

4 May 2020



— THE —
ELMGREEN

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Headteacher

Dear Families

It is extraordinary to think that we are now in the fifth week of our virtual school and the seventh week of lockdown. It seems to have gone very quickly but at the same time it is strange how we now seem to have become quite used to the new normal. The days of toilet roll panic seem a long time ago and it is rare to see anybody not queuing up properly. I think the same is true of Elmgreen and I will absolutely continue to do the weekly letter as we navigate this crisis but it certainly is the case that more and more the school is adapting to this new situation and we are now pretty much there in terms of our 'way of doing things' in these uncertain times.

I hope last week you all received your first School Newsletter for a while. This will now again be weekly as it has been in the past. It will also be the showcase for the excellent work that our young people have been doing.

There has also been the new normal in terms of how we are communicating with Google Classroom. I must admit that for someone who is useless with technology like me, I have found it really user friendly and interactive so far. I know that technical issues settled down significantly last week but our aim is to get every student on there and submitting work so if there are any ongoing issues please contact admin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk so we can sort it out.

A huge thank you to the Parents Promoters Foundation (PPF) who have started a campaign to eradicate digital disadvantage in school. In two days they have managed to raise over a thousand pounds. Please, if you have any spare cash, and I know how hard that is at present, then please look at their campaign below.

<https://donatemyschool.com/parentpromotersfoundation2209>

They also still have the hardship fund which you can access by emailing ppf.hardship.fund@gmail.com. They have helped a number of families so far and again we pass on our thanks.

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Hopefully when I write to you next week I will have some more news about when schools will be able to open their actual doors again as we have all been promised some news this week. I have determinedly not speculated about what they will say because I'll have a lot of time to think of it when they tell us and pointless speculation is just that. Two things are very clear though. The first is that all children will not be returning to school on 1 June, if indeed any children are and the second is that certainly for the foreseeable future that our school, like all schools, will be significantly different place. All I can say is that as I and the school have tried to do all the way through this, is that we will keep you informed at every step of the process.

Talking of steps and processes all Year 11s should now have all the work they need to keep their brains in gear for the next few weeks and Mr Arnett, Ms Moran and Mr Haughton Campbell are also sending the Year 9 Options process out in the next day or so.

My assembly this week is really about that 7 week milestone that our young people have now reached. Please find the link [here](#) and watch if you have time. I know from personal experience that it is not easy to live with teenagers in lockdown but I also know that this has really been tough for our young people. As our motto says, let's really 'look after each other' this week.

Mr Bennett has picked up the challenge from Mr Truman last week so we have a selection of excellent History resources this week. Next week, based on their fantastic online presence and the uploading our own students have done it will be the turn of PE and Dance.

Videos- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9> - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMsMTfmRomkVQG8AqrAmJFX> - Probably the best history YouTube series are the 'Crash Course' videos. Each one is only 10 minutes in length and covers a range of topics from the Agricultural Revolution, the Protestant Reformation and the Industrial Revolution. These are a great way to become an expert in a short space of time.

Podcasts - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hmmf/episodes/downloads> - The BBC have recently updated their online educational resources and their history resources are now excellent. In particular, they have released a series of podcasts covering a variety of topics. Thus far, episodes have covered the Restoration of the English Monarchy and the 'Space Race' of the Cold War.

Podcasts - <https://www.dancarlin.com/hardcore-history-series/> - Undeniably Mr Bennett's favourite podcast. Although a lengthy commitment, Dan Carlin examines some of the most interesting narratives in history in a way which conventional historians do not. The podcast '*Destroyer of Worlds*' is a must listen to anybody who is interesting in the Cold War and the development of nuclear weapons.

Virtual Museum - <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/@51.5189693,-0.127268,2a,75y,153.63h,94t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1s3SKdOIB6a8CbYwmHYNhRXA!2e0!7i13312!8i6656?hl=en> - As we are all unable to benefit from the wealth of historical sites usually available to us in London we need to look for alternative ways of enjoying these riches. The British Museum have a 'Virtual Tour' available on line using Google Maps where all exhibits can be viewed.

Learning - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zj26n39> - The BBC Bitesize website has been recently updated with topics covering Key Stage Three, GCSE and A-Level. The resources are excellent and there are also quizzes provided to frequently check your understanding.

Chronology - <http://histography.io/> - The website Histography provides timelines of human development focusing on areas such as music, discoveries and religions. The interactive website is excellent for researching new topics and deepening our understanding of current topics.

Yours faithfully



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