

Insight

Spring Term: Edition 4



Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you again for your continued support and patience as we continue to manage the current situation. It has been wonderful to welcome our students back to school and to see how positive they have been, despite the obvious challenges they have faced. Students have settled back into their routines very quickly and attendance has been excellent.

The health and safety of everyone in our school community remains our key priority and it is pleasing to see that everyone is playing their part. Students have supported the new rules regarding wearing face coverings exceptionally well and have continued to conduct themselves brilliantly. I know that you will continue to support us in emphasising the core messages that will keep us all safe: maintaining a safe distance where practicable, washing hands regularly and wearing face coverings at all times, whilst in classrooms and on corridors.

As we approach the end of this half term, I look back over this term so far with a sense of pride that, despite the challenges that we all face, we continue to pull together as a school community and move forward.

With kindest regards,

Simon Corner
Principal



Welcome Back Everyone!

#thewadedeaconfamily



A Commitment to Excellence

School News

ONE YEAR ON

National Day of
Reflection
23 March

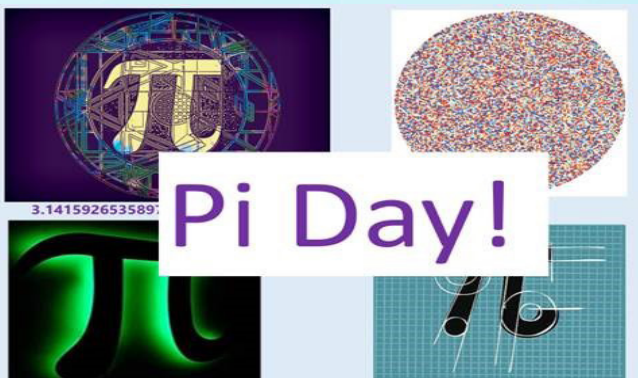
23rd March marks a year since the start of the first lockdown. Today we reflect on the year past and remember all those who have tragically lost their lives, as well as those whose lives have been changed forever because of Covid-19. We will respectfully observe The National Day of Reflection at midday when the school will fall silent as we remember.



Timings

Comic Relief Fundraising

Well done to all students who took part in Comic Relief Rockdown Relief UK. Students' successes in answering Timetables Rockstars questions were rewarded with red noses that helped to raise over £4000 across the UK. Fantastic effort!



Pi Day

Team Maths organised a plethora of activities for the kids on Pi Day which, of course, we celebrated on the 14th March (3.14) including Spot the Pie Covered Celebs and Pi Related Dingbats. All great fun! Big thanks to Mr Steel for organising.



Our school has excellent representation on Halton's Youth Cabinet this year with Year 10 students Maisie Hughes, Carrie Welch, Emmie Lawless, Pádraig Quinlan and Jacob Hughes working so hard.

The cabinet meets every Tuesday, fortnightly and is for ages 11-19. The main aims are to share ideas, find solutions, plan activities and challenge boards on issues young people experience. Issues that students have been debating this year are: climate change and the Liverpool city region, careers advice, assigning roles and spokespeople for different topics, hate comments in schools and exploring neighbour cabinets.

Halton Youth Cabinet is a great opportunity for our youngsters to experience politics and to speak up about issues that affect them.

British Science Week 2021
5-14 March

This week is British Science Week. If you are in Years 7 to 9 why don't you get involved in one of these 3 ways...

Innovation is seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.
Dr. Albert Einstein

Design a Lab Coat
Design a lab coat this week to win a set of lab coats for your school. Use the template your science teacher will provide. Submit to your science teacher by Monday 15th March

Innovating for the future

Make a poster about this year's theme 'Innovating for the future'. Posters can be made by hand or using a computer. Inspiration can come from anywhere – innovation in technology or health care, or maybe even innovation that is used in STEM careers!

Think about your own innovation – invent a useful machine that will help your family or the whole world! How will it change the ways of play, sports and leisure, entertainment, communications, work, or even school? How would it make the world a better place? Or, do you know someone who is an awesome innovator? Try to showcase their innovations and reflect on how this person's innovations impacted the lives of many. Finally, everyday innovations can be easily overlooked. Identify common innovations that you use daily and give a thought on how your life would be without them. You've got until 30 April 2021 to submit your entries digitally.

How to enter?
It's super simple...

