

17 June 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

Hello from Henry B! Edition 13

It is hard to believe that we are now 13 weeks into Lockdown and as the school finalises details for the return of some face to face time for Year 10 I thought it would be a good opportunity to reflect on the magnificent work undertaken by your teachers over these 13 weeks and the variety of work they have provided in unprecedented circumstances.

With less than a week's notice my colleagues had to prepare a programme of study for work at home for 4 year groups. There was no end date at that point and I think we all hoped that this would not be for longer than half a term. Nonetheless the challenge was taken up and my colleagues moved with speed and efficiency to create resources and learning opportunities that would work at home.

It would have been easy to just upload to the website a list of worksheets but as I am sure you appreciate this is not the HB way. So instead there has been the creation of resources that are innovative as well as different and dynamic in order to keep you moving forward with your learning. Coupled with this, your teachers have put together hbX challenges, reading competitions, recipes to try at home, as well as we hope keeping you aware of how important you are to us through our videos courtesy of Miss Bean productions!

Your recipe for this week is for salted caramel ice-cream (delicious!) and your hbX challenges is about harnessing your motivation; both are available in the work at home section of the school website.

Subjects have used a variety of resources to support you. SENECA, an online learning programme has been put to good use in a number of subject areas along with Quizlet in MFL and BBC Bitesize. Creative ways to study have included producing 'A rainforest in a box' as well as coastal models out of cake. Parents, have you taken part yet in one of the Drama quizzes created by the Drama team? Mrs Miles tells me it has become highly competitive!

A combination of exam questions, quizzes and notetaking has been used for Year 9 and 10 to keep them on track for GCSE preparation. Design and Technology challenges have been created by the Technology team. There have been Kahoot quizzes in English and departments are producing PowerPoints with an audio attachments to support your understanding of the topics you are studying at home.

We even have the study of Shakespeare covered, with reading materials, video clips and website links used each week to encourage students to develop their understanding, particularly of the historical context of the play. 'No Fear Shakespeare' translations have also been used each week to ensure the language of the play is broken down for students

and a range of creative tasks have been deployed - including comparing presentations of performances, quote explosion and symbol drawing activities.

Maths are hoping to be able to arrange for some students to attend a Maths Inspiration Seminar online – watch this space! – as well as setting up a times tables competition, which has been enjoyed by many students!

We've even got PE cover with Year 9 and 10 using the Ever Learner websites as well as their fantastic contribution to our 'Feel Good Friday' hbx challenges.

I am sure you appreciate that building such a comprehensive range of resources that can be used at home is complex and time consuming and inevitably there may be some resources that we realise don't work as well but like you working from home, we had and are having to evolve our teaching to a changing education landscape.

All of your teachers are continuing with their professional development too, making the most of training and development opportunities and attending online training sessions – again, a new way of working.

I want to thank my colleagues for the time and the care they are taking to produce resources so they can continue to deliver a wide range of dynamic, challenging and engaging materials for you to use at home.

So with this in mind we have some new initiatives to launch with you in the next few weeks.

The first is your next hbX day on the 26th of June; 'First Aid Friday' and we would like to encourage you and your family to get actively involved. We will be using resources from the British Red Cross from their initiative to create 'First Aid Champions' and everyone can get involved in practical activities and quizzes. We will follow two learning pathways; one looks at bleeding heavily, burns and head injuries. The second pathway looks at broken bones, choking and suspected heart attacks. All resources and information will be added to the hbX folder on Wednesday 24th June so you can choose your challenges in good time for the actual day.

Whilst school has been closed we've been working hard to bring you some new and exciting developments in your library. The library is far too quiet without you all and Mrs Ireland is certainly missing your lively discussions about the best new books. That's why we have plenty of updates to bring you over the next few weeks, including a way you can access over four thousand books from your sofa at home! Mrs Briggs and Mrs Ireland have been planning something exciting to share with you ready for the summer too, which will be announced on the 1st July so make sure you check the newsletter!

Using School Gateway to communicate with The Henry Beaufort School

Thank you to all of our parents who have already signed up to School Gateway, we now only use this as our main form of communication (we no longer use Parentmail).

There are significant benefits to signing up to School Gateway and we would like all parents to sign up if they haven't already.

Step by Step Instructions on how to join this service are attached for those not yet joined (or can be viewed on our school website). Search 'School Gateway Login' in your web browser. When signing up please use the same email address and mobile number that the school holds on your child's school records.

Both parents can sign into the system, you only need to enter your email address and mobile number to get connected. You will then receive letters on your laptop/computer and text messages on your mobile (i.e. student absence notices or urgent bus messages for example).

You may already be receiving letters on your computer, however, by signing up to School Gateway you will be able to view other features about your child such as personal details that we hold on record and at a later date you will be able to see your child's school attendance and report absences, further features will be added too. In order for us to make best use of these facilities it is beneficial for all parents to be connected.

School Gateway also has a messages option, could I ask that parents use this to inform us of changes of details e.g. a change of email address. Again this is only available to parents that have signed up to School Gateway – if you haven't yet signed up then please do.

Student absence from school MUST still be reported by telephoning 01962 880073 or by emailing absence@beaufort.hants.sch.uk.

For all other general communication with the school please continue to use admin@beaufort.hants.sch.uk.

If you do not have an email address and would like some help obtaining one please contact Mr Silsby, IT Manager, for assistance (01962 880073 x210).

With my best wishes to you and your families,

Miss Hearle
Headteacher