



Highfield
Leadership Academy



Principal's Newsletter Dec 2020

INTRODUCTION



Dear Parents / Guardians

I hope that you have managed to keep safe and well during the last few weeks and that you all get the time you need with families at Christmas to celebrate such an important time of year. For those members of our community who are currently isolating, I hope that your symptoms are not too severe and that you return to good health quickly.

The last 9 months have been an incredibly difficult time for so many individuals and families, Highfield has not been left unscarred by the crisis that Covid has brought us this year, however, through all of those difficult times, I have been so proud of our students, staff and our wider community by how we have all come together as one to give support where it was needed. My pride in our students and in our school community continues to grow with every week that goes by and I feel privileged to lead this school. As we enter the Christmas holiday period, please can I ask that you and your families do everything possible during this time to stay safe. This means following all local and national advice so that we can remain as safe and healthy as possible, as a community.

Please can you remind your child of the basic messages of social distancing, good respiratory hygiene, wearing of masks, no physical contact and frequent hand washing when at home and at school. All

pupils will be reminded of this during the expectations assemblies when they return in January. The more we all work together to deliver the same message then the more effective it will be for everyone.

As the end of the first and longest term of the academic year fast approaches, I wanted to send a letter to you all that highlights the huge improvements made and the achievements of our students at Highfield this year.

I do need to bring to your attention and ask for your support over the Christmas break, if your child develops symptoms, please ensure that they are tested for Covid and please contact the school if you have a positive result, during the holiday period, please email the school business manager, Mrs Dawn Livesey at info@highfield.staracademies.org stating your child's name and year group, the date of symptoms, date of test and the best contact number to call you back on.

May I take this opportunity to thank you as parents for following the drop and pick up advice of not parking on the Yellow Zig Zag lines at the front of school. I really appreciate all the parents who do this on Highfield Road. However, there are a handful of parents who are continuing to park on the lines and this is causing adverse dangers to our students who cross the road at this point. Please can I ask all parents and carers to be considerate when driving and parking close to the school site and in the surrounding areas. We do aim to be good neighbours to all of our local residents and currently some parents/carers are parking cars in a way that stops them from parking outside their own house. Please can you ensure that your children do know about appropriate road safety and please ensure that you drive around the roads closest to school very carefully.

Such has been the turmoil and madness of the past eight weeks, it is quite easy to become forlorn and on occasions we may consider our mission to be hopeless. However, whatever happens this year, it is clear that at Highfield we will not meekly accept our fate and that all of us, teachers, parents, governors, the Trust and most importantly our young children, will fight hard and strive relentlessly to deliver for each of our children and their wider families. Though difficult days have passed and many more lie ahead of us, it is our courage and resilience that gives us hope of success. The promise of the special things we can achieve in this unique year lies within each and every one of us.

For now, let's stay steadfast in our sincerity and our intentions to have an uncompromising and relentless drive to work together to deliver the best quality of education both at school and at home and have a zero tolerance towards COVID having any detrimental and longer term impact on the children at Highfield. Let's keep these thoughts at the forefront of our minds to find the inspiration to continue when the days are dark and difficult.

Finally on behalf of each of our teachers, the governors and the SLT at Highfield, a heartfelt 'thank you' to each and every one of you for everything you have done over the past term to support your child in attending school. Our school attendance stands at 95%, showing us that students want to attend and are happy to attend. No doubt the term itself will have to go down in the history of your time as a parent at Highfield as one of the longest and the most difficult that you have had to endure. I am confident that through the purposeful, professional and respectful partnership we will get through the coming weeks and months together.

It leaves me only now to wish you and your family a very "Merry Christmas". I hope that you all stay safe and well and are ready to return to school on Monday 4th January 2021. [\(Latest Arrangement for 2021 return are here!\)](#) Mr A Galbraith (Principal)