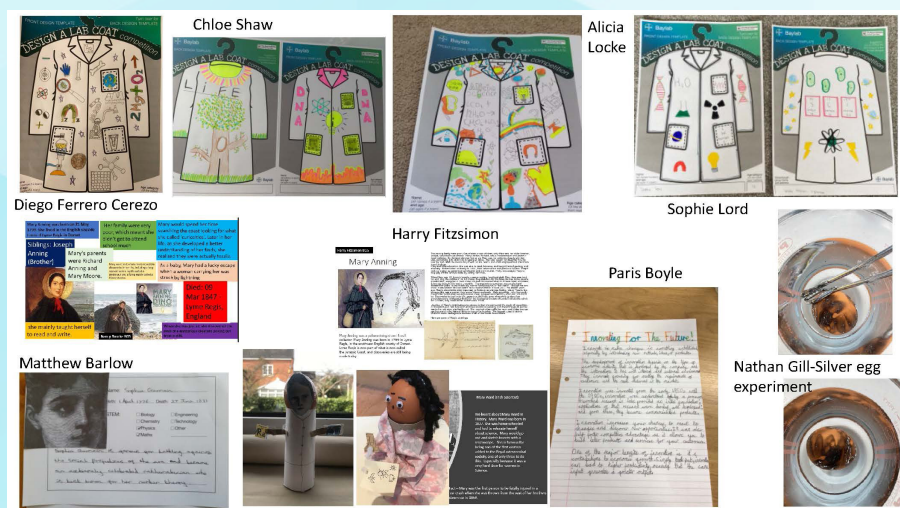
1. Once the masterpiece has been completed, upload it via the [online entry form](#). Remember to include the key information we have asked for above, including first name, age, category, an email address and postcode location.
2. Complete the short online entry form by 6 pm on Friday 30 April 2021 – unfortunately, we can't accept entries after the closing time.

The judges will be looking for:

- **Creativity in approach** – Innovative angle on the content or creative interpretation of the theme
- **Content** – Clear, accurate and informative about a STEM topic
- **Effective communication** – presented and communicated in an engaging way.

With the Olympics now taking place in 2021, pupils can take part in their own triathlon competition. Entrants will participate in 3 challenges that will test their health knowledge. Points for each challenge will be awarded based on the entrant's imagination and originality. The more challenges they complete the more points they can win! The entry that receives the most points will be the winner of the competition.

Deadline 31st March. To enter ask your science teacher for the info.



STEM Challenges

Students have been getting stuck into a host of activities celebrating British Science Week as well as International Women's Day. Activities have included: Design a Lab Coat Competition, an Innovating Our Future Challenge, as well as a range of experiments completed at home. Eminent female scientists have been researched and models made of them. Brilliant. Well done everyone!

Aren't They Doing Well?

Just wanted to share with you some successes that have been communicated to us from Cronton College.

As you will see, our former students are doing rather well! It's good to see how they are progressing and developing at the college.

University (Prestigious) Offers:

Student Name	Subject	College
Jack Meredith	Physics	Oxford
Rebecca Powell	History & French	Oxford
Lewis Stacey	Medicine	Hull
Lauren O'Callaghan	Medicine	Keele
Isabel Candir	Medicine	Leeds

Students of the Month for February

Student Name	Subject	Former School
Justin Xue	Computer Science	Wade Deacon High School
Declan Seddon	Computer Science	Wade Deacon High School
Cameron Jones	Physics	Wade Deacon High School
Sarah Baldwin	Psychology	Wade Deacon High School
Rebecca Elliot	Applied Science	Wade Deacon High School
Lewis Geoghegan	Business	Wade Deacon High School



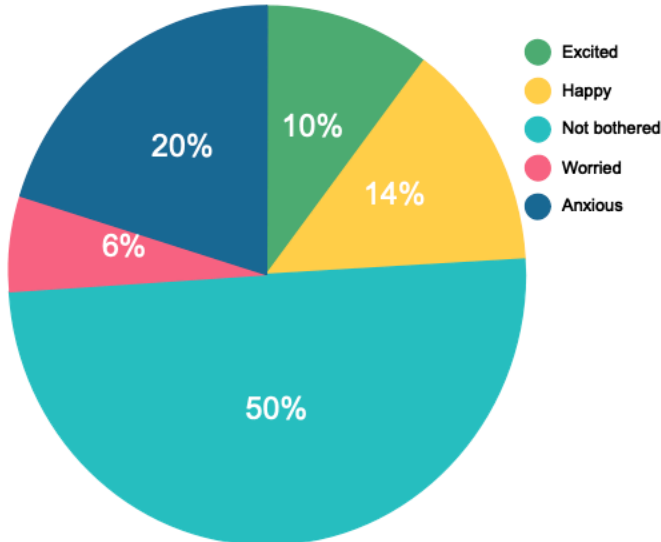
Congratulations!



