virtual assembly on Microsoft Teams and it was fantastic to see so many participate in this. On a personal level, I would like to wish every single one of you the best with your results and with any future adventures moving forwards!

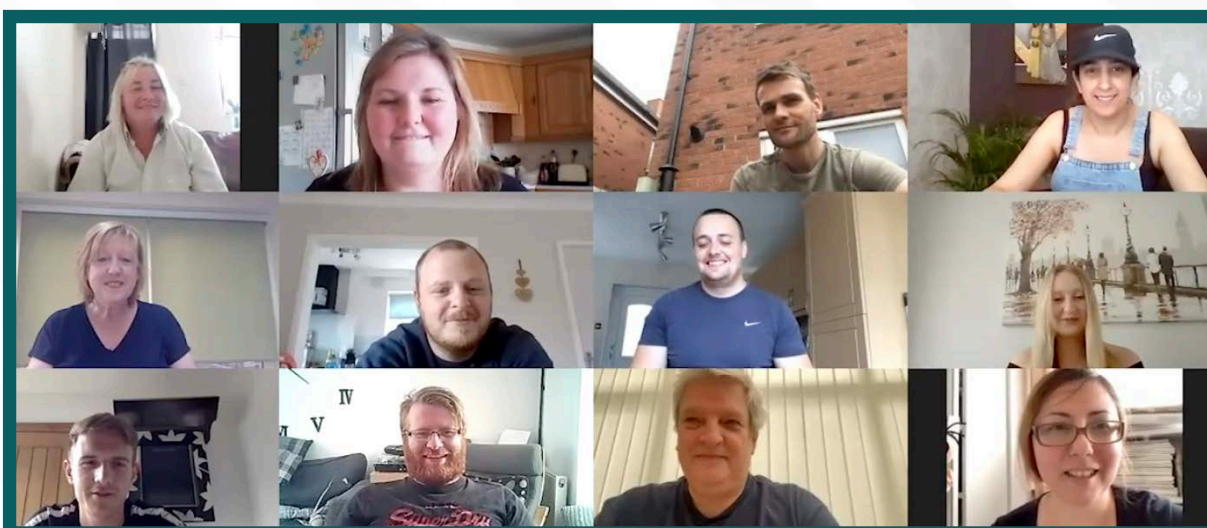
Looking forward to September, I would like to offer a special welcome to our new Year 7 cohort; I cannot wait to meet all of you and I am really looking forward to see how you settle in and how you are going to contribute to Brindley House and to the Academy. In addition, I look forward to seeing all of Brindley back and I look forward to the Academy functioning in a normal way again.

As September approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to share my vision for all pupils returning to the Academy. As the majority of you know, I am very competitive and do not like losing! Along with that competitiveness, I am keen to see you all develop your caring nature in order for you to be supportive of one another. A common phrase I use is "we are all in this together." This phrase holds more importance now than ever before, and I believe we are all a team and therefore need to work together to achieve our best - we cannot do this alone and we have to do this collectively. In September, I would like to see Brindley work together to achieve every success possible. I would also like to set a challenge for everyone in Brindley and that is to achieve 95% attendance throughout the school year. Our aim as a House will be to have an attendance figure that meets the national average attendance figure (or better!)

Finally, I hope that you all enjoy the six-week summer break and that in that period, you all stay safe and well. On your return, I will look forward to seeing high standards of uniform and punctuality along with following the all-important Bloxwich Values (on the website in 'student life').

See you all very soon.

Mr Bradley
Head of Brindley House



STEPHENSON HOUSE NEWS

As this very unusual term is ending, I am reminded of our many successes in Stephenson House this year. I would like to take the opportunity to say "thank you" to our parents/carers over this term for helping our pupils to complete the home learning activities as well as helping our pupils to try new hobbies such as growing different sorts of vegetables. Over this term several staff and parents/carers have spoken to me about the outstanding work that pupils in Stephenson House have completed and I am looking forward to displaying this in our Academy next term. We also need to say a fond farewell to our Year 11 who, over the summer, will be preparing to go to College or returning to Bloxwich Academy to join our Sixth Form. As our Year 11 Prom had to be cancelled the job has been left to me as their Head of House to wish them all the best for their next step in their life's journey.

