



## Issue 1 wk - 23/3/2020

I hope this weekly newsletter finds you well. The aim of this newsletter is to keep you all updated in these unprecedented times but the situation changes on a daily basis.

Remote learning is going very well and students and staff are working together to submit and acknowledge work. Each teacher is using class charts to set or give instructions for work such as Google classroom or other online platforms (Seneca, Sparx etc). As you would expect, there have been no issues with Google apps, but we are aware that platforms such as Sparx have crashed on a daily basis. This is a national problem. We apologise for this and are working with these companies to ensure provision is restored as soon as possible.

The feedback I have received from staff is that students need to create a Google Document clearly labeled with their name and share it with the appropriate teacher. The work should also contain a title and date. Students need to access google docs/ slides/ when they are logged on to their school accounts. ?????@tavistockcollege.org. We are answering loads of emails requesting access from random accounts and parents accounts Once this document/ resources has been created it just needs to be added for each lesson. Think of this like an online exercise book. Wonder also if we can generally remind students that for access to google docs/ slides/ drive they need to be logged on on their school accounts..

We have created an online learning and support section to our website, it is aimed at students and parents/ carers. Please follow the link below to watch clips about how to use class charts, create an online exercise book and more. We hope more will be added so keep checking this site out. There's also a big yellow help and support icon on the website home page that takes you to the same place.

<http://www.tavistockcollege.org/learning/online-learning-help-and-support/>

It is important that students try to complete their work to their best ability as when we return to school there shouldn't be any lag in learning. These gaps could impact their final exams.

I feel sad about examination groups working so hard towards their exams and as yet we do not know exactly how their grade will be calculated. Below is the latest message from the Department for Education (published 20th March)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>



## Attendance

If it is **absolutely necessary** your child can come to school but its essential that they sign in. They will follow a timetable and have access to the IT facilities to complete their learning. They are not expected to wear school clothes, just casual clothing suitable for learning.

## Message from the faculties

### Creative Arts

We've been enjoying lots of the Creative Arts Passport work that's been created - keep going with your great ideas! Students have been sharing work via email or google classroom, some have taken photos and sent to us, some have shared google docs / slides with us and some have created a google folder. All of these methods are fine because your Creative Arts teachers receive them all to their email. We would recommend you keep all your physical work in a real folder or create a google folder if you know how you will be able to use this work once we are back to school.

There is lots of access to theatre, music and dance online at the moment. We will try and send out a few each newsletter. Specific shows might be sent to specific class groups via google classroom.

Show	Details	Link
<b>Wind in the Willows</b>	Light family fun	<a href="https://www.willowsmusical.com">https://www.willowsmusical.com</a> Free sign up required
<b>Le Navet Bete</b>	Silly Family fun - in theatres normally recommended age 6+	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67LkUBnwfqk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67LkUBnwfqk</a>

### English

Keep Reading: Keep Learning - Mrs S Young

I am writing to keep you informed about how you can support your child with their personal reading at this time. While home learning is a temporary necessity, with a bit of planning we can make the best of it - and there could even be some benefits, particularly when it comes to personal reading and literacy skills. A good story can be a great escape and it is perhaps the most important learning tool we have – for emotional intelligence as well as academic progress.

With this letter, I am also sending reading lists and a PPT presentation with useful advice and websites. In brief, while at home, students and parents can still achieve a great deal to boost their reading and literacy skills:

1. Read short non-fiction articles using sites such as [www.sci](http://www.sci)



2. Access some of the terrific free on line books and audiobooks that are rapidly being made available for home learning e.g Amazon Audible are offering all children's audiobooks free
3. Read classic literature free on line, on numerous easy to find sites; The RSC Learning Zone is also offering free viewing of their best performances at the Globe Theatre
4. Join the Tavistock College "Great Stay-cation Book Club" to participate in a friendly reading group and shadow various reading competitions e.g. The Carnegie Medal (contact your English teacher or [s.young@tavistockcollege.org](mailto:s.young@tavistockcollege.org) for an invite to this google classroom)
5. Keep practising your key skills using the BBC Learning Zone / Bitesize sites.
6. Add to your vocabulary power using [www.vocabulary.com](http://www.vocabulary.com)
7. Use age appropriate reading lists to keep going with personal reading and consider following the Carnegie Medal contest which will bring you up to speed with the very latest best Young Adult fiction. The National Literacy Trust and The Booktrust organisations have excellent websites with book reviews and recommendations.

English teachers are continuing to set challenging curriculum work on Class Charts and are available via email to answer particular questions about your child's reading and other areas of English study. You can also contact me if you would like extra information.