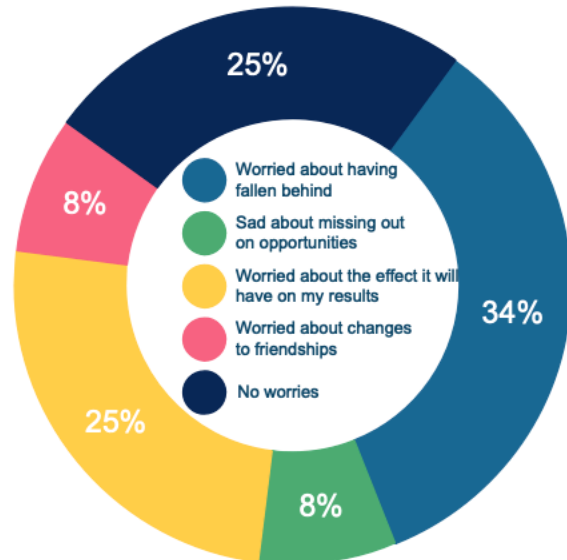
Whole School Pupil Voice March 2021

(1224 responses)

How did you feel about returning to school this morning?



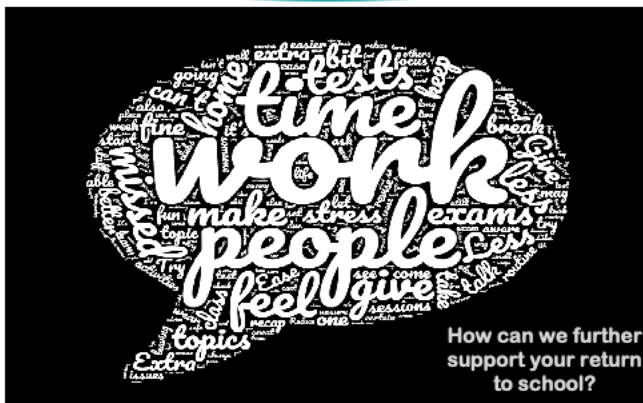
Pupils were asked if any of the sentences were true for them as they returned to school.



80% of pupils feel that they know who to talk to if they are concerned or worried about anything.



Pupils were also asked if there was anything that had happened to them during lockdown that they wanted their form tutor, progress leader or mentor to know. These personal comments were responded to by the most appropriate member of staff.



The subjects that pupils have most enjoyed live lessons in are:



PE



English



Maths

What did you most enjoy about remote learning?

- 53% of pupils most enjoyed the ability to work from home.
- 7% of pupils most enjoyed the activities during lessons.
- 11% of pupils most enjoyed the ability to communicate with their teacher.
- 2% of pupils most enjoyed the contact with pastoral staff.
- 16% most enjoyed the structure of a timetable.
- 11% chose 'other.'

What challenges do you feel you face as you are returning to school?

- 41% of pupils feel that getting up early will be a challenge.
- 30% of pupils feel that being motivated to return to school will be a challenge.
- 3% feel that returning to a timetable will be a challenge.
- 5% are concerned about social distancing.
- 11% feel they have no challenges to face.
- 10% chose 'other.'

What skills did you gain during lockdown?

- 23% of pupils feel that they can use technology more effectively for learning.
- 28% feel more independent in their study.
- 9% feel they have maintained a positive attitude.
- 8% feel more able to problem solve.
- 9% have discovered a new type of exercise.
- 20% feel they haven't gained any new skills.
- 3% chose 'other.'