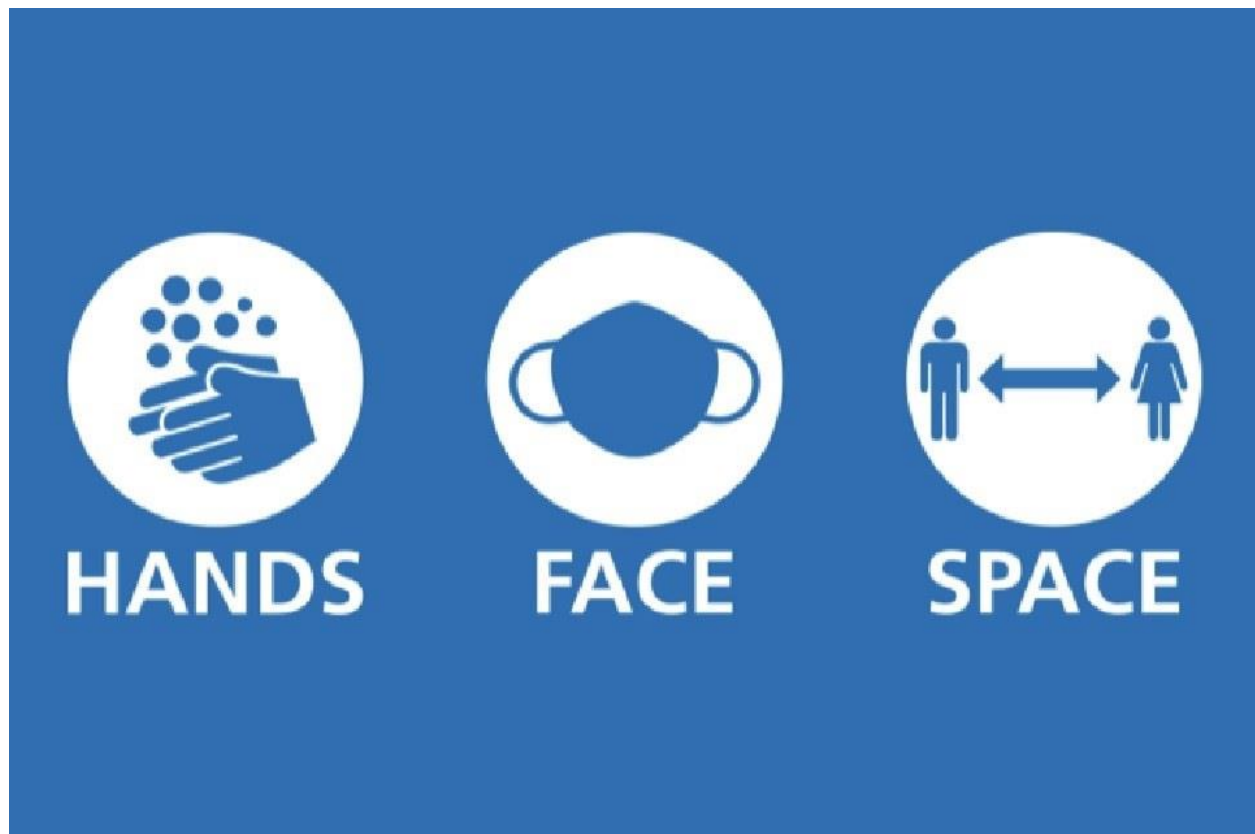
GENERAL



- COVID Advice
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- Safeguarding & Mental Health
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- PE Uniform update
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- CCF

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- Children in Need & World Kindness Day.

COVID Advice



COVID-19 Guide for parents - [Covid guide document for parents](#)

If your child or any member of your household has any of the COVID-19 symptoms, **then your child must not come to school**. If your child is ill due to having symptoms of Covid-19, please notify school immediately, follow the '**PHE Stay at Home Guidance**', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and arrange for your child to have a Covid-19 test immediately to ensure full engagement with the NHS test and trace system. Please inform school immediately of the test results.

If any member of the household gets tested, then pupils of that household **must not come to school until a negative result** is received. We have had a small number of pupils who have been sent home from school during the day as their parent/sibling has received a positive result. This means that the pupil has come into school after the date of the test. This is against the Government guidelines and increases the risk of infection in schools.

If your child has been asked to self-isolate because they have been in contact with someone who has been tested positive, then please ensure your child stays at home for 10 days. They must continue their learning at home on MS Teams.

As per the latest Government guidelines, pupils must wear a face covering in all communal spaces and during movement. This includes when travelling on public transport. Pupils who are found not to be wearing a face covering will be removed from the bus.

