



## A message from your Achievement Director:

May 2020

Good morning everyone,

Here is your second instalment of the year 8 newsletter. I hope you have been keeping safe and well. The team and I have been making contact with your families to see how you are all doing and making sure that you can access school work from home. The amount of work that we have received from you has been amazing. Well done for all of your hard work and determination on this. The standard of work that has been sent into us has been phenomenal.

So, to keep you updated on what I have been up to over the last month...



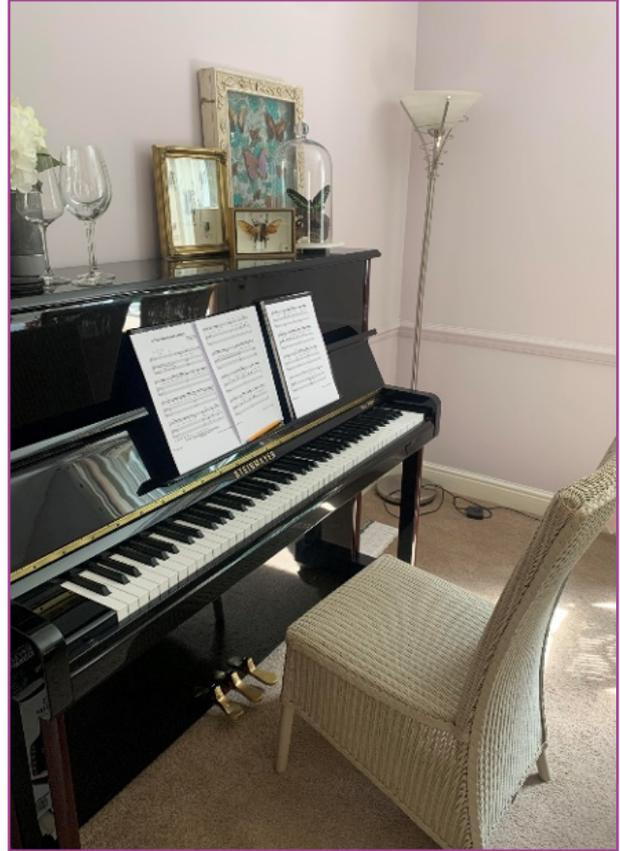
Of course, I have been setting and marking work, along with contacting families to ensure that they have the resources that they need. But I have also been doing some other things in my spare time. It was VE day last Friday and so I spent my Friday completing a variety of VE themed activities, including some baking, bunting making, playing croquet and celebrating (with my family of course!). I have also been doing a daily yoga challenge and Joe Wicks to make sure I am feeling my best at the start of the day.

Having such a strict routine has really helped me to stay productive and work as hard as I can from home. Trust me, I know that the tv can be tempting! As always year 8, this is a difficult time and you may have a number of emotions and thoughts. Remember that you can email our wellbeing email address at: [wellbeing@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:wellbeing@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk) if you would like any support or advice.



## Some things to take away:

- Appreciate the small things, whether it is your parents/carers cooking you a treat meal or watching your favourite tv programme. I have definitely appreciated the coffees that have been made for me whilst I sit at my laptop during the school day!
- Do something fun that you may not do often with your family/carers. Maybe you could create a board game tournament for a Friday evening or have a go at the family samba challenge from Ms Carroll. I spent my Saturday evening sat in the garden with my family. We had music playing and the campfire burning whilst the sun set. We do not get to do this often because my family work for the NHS. It was beautiful.
- Try something new. Whether it is a new/old skill or a new food that you have been too scared to try. I decided that I would try to learn the piano again. I have not played it since I was 13 (12 years ago!). So i bought some sheet music from an online music shop and I have been learning to read music again. It has been great fun and has really lifted my mood.



I am incredibly proud of you all for overcoming and continuing to overcome the challenges of learning and staying at home. Your determination inspires me. If you are worried or just need to ask a question about something, please do not be afraid to email me. There are no wrong or silly questions. My email address is [lspencer@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:lspencer@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk).

Stay safe and remember to be thankful for the family and friends that we have around us,

Miss Spencer

x

## 8CHO

Hello team!

I really hope you are all well. I am so proud of you all, and miss seeing you. I am getting some great feedback about the work that you are doing and all the new skills you are developing. I am learning so much too! I had not ever recorded a lesson or used Google classrooms prior to this and I have definitely been learning!

