



29th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

This was the week when the Government announced that we are not going to be returning to the classroom until the 8<sup>th</sup> March at the earliest. We are therefore so pleased that we invested a massive amount of time and effort in the autumn term to preparing our staff and students for live lessons. We are very proud of the increasing numbers of students who are coming to our classes every week now that we have been able to provide devices to so many more families.

With the prospect of a longer lockdown it is so important that we look after ourselves and each other. The w/b 1<sup>st</sup> February is Children's Mental Health Week and as many of you will know we work very closely with Place2Be supporting children who are finding life tough for a myriad of reasons. This is a link to their parent page

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers>



This second link will take you to a range of resources you can use to help support your children as we continue to battle through this third lockdown.

[https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/express-yourself-children-s-mental-health-week-toolkit/?utm\\_source=cst&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=cmhw21](https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/express-yourself-children-s-mental-health-week-toolkit/?utm_source=cst&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=cmhw21)

## A plea

**Does anyone know of someone who speaks Hungarian who could volunteer to support one of our older students who is struggling with little English language. If you do, please can you contact me ([sthomas@wykhampark-aspirations.org](mailto:sthomas@wykhampark-aspirations.org)) as we are desperate to help her access her learning.**

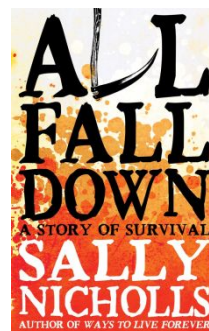


## What has been happening this week?

It's been a week with lots going on despite the fact that we are not physically in school.

### Year 7

Year 7s had the pleasure of meeting Sally Nicholls online. Sally is an author whose book we have been reading in school and again during lockdown. You might have seen your children engaged with it.



### Year 9

Year 9s had their first chance to seriously consider their choices for GCSE on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January. They were provided with a series of workshops to attend in order to better understand the courses on offer. The day finished with a virtual Futures Institute open evening hosted by Dr Pickup. The process now continues with a virtual open evening for parents next week and the Google Forms we are using to collect the information we need to create next year's plans will need to be completed by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February (the day we break up for half term).

### Exam year groups

Year 11s, 12s and Year 13s have been diligently sitting their AP3 assessments at home this week and we are so proud of them all. We know how difficult this is for all students but the numbers who have submitted their assessments has been very high. All of this information will be incredibly useful to your child's teachers when we finally find out how the grading for GCSEs and A levels will be organised this year. The Government's consultation on the process finishes today and we are likely to find out the results of this

We have forged a relationship with the Park Road mosque to provide food parcels for families in need of extra support in these difficult times. This is the donation they provided us with yesterday and we delivered a number of bags yesterday with more to follow today.

If there are any parents or community friends out there who are happy to contribute by donating dry goods (pasta, rice, biscuits, cereals etc.) that we can top up these bags with please drop off whatever you can at reception. Every donation will reach a child who needs it.



## What are we looking forward to next week?

Next week we continue with assessments for the older year groups who will be sitting exams soon.

We also have another delivery of devices and, finally, the dongles we have been waiting for, today (Friday). We therefore hope to be able to set these up by the middle of next week for collection.

I would love to think that by all working together and staying at home unless it is essential that we go out we can, as a community, reduce numbers of Covid sufferers to a level where we will be able to start opening our doors again on the 8<sup>th</sup> March to more students. The government have repeatedly referred to a regional approach to unlocking the country. Wouldn't it be fantastic if our numbers were so low that we were one of the first areas to resume a more normal life.

Until next week, enjoy the snowdrops that are popping up all over the place and stay as safe as possible

Best wishes to you and your families

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Thomas'.

Sylvia Thomas