Festive Winter Gift Programme



Our annual Festive Winter Gift Programme has seen Highfield Leadership Academy and all Star schools participate in a multitude of community engagement, fundraising and volunteering activities that have touched the lives of hundreds of people. The campaign has focussed on supporting those in our communities – young and old – who are unwell, elderly or living in care, and those experiencing homelessness, loneliness or food poverty. A summary of last year's activities can be found at <https://staracademies.org/news-story/follow-our-festive-winter-gift-programme/>. At Highfield we aimed to ensure that everyone in our community would receive a sprinkling of festive goodwill – be it a gift, a message, a virtual visit or a meal. From 7th - 13th December, all Star Schools came together for our 'Food for All Week'. During this week, collectively we aim to distribute over 50,000 food parcels and hot meals to our local communities. Along with our Star family we have been busy packing our food parcels and cooking hot meals and treats for our local community. [#Food4AllWeek](#) [#WeAreHighfield](#) [#WeAreSTAR @BpoolCouncil](#) Chick Pea curry was one of our favourite food parcels along with Leek and Potato Soup, staff were cooking hot meals and treats for our local community. [#Food4AllWeek](#) [#WeAreHighfield](#) [#WeAreSTAR @BpoolCouncil](#) We enjoyed opening Bill's Kitchen as part of Star Academies [#FoodForAll](#) Project. We cooked for Amazing Graze and local people living in isolation. Privileged to have had fun whilst serving others. [#FestiveWinterGift](#) [#WeAreHighfield](#) [#WeAreStar](#) Our young people have made 800 Christmas Cards & 200 decorations so far! We hope this brings joy to our neighbours, especially those who are living in isolation. Thank you to our staff members who helped us to sort & deliver the cards. [#Teamwork](#) [#FestiveWinterGift](#) [#WeAreHighfield](#)



1 - Hot meals and treats for our local community. [#Food4AllWeek](#)



2 - Chick Pea curry was one of our favourite food parcels [#Food4AllWeek](#) [#WeAreHighfield](#)

