



BEDLINGTON
Academy

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

WELCOME

to our summer newsletter...

We are certainly living in strange times. However, when I reflect on this term, I find it enormously humbling to be part of such a special school community. Our students and staff have demonstrated in so many ways in recent weeks that they are willing to go above and beyond in their efforts.

The academic and pastoral support which staff have provided throughout our partial closure has been fantastic, and we have been delighted with the high levels of engagement from our students with our virtual school provision. I would also like to personally thank all our parents for the support you have provided during this time. I appreciate it has been a very difficult time for families, and my thanks goes out to you for your hard work in supporting your children working at home.

I'd like to say a huge well done to all of our fabulous students who have worked so hard during virtual school

completing amazing work both online and in books at home. Also, thank you to our brilliant staff who have worked tirelessly throughout our virtual school creating fantastic lessons and resources to support learning.

Although there is still some uncertainty about what September will look like in school, we are very much looking forward to welcoming all our students back refreshed and ready to go in the autumn term. We are also excited to meet our new Year 7 students properly for the first time.

Until then, I hope that you all have a safe and restful summer break.

Mrs J Lamb, Head of School
Bedlington Academy

PPE production

Alongside the other five secondary schools within the North East Learning Trust, members of staff here at Bedlington Academy produced PPE for frontline workers to support them in the fight against COVID-19.

Using an approved design from Kitronic, our technology department used the school's laser cutter to produce protective visors for frontline workers, producing a whopping 3,246 across all six schools in the Trust.

We were delighted to be able to play our part in the fight against the virus and we would like to thank the incredible frontline workers for their tireless efforts and dedication to keeping us safe.



Challenge champion!



During lockdown students were invited to take part in a series of monthly challenges.

From 'Easter Boredom Busters' and 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' to 'Red or Black', we had a fantastic response to the challenges with some very creative results ranging from making lava lamps to designing a three course meal - we even had a lip sync battle!

As part of our virtual rewards programme students have received postcards from their teachers and support staff to congratulate them on their excellent progress.

Reward postcards were sent for outstanding work, being kind, going above and beyond and impressive use of vocabulary to name a few. Once students achieved 10 postcards they were entered into a prize draw.

Congratulations to everyone who received postcards! We are extremely proud of how our students adapted to this new way of learning.

IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

Due to the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic, we cannot commit to any fixed school events at the moment. **Please keep checking our website and social media channels for the latest updates.**



Student artists

A number of our talented artists have entered their artwork into the Young Artist Summer Show with the chance of having their work exhibited at the Royal Academy and online.

A panel of award-winning artists and professionals will judge and curate the artworks.

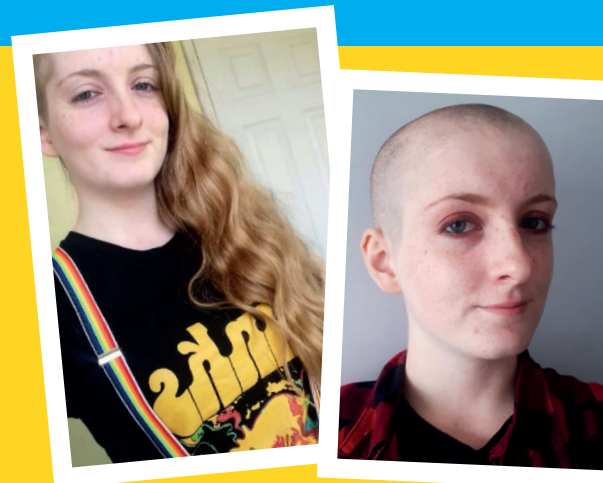
Prizes will be awarded to two inspiring artworks from each key stage. Members of the public will also be able to vote for their favourite artwork in the People's Choice Awards and all prize winners will receive vouchers for art materials plus a free practical workshop for their school.



Staff kindness!

In addition to PPE production, a number of our staff carried out acts of kindness in lockdown.