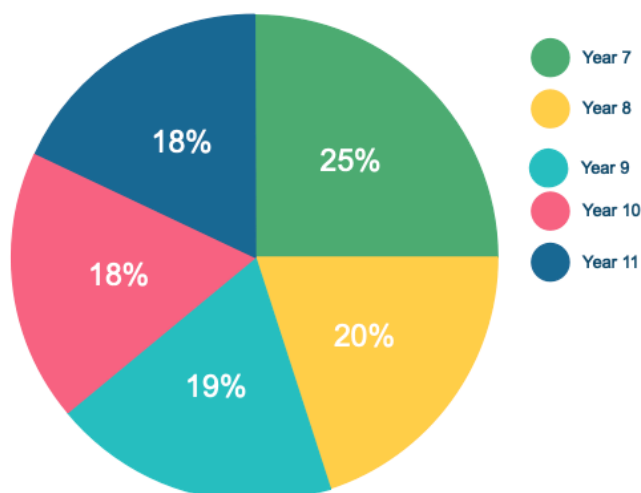


Parent Voice: Pupils Returning to School March 2021

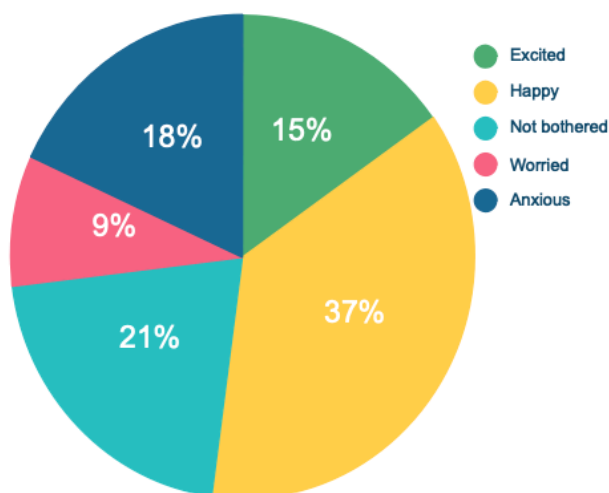
(560 responses)

Thank you for taking the time to complete our Parent Voice on the pupils return to school. Please see below a summary of your thoughts and our actions.

Please select your child's year group



How does your child feel about returning to school?



Parents were also asked if there had been any change in circumstance that they wanted to make us aware of. This information was analysed and actioned by our Progress Leaders.

Our actions

01

Extended form period on Monday 15th March to ensure close contact with Form Tutor and Progress Leaders.

02

Progress leaders provided with responses from the Parent Voice. Contact made, where relevant, with families prior to pupils returning to school.

03

Pupil Voice launched on Monday 15th March. Results analysed and actioned by Progress Leaders to support pupils.

04

Departmental reviews of curriculum to ensure that it supports pupils return to school.

What did your child most enjoy about remote learning?

- 37% of parents feel their child most enjoyed the ability to work from home.
- 8% of parents feel their child most enjoyed the activities during lessons.
- 19% of parents feel their child most enjoyed the ability to communicate with their teacher.
- 3% of parents feel their child most enjoyed the contact with pastoral staff.
- 25% of parents feel that their child most enjoyed the structure of a timetable.
- 8% chose 'other.'

What challenges do you feel your child faces in returning to school?

- 22% of parents feel that their child getting up early will be a challenge.
- 19% of parents feel that their child being motivated to return to school will be a challenge.
- 6% feel that their child returning to a timetable will be a challenge.
- 13% of parents feel that their child returning to a routine will be a challenge.
- 13% are concerned about social distancing.
- 14% feel that their child has no challenges to face.
- 8% chose 'other.'

What skills do you feel your child has acquired during this lockdown?

- 25% of parents feel that their child can use technology more effectively for learning.
- 38% feel their child is more independent in their study.
- 15% feel their child has maintained a positive attitude.
- 4% feel that their child is more able to problem solve.
- 15% feel their child hasn't gained any new skills.
- 3% chose 'other.'



Thank You Everyone!

Just to say a huge thank you to all of our community volunteers who supported us so brilliantly during our mass testing programme. We could not have managed without you. A fantastic team effort.

Home Testing

A reminder also to all parents & carers about the importance of Home Testing which should be taking place every Monday and Thursday and of the need to report results both to school and to NHS Track & Trace. Please see below and refer to our website for further details.



HOME TESTING

All students have now received their Home Testing Kits which include 6 separate tests

Tests should be completed on a Monday and Thursday each week.
Please see our website for further details

Parents & Carers should notify NHS Track & Trace of the result of each test. School should also be notified by using this link: <https://bit.ly/WDHStestresult> or by scanning this QR Code



Staff in the Spotlight

Mr Briscoe

Site Manager



I started at Wade Deacon High School way back in 1995 – initially as a Maintenance Supervisor, becoming Site Manager in 1997. In those days, Wade Deacon was over 2 sites – our Upper & Lower Wings, so there was a lot to keep me and the team busy!