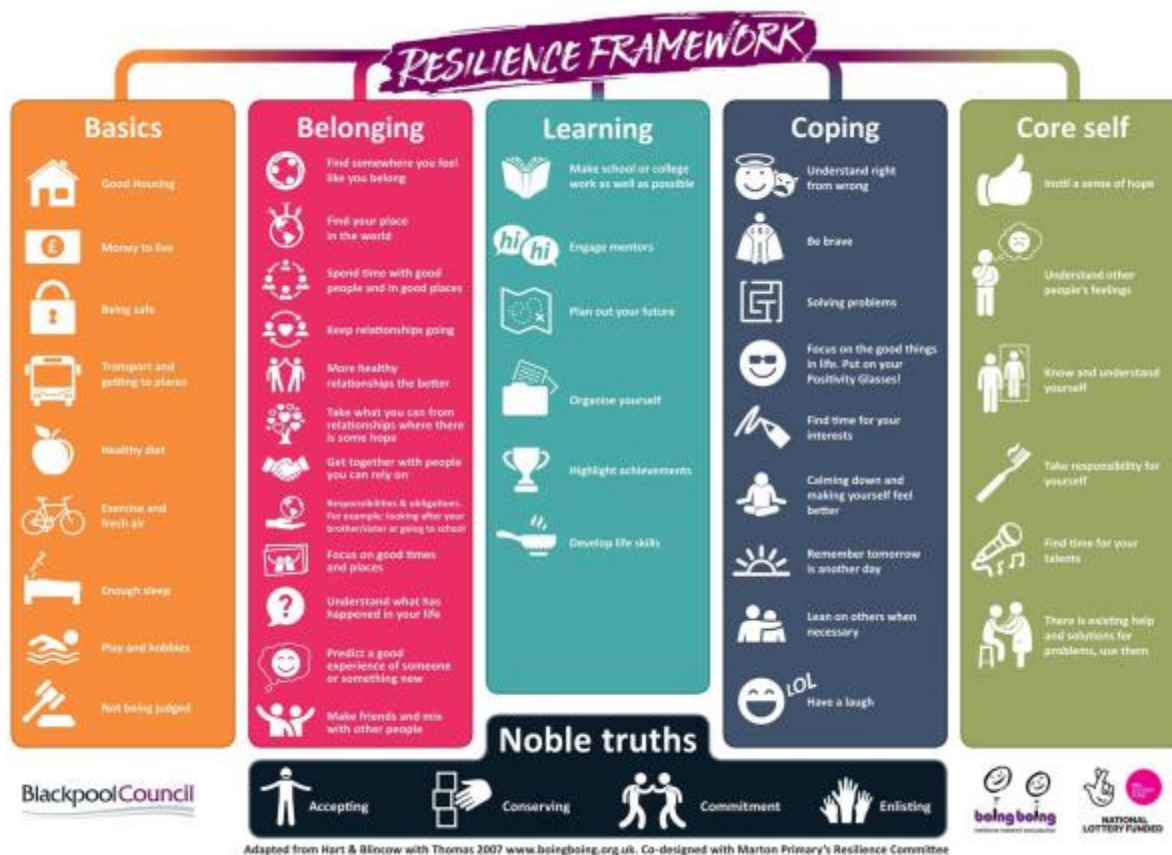


3 - Amazing Graze [#FestiveWinterGift](#) [#WeAreHighfield](#) [#WeAreStar](#)



4 - Bringing joy to our neighbours. [#Teamwork](#) [#FestiveWinterGift](#) [#WeAreHighfield](#)

Safeguarding & Mental Health



The Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is **Miss Rimmer** (Assistant Principal), the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads in school is **Mr Galbraith** (Principal). **Mrs Benson & Mrs Cartmell** are our Safeguarding Managers who support pupils and parents. The Designated Safeguarding Lead Governor is **Mr Paul Fearnley**.

[Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com)

Did you know..

Pupils are able to log any concerns or worries 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through Kooth.com. The Kooth team provide free, safe and anonymous online support and counselling. The team are made up of friendly and experienced individuals who want to help.

All pupils and parents can create a free online account to access:

- **Magazine** - Helpful articles, personal experiences and tips from young people and the Kooth team.
- **Discussion Boards** - Start or join a conversation with the friendly Kooth community. Lots of topics to choose from!

- **Chat with the team** - Chat to the helpful team about anything that's on your mind. Message or have a live chat.
- **Daily Journal** - Write in your own daily journal to track your feelings or emotions and reflect on how you're doing.

Principal's Surgery



In the new year I will be introducing a new event in school. The Principal's Surgery will be held on Tuesday 26th January between 2:00pm-3:30pm. This is an opportunity to speak on a 1 to 1 basis about any comments, suggestions or concerns you have about the school or child.

In the future, no appointment will be necessary, all I ask with the current Covid restrictions in place to keep staff and students safe, is that you telephone to confirm your attendance.

Uniform



Update on school uniform expectations on PE Days: (All Year Groups)

Girls:

- PE Top
- Short/Skort/Leggings/Tracksuit bottom (Plain leggings and tracksuit bottoms are available from 1st class kids. Branded leggings are not permitted)
- Socks
- Trainers

Boys:

- PE Top
- Short/Tracksuit bottom (Plain tracksuit bottoms are available from 1st class kids. Branded items are not permitted.)
- Socks
- Trainers

*There is also an optional zip up funnel neck sweatshirt that is navy in colour with the Highfield crest. Branded hoodies are not permitted.