I hope you all enjoyed the wonderful weather over the Bank Holiday Weekend, and found some time to reflect on why we were commemorating VE day. There are many parallels to be drawn between that time, and a time in the future when we will meet again. Until then keep up the good work. Stay at home, even though it is difficult.

My father, as many of you know, is in his 80's and was a child in London during the war. He has been using his time in lockdown to record his early memories which I have enjoyed reading very much and thought I would share his memories of VE day.

*To celebrate VE day (victory in Europe) a street party was organised in my street. Tables and chairs appeared down the length of the street. Where they came from and who supplied the food I do not know, but we all sat down to a meal. Everybody was very happy and large bonfires were lit in the road. We boys kept them going by finding wood, neighbours fences, old armchairs and anything that would burn was thrown on. For a boy it was heaven. I was eight years old. No one mentioned bedtime until it was very, very late. The road bore the scars of the fires for many years to come in a reddish stain.*

Maybe you might like to make a diary or scrapbook of your memories of this time. It will be a time that is talked about for many years to come, of that I am sure.

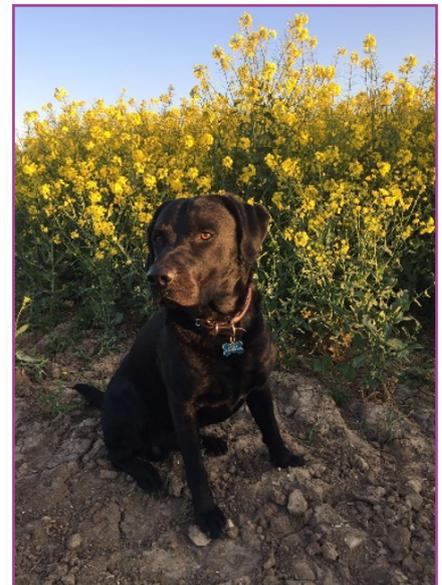


In other news, I have given up on sourdough and we have caterpillars instead! They arrived two weeks ago and the first one made his cocoon last night. It has been fascinating to see how quickly they have grown. They are absolute eating machines!! Any name suggestions will be gratefully received.

I am also continuing to enjoy the changing seasons and walking my dog every day. The Oilseed Rape, that was just starting to flower when this began, is now setting seed. Time is passing, and hopefully with it the risk from Covid-19. If you need any support or help you only have to ask.

Keep up the good work.

Mrs Hoare



## 8RIR

I, like Miss Spencer, have noticed too, the increased participation with the work online. You are getting much more tech savvy with how to operate in the online world. These are great life skills to have and it shows you that there is more to the internet than instagram and tik tok!

I have been marking all the Year 8 history work which has given me a great insight into the mentor group beyond the students I taught as classes. VE day does give us time to reflect. Will people in 75 years' time look back and say that this was the current generation's "finest hour" as Churchill said the war was for theirs? Continue to do what is right, because it is right, and not because you are being made to. Doing all this on your own rather than having teachers watching you shows a high level of maturity, so well done to all of you who are doing everything you should. You should be proud of what you are doing.

Mr Irven.

## 8TDU/MMC

Hello 8TDU/MMC

I hope you have kept well during the past weeks which have been very interesting as we adapt to new ways of doing things. I have seen that you are all making an effort to work independently at home and submit your work online, well done! Unfortunately, for some who are "old school" like me at times it's a challenge to use the new technology to teach remotely. I am getting there.

For VE Day, I took some time to reflect as it was an important day for all us to remember those that lost their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today. I hope that you all took some time to observe this day in whatever way fits your circumstances at home.

While not marking or attending to queries on Google classroom, I have enjoyed taking a drive with my family as you know I cannot walk. The leg has not yet grown back! I want to think that you have some new habits or hobbies to pass the day.

Please continue working hard, exercising and eating well. I still miss you.

By Mr Dube

## 8JBL

Hello again!

I hope everything is going really well at home for you and you're keeping yourselves entertained!

I have been working away as always - I do not think I have ever done so much typing in my life, I now know for sure that I would be no good at working in an office.



I am particularly excited to see all of your work - even more so, I am keen to see your social action as part of the First Give Project. I know that 8JBL is a feisty and passionate group, and I know that you will be sure to show this throughout the project. Please send me anything that you are proud of, and remember, you do not need to leave the house to do social action!