I have always taken a great deal of pride in our school environment. This is our place of work and our students' place of study, so it's important that the school always looks its best. It feels good to get positive feedback from visitors about how good the school looks which we get regularly.

I moved to Widnes at the age of 4, having been born in Liverpool. I attended Saints Fisher & More High School in Widnes and Mari Court High School in Maghull. I headed to London at 18 to pursue a career in construction.

My sporting passion has always been rugby league, joining Widnes Tigers at age 11 and enjoying great success in the years following with Lancashire Cup victories, as well as B.A.R.L.A finals. The pinnacle of my career was turning professional for Kent Invicta – only the 2nd professional rugby league club to establish in the south.

I married my childhood sweetheart at 21 and we have two wonderful sons, Phillip and Matthew of whom we are extremely proud. Our first grandson, Cooper, arrived in September 2018 and, of course, we are both smitten!

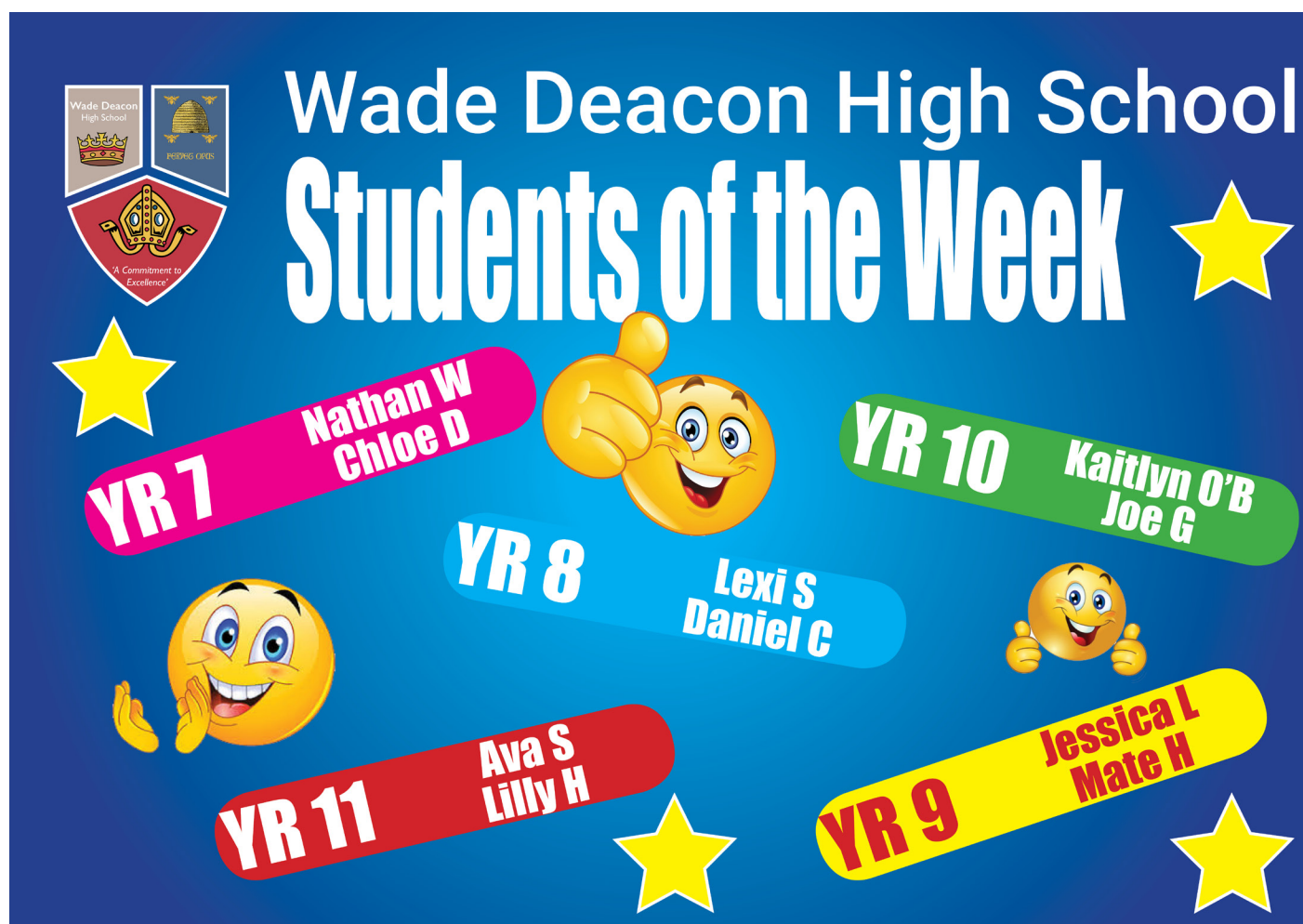
After working on various building sites, I became a CITB NVQ instructor for young adults at St Helen's College teaching Construction & Groundworks – a post I held for 7 years and which I enjoyed very much.