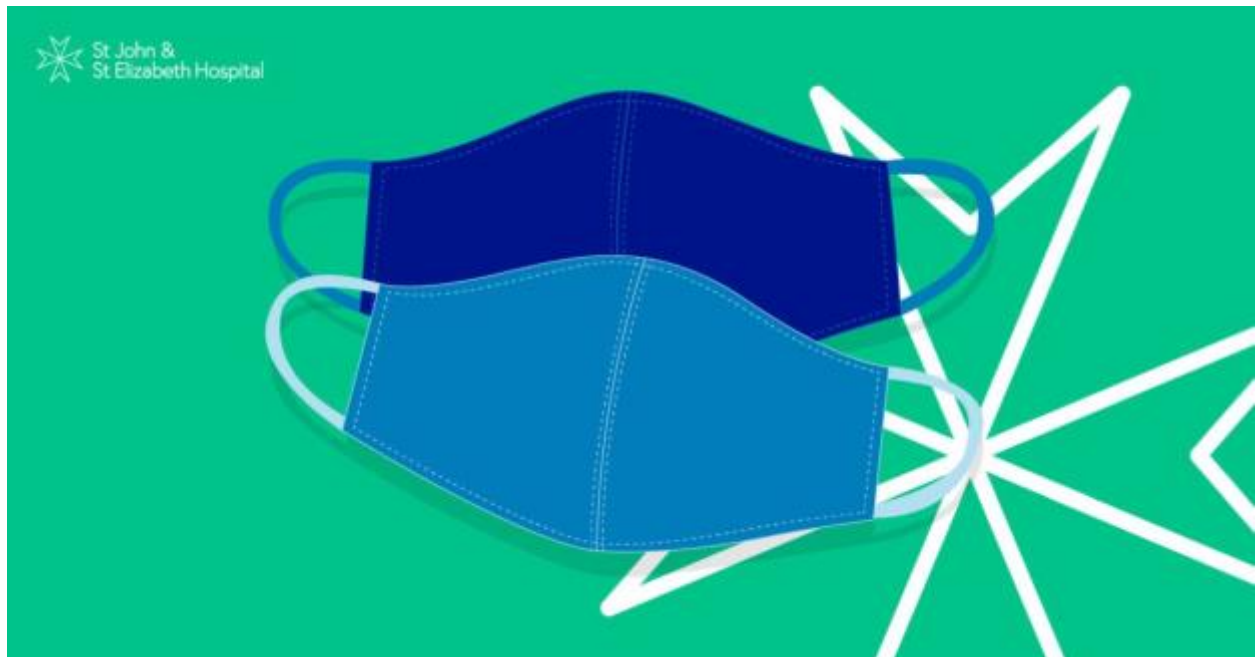
The aim is that all pupils are uniformed in the same Highfield colours, looking smart and ready to learn. On days that they have PE, students should wear their blazer over kit, when they are attending other lessons/ break time/ dinner time etc.

We have been notified that 1st Class Kids have received additional stock for our student uniform.

As a school, we will be enforcing our expectations for both mainstream and PE uniform as it is now readily available to purchase. Please support the school in securing the highest of standards of uniform. You will appreciate that the uniform is an indication of the expectations of the school - our school would like to be considered to have the highest of expectations for its children, the parents and the staff.

As part of our risk assessment for the school, we have ensured that all rooms are ventilated with open doors and windows. Now that we are in the colder months we have been reviewing how best to move forward regarding this. We are asking that your child comes to school with school jumper, which they can wear over their shirt but under their blazer.

Face Masks



Please could you ensure your child brings in their face mask everyday. Pupils need to wear face masks to and from school and during every lesson changeover. Pupils must wear their face masks in communal areas e.g. when they are going for lunch, changing lesson or when they are having break. If the face mask is disposable, please could you make sure they are changing the mask daily to minimise the risk of infection and if they are re-usable that they are washed regularly.

Staff Changes



Mr Hargreaves (Behaviour Support Assistant) has decided to leave Highfield to pursue his own personal career. We are very grateful for the efforts he has shown to the school and more importantly to the pupils he supported during his time here. We wish him all the best in his new endeavours and I speak on behalf of all the stakeholders at Highfield that he will be missed.

GCSE Mock Exams & Parents' Evening



Year 11 students have been sitting their trial GCSE exams this month. Their results will be available to you at Year 11 Parents' Evening in January. At this event, your son or daughter will be given full details of the summer GCSE exams and the study support and revision sessions they are required to attend. **Revision materials have been given to all students** and if you have any questions or want to know more about how you can support your child through their exams, please contact Mr Kerr, Head of Year 11.

After the Christmas break, Year 11 revision sessions will continue to run every day after school, please ensure your child attends to help prepare them for their summer exams. We are really impressed by the hard work and dedication shown by our Year 11 students. Keep up the good work. It will be worth it!

Thank you to all parents for engaging with the Report Cards we sent home after the first data point. We are acutely aware that parents will want to discuss the report with teachers in the form of a formal Parents' Evening. Consequently, we will be in touch in due course about how the Parents' Evening over the coming months (as in previous years) will be conducted in light of COVID. In the meantime, if you have any pressing concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year.