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Carr who knitted Easter chicks for staff working on COVID-19 wards, each with an egg in inside. Mrs McAnaney laced up her trainers and started supporting the NHS by running 5k for £5 and has now run over 50km raising money for NHS charities. Finally, Heather Paul, our Technology Technician, sewed bags for NHS staff to transport their clothing to and from work.



Megan braves the shave

In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, our kind Year 13 student, Megan, 'braved the shave'.

In addition to shaving her hair to raise money for the charity, Megan donated the huge amount of hair to the charity to help make wigs for cancer patients.

Megan raised over £450, surpassing her original £300 target.

We would like to say a big congratulations to Megan - your act of kindness will help many and we are all very proud of you here at Bedlington Academy!

You are Amazing!



Wall of Fame!

Our technology department have been running a 'Wall of Fame' to celebrate the superb food students have been making as part of our virtual school.

We have been inundated with pictures of fabulous work that students have produced including rainbow cakes, souffles, homemade

mayonnaise and hollandaise sauce alongside biscuits, cakes and three course meals. We're hungry just thinking about it!

NELT virtual choir

As our annual NELT Summer Concert could not take place this year, Bedlington Academy choir joined voices as part of the NELT Virtual Secondary Choir.

The group performed a fabulous rendition of 'What a Wonderful World'. Students recorded their individual sections at home which were then joined together to create a fantastic virtual performance. Congratulations to all of our students who took part in this unique experience!



We're social!

Follow our social media accounts to stay up to date with all of the latest news from around the Academy!



@bedlingtonacad



@bedlingtonacademy



LOCKDOWN DIARY

By Luke, Year 7

Well Coronavirus haven't you been the cherry on the cake? Silently creeping across the helpless globe consuming victim after victim and locking us down.

Loved ones...GONE! Friends...GONE! School...GONE! Football...GONE! Cricket...GONE! EURO 2020...GONE! Holiday...GONE!

I have been told and now understand that in life you should always look for the positive in any situation. Despite these being grim, uncertain times Coronavirus may have given a world, that seemed to be losing its way, a much-needed reminder of what it is to be human!

What has become evident is that material things do not matter, how much you earn, what you drive, where you live, the clothes you wear; these things are not important. There are over 40,000 people and their families who will tell you they would swap everything they had to be able to hold those affected by this harrowing virus.

People matter, your health and happiness matters, how you treat people matters. That is what makes people great. That is how you should measure if someone is rich.

In our house, the dining room table would sit like the deserted and forgotten decoration it has become over the years, neglected due to the thieves that are after school activities and take away meals. Lovingly, it now sits as the proud, beating heart of our home, like the comfort blanket my family has needed to make sense of the situation we are living through. A place we all convene to talk rubbish, but enjoy our own company and hearty meals that we have had the time to cook (or cremate). And no phones!

I have appreciated the time I have had with my parents who have been furloughed as previously, I had lost so much time with them, time that we cannot get back because of working hours. Simple things like baking, doing homework together, learning to cook or taking long walks with some fairly random conversations are things I will remember for the rest of my life. I wonder how I can explain to my grandkids how we lived through this period that will be studied for years to come? These are historical times, and we write our own history. Let's hope we write it well.

Remember: be kind, don't cook pizzas with the plastic wrapper on and time is a great healer.

Lockdown poem

By Anon, Year 9

I lie awake at night and remember...
Remember the initial fear,
The panic,
The worry,
The stress that flooded the media.
Like a tsunami it hit.

But then I stop.
I stop and think about the good times:
The way we laughed on quiz night,
The way we giggled at our silly competitions,
The endless remarks about dodgy lockdown hair cuts,
The way we chuckled at each other's jokes.

I think of all the good that came from the bad,
The hours of fun we had,
The precious time we got to spend together,
The more we learned about each other,
How we grew closer as a family.
Funny moments I will always remember.

Joyous times I will forever reminisce.
The light within the darkness,
The gold at the end of the rainbow:
Memories which I will forever hold dear.