In Stephenson House we have a strong team of Form Tutors who always put a lot of time and care into their forms. We are a nurturing and caring House, where pupils are encouraged to show compassion, friendship and support towards one another. We expect pupils to "Be The Best You Can Be" so they can achieve their Academy goals. These values are important to us so we develop our pupils into lifelong learners and prepare them for a life beyond the Academy.

In Stephenson House we expect pupils to take part in all aspects of Academy life such as House competitions, Assemblies, Charity days and School Council as well as extra-curricular activities. We tell pupils it is important to take part and have fun when completing Inter-House competitions such as Sports Day.

We expect pupils to arrive on time every morning and come to Bloxwich Academy prepared to work, in other words, have their equipment, planner and PE or Dance kit so that effective learning can take place. We use a motto in Stephenson House "Barrier to Learning is Attendance" meaning if you are not at school then you cannot achieve your potential. Pupils will be regularly set attendance targets as well as subject targets so they can achieve their goals in the Academy.

Our House team know that in September pupils will have to cope with new challenges which can have an impact on their mental health, but there are lots of things that we can do to make their time as a pupil easier and more enjoyable. We pride ourselves on being a 'Telling School' it is important that pupils communicate with Form Tutors if they have a concern or worry for themselves or a friend which will enable us to give them support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Year 7 pupils who will be joining Stephenson House in September. Whilst we have not had the opportunity to meet in person, rest assured that your Form Tutors and myself are looking forward to your arrival and will ensure you make a smooth transition into secondary life. Have a good summer, stay safe and see you all in September.

Miss Stanley

Head of Stephenson House

TELFORD HOUSE NEWS

Firstly, I hope you are reading this in good health and you, and your family are taking full advantage of the reduced lockdown guidelines. Well, this marks the end of the most bizarre term of my career, with so much uncertainty back at Easter, it is fair to say that there was much apprehension about how home schooling would work long term, as it became clear that the majority of pupils would not return before the summer holidays. I would like to congratulate pupils and parents/carers for their engagement in the system as well as your patience with some of the technology problems that may have arisen. The work that has been produced has been fantastic and it has been a pleasure to speak to your teachers and hear about some of the wonderful work you have produced. From KS3 I would like to particularly congratulate; N Evans (7T2), R Wieczorek (8T1) and P Salan (9T1), for the consistent high standard of work that these three pupils have produced. I have also been impressed with the members of 10T1 who have been producing excellent work both in school and on their online lessons, I would like to congratulate; M Erinayo, E Petty, G Marlow, M Law, B Evans and A Poxon who have all shown that even with these unprecedented times that they are keen to be the best that they can be.

We have also said a fond farewell to Year 11, in a first ever online leaver's assembly, I wish you all the best of luck in your futures and hope to hear about the excellent and exciting opportunities you undertake over the coming years. Jackson would also like to say a special goodbye to you all, he loved meeting you all on teams last week.

As one year ends, we look forward to the new year, both welcoming our new pupils in Year 7 and 12, as well as trying to get back to some sense of normality. I am sure that we are all looking forward to September with excitement and apprehension in equal measure. I would like everyone to rest assured that as an Academy we are striving to do everything we can to make sure that all pupils and parents/carers feel safe and secure in returning to Bloxwich Academy in September. If you are concerned or have any questions, then please feel free to contact us as we want to make sure that everyone's minds are at rest. It will be a very different start to the year but one that I am sure we are all looking forward to.

I look forward to welcoming you all back in September ready to get back into action, to continue your studies and grow, as well as building Telford House to be the best house in the Academy. I would like to finish by wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer, and that if we learn anything from these strange times it is that we don't take anything for granted, and we cherish the opportunities and experiences that await us in September, let's use this experience as a stepping stone on to bigger and better things and continue to strive to be the best that we can be!!!!

Mr Booth

Head of Telford House

WATT HOUSE NEWS

As we draw closer to the end of another academic year, it is important to spend time reflecting on the achievements, but to also consider the new challenges and exciting times ahead in the up and coming year. I have continued to have discussions with Watt pupils and their parents about the home learning taking place. It is exciting to hear once again about the many hobbies that have been taken up as well as the home improvements being carried out with parents. It is wonderful to hear the effort being given to the work completed and fantastic to see some of those examples being sent into school.