Code of Conduct - Online Learning



The STAR values – Service, Teamwork, Ambition, Respect are just as important in remote learning as during time spent at school.

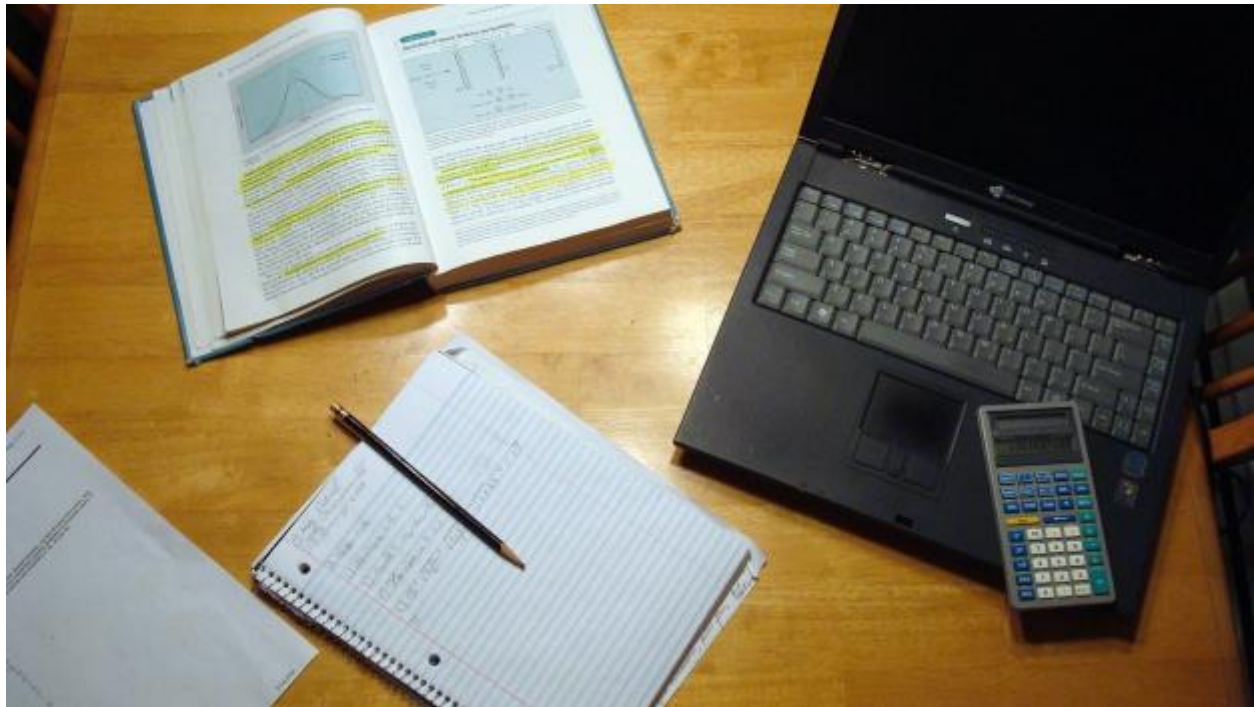
Pupils are expected to uphold the following principles.

I will:

- Arrive on time to all my online lessons, following the schedule and log-in details provided by school.
- Ensure that I have all my equipment ready before the lesson starts.
- Keep my camera / web cam turned off at all times during lessons unless my teacher asks me to turn it on.
- Under no circumstances record the lesson, or share any images from the lesson on any platform.
- Keep my microphone muted unless the teacher asks me to speak, and mute myself when I have finished.
- Only use the 'chat' function if directed to by a teacher / staff member, and only for the purpose they specify.
- Ensure that I use appropriate, respectful language when communicating verbally or digitally.
- Stay focused on my lesson and ready to contribute my thinking at any point.
- Use the 'raise my hand' function in order to ask or answer a question.
- Gain permission from the teacher if I need to leave the lesson for any reason.

- Behave in a sensible, kind and courteous way throughout the lesson.
- Follow instructions promptly.
- Complete tasks to the best of my ability.
- Be a positive role model as a member of my school and the Star family.

Year iMedia Exam - 11th January 2021



The Creative iMedia GCSE exam is scheduled for Monday 11th January at 1:00pm. To ensure that students are fully prepared for the exam, we are hosting a series of workshops in the New Year. On Friday 8th January and Monday 11th January (am), students taking the exam are invited to be involved in booster workshops.

