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— THE —
ELMGREEN
— SCHOOL —

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Dear Families

In one of my first letters I think I shared a line by Lenin about nothing happening for years and then years happening in a week. We have now entered that strange world of lots happening but nothing much changing. After the announcements last weekend and all the work that we have done in preparation, we are still in a similar situation to where we were. It still remains the case that the vast majority of students will continue with home learning for the foreseeable future.

After my letter last week, I definitely felt that I opened the gates slightly to people's concerns about the volume and turnaround of work. This was really useful and has informed how we are now moving forward. Families and students will hopefully see a significant change in those things after half term. We will also be introducing significantly more live learning and teaching of lessons as we move to the next phase.

We will, with the caveat, that we must also be safe, start to look at how we supplement the learning of the Year 10 and Year 12 students with some face to face learning after half term. We have done much on this in the last week but we are still in the process of looking at how this is structured and I will write to Year 10 and 12 families about how we move forward. It is certainly the case that even looking at how we bring about 270 young people back into the building is a logistical challenge with the current social distancing guidance but it is also absolutely the case that a real teacher in front of a real student is better than any virtual experience. In order to talk about it further, and any other issues to do with the school that you have, in the week beginning 1 June we will have a Parents Forum. I will give details of how to sign up to that 'virtual' forum later in the week.

A reminder as well that the final options choices should be submitted this week. I hope the online videos have been useful in this regard.

[Year 9 Options - Mr Arnett](#)

[Options Video - Miss West](#)

A reminder that it is also Mental Health Awareness week with a focus for us on #kindness matters and #happysnappy. You can find all the information here

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>.



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We at Elmgreen are having a particular focus on what acts of kindness we do or that are done to us that have a significant impact on our current lockdown lives (#kindnessmatters) and we are also asking you to tweet or instagram images of things that make you happy (#happysnappy). The latest in my series of increasingly eccentric assemblies also looks at this issue.



Of course one of the great ways of looking after your mental health is by staying physically active. The PE Department has done an amazing job in the last three months of trying to ensure that we are all active and Mr Silly shares some of his favourite links below.

Podcasts:

- Guardian Football Weekly - mainly discussing historical matches and events in these times but a great listen now and throughout the football season
- That Peter Crouch Podcast
- Tailenders - Cricket Podcast

Netflix and Youtube

The Last Dance -

Basketball - FANTASTIC series on Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls

Youtube

- [Link to the PE Elmgreen Youtube channel](#)
- [Joe Wicks The Body Coach](#) - PE with Joe at 9am every morning and many other workouts
- [PE and School Sports Network](#) - I subscribed to this and has loads of safe, social distancing tasks/challenges for students to get involved with at school or at home. Students should subscribe too.

The daily show with Trevor Noah sports page. - [Serena Williams and sexism.](#)

I like this hilarious but interesting opinion of Trevor about the apparent disproportionate treatment between Men and Women in sport.

[Elmgreen PE](#) on Twitter

All workouts and challenges set by Team PE are uploaded each week, as well as weekly shoutouts to students who send in pictures and videos of them taking part.

As well as all the #HealthySelfies sent in by teachers so far - we need students and their families to get involved!

Dance resources

Online Classes- <https://www.moovbank.com/>

A free, digital dance platform, created by the world-renowned dance company, BalletBoyz. The bank features high-quality dance content which gives audiences the opportunity to learn directly from professionals. You can find video dance lessons, step-by-step tutorials, games, creative tasks and exercise-from-home videos, but also clips, materials and interviews from the BalletBoyz company!

Online Classes- <https://www.rambert.org.uk/join-in/rambert-home-studio/>

Rambert Dance Company are offering online dance and fitness classes for people of all abilities with many of the classes specifically aimed at teenagers. Classes are taught by dancers from Rambert's diverse and talented ensemble and leading international teachers.

Free performances- <https://www.youtube.com/royaloperahouse>

The Royal Opera House are offering a free programme of curated online broadcasts, musical masterclasses and cultural insights that get under the skin of both ballet and opera and offer everyone a unique look behind the scenes at one of the world's most famous cultural institutions.

Free performances- <https://www.sadlerswells.com/whats-on/2020/sadlers-wells-digital-stage/>

Sadler's Wells presents a programme of full-length dance performances and workshops online, to keep you entertained and connected through dance, wherever you are in the world while our live stages are dark.

Learning Resources- <https://www.onedanceuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Resources-to-support-remote-dance-teaching-10.pdf>

One Dance have collated a series of online resources, videos and task ideas that can be used to support home learning in dance for all ages. There are also links that are specific to a variety of qualifications and companies.

Participation- <https://www.numeridance.tv/en/participatory-project/animal-kingdom>

A project run by Akram Khan Dance Company. Enter your own dance submission to their online participation project. Details on their website.



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Documentary- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dancer-Steven-Cantor/dp/B06XFYJVG8>
'Dancer' is the story of ballet superstar Sergei Polunin. He's been called 'The bad boy of ballet,' and is regarded as 'the most talented male dancer of his generation'. Ukrainian prodigy Polunin is the Royal Ballet's youngest ever principal, who shocked the dancing world. This captivating documentary, which features a wealth of archive footage and interviews, traces Polunin's journey, from his childhood, through his family background and the sacrifices that were made to send him to the Royal Ballet school at the age of 13.

Documentary- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Pina-Regina-Advento/dp/B00I6CQPC6>
'Pina' is a hauntingly beautiful documentary about contemporary dance choreographer Pina Bausch. Tragically, Pina passed away a few days before filming. After delaying production, director Wim Wenders moved forward with filming, creating an achingly stunning tribute to the beloved German choreographer that is well worth watching.'

Behind the scenes- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Argw1SzEFk>
Type in #WorldBallet Day and you will find a plethora of videos and resources from the world's top ballet companies including the Royal Ballet including daily class, rehearsal footage and interviews with the dancers.

There is certainly enough there to be getting on with. Next time it will be the turn of Ms Young and MFL. I hope that you all stay safe and have a good half term.

Yours faithfully



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