Best wishes,

Shirley Young (KS3 Coordinator English)

## **External support**

### **PSCO - Jo Carter**

Please find attached poster advertising an Instagram account run by PCSO Jo Carter. This account is dedicated to young people and is adding lots of stuff in particular, the current situation with Corvid-19 as lots of children are asking her questions. I encourage you to follow her instagram account as she is already doing a great job engaging from a policing perspective.



**Jo Carter** Youth Engagement  
in North Devon  
Police Community Support Officer



Follow me on Instagram ...

**@PCSO\_Jo\_Carter**



I can give advice on ...

 **Internet Safety**



**Bullying**



 **Knife Crime**

**Sexting**



 **Drugs & Alcohol**

**Anything else you would like advice on ...**



DM **@PCSO\_Jo\_Carter** for advice and Support

**Please check my account for ...**

- ... When I'll be attending your school
- ... When I'll be going 'live'
- ... Info on other agencies who can help with mental health
- ... And lots more interaction and fun

Free daily resources

# Tavistock

COLLEGE



## Free Daily Resources For Children



### PE with Joe Wicks On YouTube

Week days at 9am but you can visit any time on youtube to view the workout.



### Wildlife With with Steve Backshall On Facebook

Every day at 9:30am for answering all your wildlife, biology, conservation, geography and exploration questions.



### Science with Maddie Moate on YouTube

Weekdays 11am. Maddie & Greg chat about science and nature!



### Dance with Oti Mabuse On Facebook

Every day at 11.30am but children can view the class at any time.



### Maths With Carol Vorderman

Free access to the her maths website:  
[www.themathsfactor.com](http://www.themathsfactor.com)



### Storytime With David Walliams

Free story everyday at 11am on his website:  
[www.worldofdavidwalliams.com](http://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com)



### Music with Myleene Klass on YouTube

Twice a week. Next one Friday 27 March 10am, but can view any time.

Joe wicks lin - <https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1>

### Covid19 Distance Learning Q&A

I'm seeing a lot of threads online with the same general theme, so I wanted to just give a schools perspective on it all and answer some FAQs.

Lots of people feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by the work being sent home for kids. I hope this can help with that somewhat.

Few points to note first :



- 1) This is not homeschooling. This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting the whole world. Let's keep perspective. Homeschooling is a choice, where you consider, you plan for it and you are your child's school teacher in whatever form you choose. This is at best distance learning.
- 2) You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything sent home and is going to spend the entire period playing in the dirt, or baking, or watching TV, that is your choice. That is your right. It is clear in the constitution. There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about.
- 3) Schools don't know what they're doing either. They got no notice, no prep time and we're told 'continue to plan lessons as normal and just send them home' as if that is in any way possible. If it were, we'd all be out of a job very quickly.
- 4) It is extremely difficult to facilitate distance learning with a secondary aged child and work from home at the same time. If you're trying to do that, stop now. You can certainly have activities where your child learns, but your focus is your job, and survival. Again, unprecedented. Stop trying to be superheroes.

So, a few FAQs:

**- Tavistock has sent home lots of physical work. Pages and pages, hours and hours. How am I supposed to get through it all?!**

You're not, don't try. Your child's teacher spent a couple of hours gathering things to send home so they could say they did their best and there weren't a lot of complaints that enough didn't go home. It's not a competition, or a race.

**- My school keeps sending home links and emails with more work. How do I make it stop. Ahhhhhh!**

See above. These are suggestions and ideas because the school is worried it'll be said they're not offering enough. Use them if they suit you, don't if they don't. If you're getting stressed, stop opening the emails. No one will know!

**- X in my child's class has everything done and we've barely started. Will they fall behind?**

Even if everything were equal in terms of support and time and number of kids etc. (which it's not) kids learn at different rates. In the class there's a wide range of levels in all subjects, there's different paces and there are many kids working on differentiated levels of work. It's almost impossible for teachers to differentiate at the moment, so you have to do it. By expectation and by time.

If kids could learn new concepts without specific teaching we wouldn't need teachers. They will cover all of this again, multiple times.

**- I'm not doing any work with my kids. All they are doing is Lego, cooking and playing outside.**

All of this is learning. Very valuable learning. Give yourself and them a break.

**- How can I get three different lots of work done with 3 di**



If they're old enough, try to get them to do little bits independently. Otherwise try to do something they can all engage with, reading a story together, some free writing, baking etc.

You are doing enough. You are loving your kids and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for mental health. Don't let this be something that stresses you. Only you can control that by accepting it is in your circle of control, you are the primary educator and this is all your call.

Safe Safe!

Mr J Stroud