Please encourage your child to attend. Students who attended last year found these extra sessions very useful in their examinations.

Students who attend Blackpool FC, who study iMedia are also expected to attend the booster session and exam on Monday 11th January. We understand that parents and students may have questions regarding this. We have spoken directly to all students affected and we welcome parents who have any questions to contact the school.

CCF Update



Our Year 8 students received their CCF uniforms this half-term and have been active and fully immersed into basics training including 'drill' activities. Our Year 9 Officer Training is proceeding really well, despite the restrictions imposed on field activities due to Covid, Cadets have this term completed 'start a heart' training and in December they attended another Saturday session to complete their Navigation Syllabus Certificates. Congratulations to all involved.



We are delighted to inform you that we have the following Educational applications for use online:

HegartyMaths – The aim of HegartyMaths is to help children who need a little extra support in maths and provide them with a platform to work hard and access the opportunities and choices to be successful in their lives.

The attraction to children are the videos which are useful for our pupils to revise topics covered in class, useful for pupils who missed school and useful for pupils in our school who do not have access to home support and private tuition. The videos offer intense revision for GCSE maths exams and support pupils with their KS3 learning and homework. Pupils can make revision cards while watching a tutorial and then attempt the past paper questions and check their answers on the past paper solutions videos.

Tassomai – Tassomai is an intelligent online learning program helping students at all levels achieve outstanding results. Using Tassomai builds knowledge, boosts confidence and reduces exam stress.

GCSE Pod– GCSE Pod is made up of 3-5 minute podcast videos across 28 subjects with specially created images and professional voice-overs. The content is written by expert subject teachers, supporting curriculum changes and is rigorously quality assured. We can track pupil usage, filter content by exam boards and it is proven to enhance pupils results at GCSE if uses regularly. **Bedrock**– Bedrock intends to narrow the word gap that exists between different groups of students and improve outcomes across the curriculum for all students. Bedrock's extensive vocabulary curriculum delivers excellent progress for students; our data dashboard enables us to meticulously track language learning but more than that, it offers a shift in culture for schools too. In Bedrock schools, students are word aware and have the tools to improve their vocabulary, teachers feel confident that they are addressing the word gap and the whole school becomes a place where language really matters.

Please support your child (Year 7 - 9) in completing their weekly Bedrock homework, which is set by the English department.

STAR Readers



During these uncertain times, we have been able to successfully launch our Star Reader programme so our students are actively reading. Books are loaned for 2 weeks and delivered to students to minimise cross infection. During this half-term students voted for a Tutor reading book to be read in tutor time each week. Please can you encourage your child to observe a daily reading programme of no less than 15 minutes per night.

Remembrance Day

Remember Together

Highfield Leadership Academy
Act of Remembrance



Nurturing Today's Young People, Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders



Highfield
Leadership Academy

As part of Armistice day, the first Sunday in November sees a commemoration with a ceremony across all towns and cities in Britain. Despite the impacts of Covid-19, Highfield pupils and our Cadets were still able to commemorate this important day whilst adhering to all COVID-19 guidelines. Our Student Leadership Team and Cadets showed their respects for the fallen by leading a Remembrance Service for the whole school, laying a wreath and honoured the fallen soldiers and their families with a minutes silence.









Children in Need & World Kindness Day



On Friday 13th November Highfield took part in the annual Children in Need. The theme was 'Come as Yourself Day'.

Pupils came into school in non-uniform for a donation of £1. Donations will go towards changing the lives of young people across the UK. A huge thankyou to all our parents in raising over £500.00 for this well deserved cause. In addition, Friday 13th November was also World Kindness Day. Pupils learned about helping others, how it boosts our happiness, health, and sense of well-being. Pupils also enjoyed sharing their affirmation cards in their bubbles [@BBCCiN](#). [#ChildrenInNeed](#) [#BeFriendly](#) [#BeKind](#) [#BeYourBest](#) [#WeAreSTAR](#)







Merry Christmas from All at Highfield Leadership Academy



<https://sway.office.com/HGxni37J1FJVmAep#content=yLUfT94WqvTwfI>