I am sure Year 11 will be preparing for their next steps into education. The hard work you have put into this year will not go to waste because of the lack of exams. The determination and resilience you have all shown will stand you in good favour when you return to education in September. I am looking forward to seeing many of you return to Sixth Form. Another exciting prospect is the new pupils joining us at Bloxwich Academy. Transition may not be the same as previous years, but rest assured everyone will be there to help and support you.

For returning pupils, it may feel unusual getting back into the routines and day to day life of being back in school in September. As with any other time, it is important to try and "Be The Best You Can Be." There will be a period of adjustment for everyone, but remember we are in this together and need to support each other.

With many changes and adaptations ahead of us yet, we need to ensure we stick together as the team we are. I am incredibly proud to be the Head of Watt House and I look forward to the achievements ahead, whether they are great or small, for each and every one of you.

Take care, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Miss Williamson

Head of Watt House

TWEET, TWEET

THE LATEST NEWS FROM
OUR TWITTER ACCOUNTS



Bloxwich Academy @bloxwichacademy · Jun 2

Happy Pride Month! This month we celebrate love and equality across the UK! 🇬🇧

#PRIDE2020 #PrideMonth #EqualityForAll



Bloxwich Academy @bloxwichacademy · Jun 10

We welcome back Year 1 and Year 6 pupils to the academy this week. The pupils who have returned have worked magnificently and have coped with the changes tremendously! We look forward to Year 10 and Year 12 pupils returning on their allocated timetables from Monday.



3

3

19





Bloxwich Academy @bloxwichacademy · Jul 3

💡 #FACTFRIDAY 💡

1 million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute! 🌍

Can you think of some ways you could reduce your daily plastic use?



💬 ↺ ❤️ 1 📤 ||



Bloxwich Academy @bloxwichacademy · Jul 14

We're back with #TriviaTuesday! 💡 Submit your answer below and come back tomorrow to see if you were correct! 📥📥

Which lobe of the human brain is responsible for vision? 🧠

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Frontal Lobe | 10% |
| Parietal Lobe | 20% |
| Occipital Lobe | 60% |
| Temporal Lobe | 10% |

10 votes · Final results

💬 ↺ 1 ❤️ 📤 ||

↺ You Retweeted



National Online Safety

@natonlinesafety

Lockdown your personal info! 🗝️👣 You wouldn't share sensitive information with a stranger, so why do it online? This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide provides #OnlineSafety tips for parents on protecting 'Personal Data' >> hubs.ly/H0s2bGD0

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What parents need to know about PROTECTING PERSONAL DATA

Personal data is a strange commodity. Cyber thieves can buy huge quantities of personal data on the black market for very little, yet your own personal data is hugely valuable to you. If your personal data falls into the wrong hands, it could lead to identity theft, bank fraud or something even more sinister such as stalking. The severity of that threat is multiplied when it comes to the personal data of children, when threats such as internet grooming begin to emerge. The bad news is that children aren't always great at safeguarding sensitive information, which is why they need parents' help and guidance. That's why we've created this guide to show you how you can protect your own and your family's personal data.

EVERY DETAIL IS KEY

Which info should you be wary of sharing online? Aside from the obvious, such as full names, date of birth and address, think of the type of information you're asked for when answering security questions for services such as online banking. The name of your first school, your mother's maiden name, the names of your pets, your favourite band. Data thieves will harvest as much of this information as possible, so don't make it easy for them by publishing it anywhere online.

SOCIAL MEDIA VISIBILITY

Social media sites, such as Facebook, encourage us to share sensitive information in order to build our online profiles. Many people are lulled into thinking that only their friends can see such information, but that's rarely the case. Such information can easily be shared with 'friends of friends' or even anyone searching for you online because privacy settings are opaque. Keep social media profiles to the bare minimum. If you wouldn't be comfortable hanging a sign with that information on your front door, don't enter it into social media sites.

DANGEROUS GAMES

Online games are a particular risk for children. Many of the most popular games – such as Fortnite, Minecraft or Roblox – have voice or text chat facilities, allowing them to talk to fellow gamers. Or, sometimes, people pretending to be fellow gamers. It's very easy for children to be seduced into divulging personal data such as their address, birthday or school. It's critical parents both educate children on the dangers on online chat in games and take safeguards to protect children.