VE Day was fantastic and we observed the silence at 11am - I asked my Dad lots of questions about our relatives that had fought in the wars overseas. I have managed to encourage him to create a family tree so that we do not forget all of the amazing actions of amazing individuals.

One of my favourite things to do recently is to watch Grayson Perry's Art Club on Channel 4 - he is one of my favourite artists and I have loved seeing the artwork that people around the country have created.

I had a nice weekend, I had an afternoon tea with my family as it is my Mum's birthday, we had a glass of fizz in the sunshine to celebrate (it's okay, we are all over 18!) It was lovely to celebrate something and to have something to look forward to. My cat, Basil, joined us in the garden and looked very grumpy, but I promise that he was happy!

Keep up all of your hard work on the google classrooms, I am very proud of you all!

Miss Blatch



## 8HMA

Hi 8HMA

I really hope you are all getting on OK and are filling your time with family time, activities and hard work! I can see how hard you are all working - keep up the great work guys; I am so so proud of all of you for trying to adapt in these weird times being stuck at home. I hope you are all finding a good routine to keep you motivated. This week I am doing the sports challenge Miss Osborn has set us all! I hope you are all getting out there running a bit too.

It was the Bank Holiday as you all know and I hope you all had the day off on Friday to do some lovely things to remember the 75th anniversary of VE day. It is such an important time to reflect on the significance of this day and celebrate the end of the everlasting war.

A few other activities that we've been up to as a family since being in lockdown as well as working hard to make sure the work set for students is as engaging and accessible as possible!



### Eggs to chicks to chickens hopefully!

We are trying to hatch some eggs at the moment. They are due 12th May so hopefully once you read this they have hatched! I can send you an update if they all hatch successfully. My sister has lamped them and seen a few of them moving in their little shells!

### Trying to balance on a slackline...

My twin and I have also been trying some slack lining which is where we have put a ratchet strap between two trees- we are still very much beginners and it takes a lot

of zen to be able to get from one end of the other! I wonder if any of you have done it before?



### Business with the bees

My sister has a beehive so we were using a honey extractor to centrifuge honey. You place your honey comb in slots in the cylinder and spin it and honey comes out of the honeycomb without destroying the honeycomb!

### Couldn't resist putting a couple of my dog pics on. We have spent a lot of time

with our dogs recently - they are definitely enjoying the cuddles at the moment from all of us :) They are even enjoying a bath

when they get muddy. They love bouncing around all day ready for their naps.



Missing you guys a lot and our catch ups in the morning mentor! You have all shown such independence working from home and becoming even more tech savvy than you were before! For now I hope you are still staying safe and happy. Email me or any staff you'd like if you feel you want or need to. We are all still here for you :)

Miss Marks

## 8CAR

Hi Team Anderson

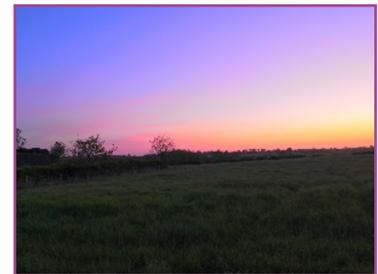
I hope you are all well. We are all well in the Anderson household. I am still working hard preparing and marking lessons and planning for next year and it has been great seeing some of the amazing work you have done. I have also enjoyed seeing the hobbies and skills you have. During the Easter holiday and the Bank Holiday weekend, I worked on a blanket which I started crocheting a long time ago, it has been made from left over wool which explains the interesting colour scheme. We also played board games during this time. I have been enjoying the sunshine and we have been having bbqs in the garden when we can, including one to celebrate VE day.



Since the last newsletter I have been baking a lot, often with one of my daughters. I have made bread rolls, cakes, muffins and gingerbread. These have all been created using my shiny new mixer. It is lovely to have rediscovered my love of baking and cooking. One of the things we have made is my birthday cake. This was a very chocolatey affair. I had a lovely birthday and was thoroughly spoiled by my family with lots of presents.



It is important that you spend time outside and I have been enjoying walking down the local footpaths. I do this in the evenings after work and I often witness beautiful sunsets. Another member of staff and I enjoy sharing and comparing our sunset pictures.



Finally, you have to have a cat picture. We have 4 cats and this one likes to sleep in the fruit bowl, when he is not helping my husband work!