I love DIY and anything practical and am always busy on family construction projects which save everyone a great deal of money, but which do nothing for my aging back!



*So much better with a porch!
One of my current projects*

Student Rewards



Just an update for you on some of the rewards that our students receive. They try so hard and we are incredibly proud of them. We have:

Student of the Week: selected by Progress Leaders & Assistant Progress Leaders.

Learner of the Month: Pupils selected via Subject Leaders.

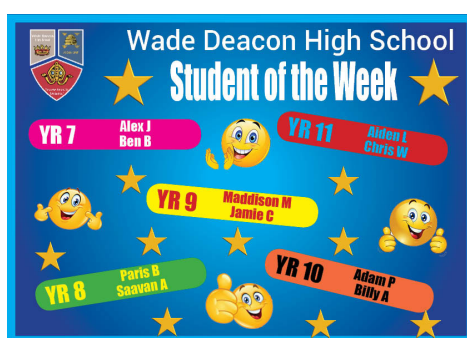
Learner of the Month: Pupils selected via Subject Leaders.

Achievement Points: Awarded currently for exceptional contribution to live/remote lessons.

RISE Points: Celebrating students' exceptional qualities in a range of areas, including 'Inspirational Commitment to Community.'

Breakfast with the Principal. This celebrates students' outstanding attendance, behaviour and attitude to learning.

WadFlix: Time out at key points in the year to enjoy a movie. Pupils are selected based on excellent attendance, behaviour and attitude to learning. 473 ploughed through the popcorn before Christmas. Chaos!



Wellbeing

For Families

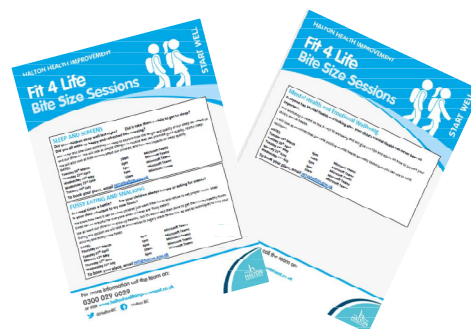
Parent Bitesize sessions

To book a place on the training email HIT@halton.gov.uk

Mental health and Wellbeing	
Tues 16 th March	6pm
Tues 20 th April	10am
Tues 18 th May	1pm

Fussy Eating and Snacking	
Thurs 25 th March	6pm
Tues 27 th April	1pm
Mon 17 th May	6pm

Sleep and Screens	
Tue 30 th March	10am
Thur 22 nd April	6pm
Wed 19 th May	1pm



Stress Awareness Month April 2021

Research has identified that 65% of people have felt more stressed since the COVID-19 restrictions began in March 2020. For Stress Awareness Month the Health Improvement Team have designed a workshop to help individuals to recognise what stress is and introduce a number of tools available to build resilience and reduce stress.

The 45-minute workshop will cover:

- What is stress and why do we need to tackle it
- Understand how the body reacts to stress
- Introduce a number of practical tools you can use to reduce stress

To join us for this bite-sized workshop on **Tuesday 20th April at 18:00** via Teams Email HIT@halton.gov.uk to book a place.

Healthy Easter Tips

If you don't want the kids to graze on chocolate all day this Easter Sunday, make sure they have a healthy filling breakfast before the Easter eggs are cracked open. Try these cute fun Easter breakfast ideas:



Tips to manage how many Easter eggs the kids (and adults) are eating:

- Keep all Easter treats out of sight and where the kids can't help themselves
- Allow kids to choose something out of the Easter treats box just once a day – this box could also include non-edible treats.
- Break up larger Easter eggs into smaller pieces to avoid eating a whole egg in one go



Follow our Youtube page for Tips on how to become healthier and more active during lockdown <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLexIVsKOQx2YOWNizCgnzm5iLl5Gn9GLQ>