IMPOSTERS AND PHISHING ATTACKS

Even if you're scrupulous about keeping your data private on social media, it's easy to be lulled into handing it over to imposters. There are two golden rules for you and your children to follow: 1. Never divulge personal information to phone callers, unless you can be absolutely certain you know who they are. 2. Never click on links or open attachments in emails or social media, unless you're 100% certain they are genuine. So-called phishing emails are growing ever more sophisticated, with fraudsters able to replicate the exact look of bank emails and even include details such as account numbers and IDs.

THE RISKS OF PASSWORD SHARING

Password sharing – using the same password for multiple sites – is one of the easiest ways to lose control of your personal data. Hacking of major websites, including usernames and passwords, is common. If you're using the same password for a hacked site as you do on your Gmail account, for example, you're handing data thieves an easy route into your inbox, where they will doubtless find all manner of sensitive information, such as bank emails and contacts. Your email account will often also let them reset the password on multiple other accounts. Don't share passwords; use password managers to create strong, unique passwords for every site.

National Online Safety Safety Tips for Parents & Carers

#WakeUpWednesday

LOOK OUT FOR LEAKS

Many security software packages have features that look for personal data leaks or prevent people from entering it into risky sites in the first place. For example, Bullguard Premium monitors dangerous sites for usage of data such as your email address, debit card numbers, passport number and more, and then sends you email alerts and details of how to take remedial action if it spots them being used. Such software also issues warnings if it sees personal data being entered into unprotected, high-risk sites.

KEEP DATA GUARDED

Don't give the thieves a head start by handing them pieces of sensitive information for free. For example, it's very common to see email addresses such as davesmith1976@gmail.com – an immediate clue that you were born in that year. If you have a less common name than Dave Smith, thieves could immediately start using that information to cross reference against public records or other database breaches, allowing them to start building a profile of information about you. Likewise, don't use your date of birth in a password. If that's hacked, you've handed the thieves another big clue.

DON'T OVERSHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The biggest threat to your child's privacy is you. Parents often overshare personal information on social media: full names, names of schools, children's birthdays, names of their friends. All of this can be easily gleaned to build profiles that could be used to groom your child in online games or in real life. Exercise extreme caution with social media posts concerning your children.

BE WARY OF SHARED NETWORKS/SYSTEMS

Avoid entering any personal data into a web browser when you're using public Wi-Fi (in a coffee shop or airport, for example) or when using shared computers. Shared Wi-Fi connections are much easier to eavesdrop on than your home network, especially if they are not password protected or the password is shared freely with customers. Don't do online shopping, banking or enter any logins/passwords when using shared Wi-Fi. Likewise, if you're using a shared computer at work, for example, as it's very easy for a browser to save logins that could be used by others.

PLAY SAFE IN ONLINE GAMES

Children must be taught to treat strangers in online games with the same caution as they would treat strangers in the street. Don't allow children to use their real name as their username in games to prevent imposters conning kids into thinking they are real-life friends, and only allow them to add friends in the game that they know in real life. Regularly ask to monitor your child's friends list in such games and ask them to identify who the players are. With younger children in particular, ask them to only use voice chat in family rooms, so that you can hear conversations.

Meet our expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as *The Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *BBC Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues over the years.

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"Mistakes are proof that you are trying" ✨

Never be afraid to make mistakes! #motivationalmonday



Bloxwich Academy @bloxwichacademy · Jun 15

All young people deserve to enjoy the life-changing benefits that come from play and sport. That's why this year we're asking our pupils' families to take part in National School Sport Week at Home while we join in at school. bit.ly/YSTNSSW #NSSWtogether



**NATIONAL SCHOOL
SPORT WEEK 2020**

AT HOME

supercharged by

sky sports

**WE'RE
TAKING
PART!**

Saturday 20 – Friday 26 June

#NSSWtogether



Beware of Scams

We will **NOT** email or phone you to ask for your bank details.

This scam has been linked to payments for free school meals.

This is a Covid19 scam, please be vigilant.



You can find the 'Parents & Carers guide to home learning' on the school website.