I miss you all and look forward to your stories when I see you again, though feel free to share them on our mentor Google classroom - you are very quiet, it would be lovely to hear what you are up to!

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Anderson

## 8LHR

Hello 8LHR,

How have you been doing over these past weeks? Apart from your schoolwork, what new activities have you been up to? Did you enjoy the Bank Holiday with your family? It really was great to reflect on those who made sacrifices so that we could enjoy what we have now. Have you learnt a new skill or rediscovered an old one? I have rediscovered my love for baking and have made a few new recipes. So far I have made bread, scones, custard and ginger cake with a ginger syrup glaze (picture below).



I absolutely enjoyed making these recipes and it reminded me of what I loved most about baking. The sharing that comes afterwards. Sitting down with family and friends and just having a good chat together. Although I'm not able to do the sharing in these times I can still use social media to send pictures of my creations to my family and friends. They always ask for a piece but I tell them regretfully (not really!) that I'll have to eat their share for them!

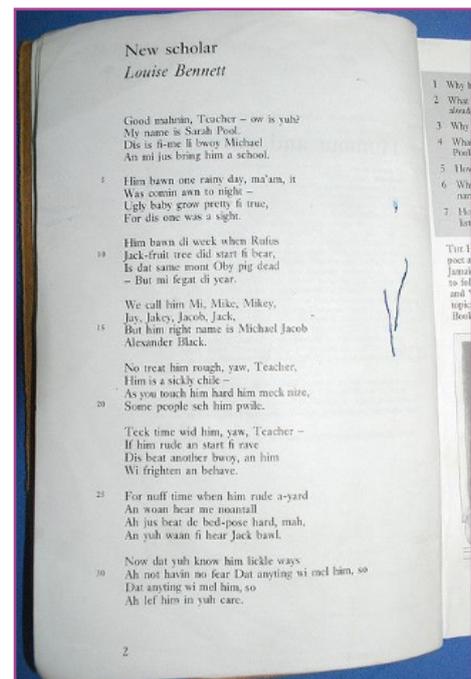
During this time I know that some of us are not able to go and visit our extended family and our friends as we wish. We use social media to connect and sometimes it's not the same.

However, we are still thankful that we can connect with them in some way. I was feeling a little homesick and wanted a touch of Jamaica here with me. I started reading the book "Chat 'Bout!, An Anthology of Jamaican Conversations" by Shelley Sykes-Coley. It's written in Jamaican dialect and had me laughing up a storm. This triggered a memory of one of the first poems I learnt by heart from my favourite Jamaican poet Louise Bennet-Coverly. It's fitting that the title is "New Scholar".

I wonder if any of my mentees will be able to figure out what the poem is about? Let me know in our mentor Google classroom!

It has been wonderful seeing all of you work hard and show such great independent spirits during this time. I hope that you are all keeping safe and healthy. Enjoy new things, go outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. The team is here to support all of you, just reach out to myself, Miss Spencer or any other staff member if you need help. Remember that we will meet again, don't know where, don't know when.....! (Hope you had a wonderful VE Day!)

Ms. Harris



## 8AMO

Hello 8AMO,

I have continued to be busy in my greenhouse with my boys. We are now growing sweetcorn, radishes, broccoli and lettuce. The cucumber plants have fruit on them so fingers crossed they will continue to grow well and I can stop ordering them from Sainsburys!



I have been busy recording video lessons for science and now uploading to my own YouTube school account so that the videos are easier to access. I never before thought I would appear on YouTube! My technical skills have been stretched, challenged and developed during this time but I really miss being in the classroom.



My house rabbits have had to be relocated to the kitchen. The female Zara is getting very territorial and I think a bit fed up of hearing the Xbox and TV! So they now have pretty much free roam and their own access to their own part of the garden. My boys have been making them lots of enrichments to keep them amused.

George is being held by my son Liam and Zara is the black and white one flat out asleep on the carpet! They are funny and a good source of amusement right now.



I have been helping my own children with the home schooling on Google classroom and we made a home-made bird feeder yesterday. This was made using an orange squash bottle, two small sticks from the greenhouse for the perches, a drawing pin and scissors to make the holes, some string to hang it from the branch and filled with bird seed. You have to make little holes about 8cm above the sticks for the birds to feed through. So we wait to see which birds visit to feed!

I hope you are all safe and well. Please keep in touch and take care of yourselves.

Mrs Morgan