

Insight

Spring Term: Edition 1



Dear Parents & Carers,

Of course, this has not been the start to 2021 that we anticipated. School closure is something that none of us want, and once again, I want to thank you all for your unstinting support that has allowed us to make the very best of a very challenging situation.

All students are benefiting from remote learning and are, for the most part, following their normal timetables with live lessons that offer high quality teaching & learning. Of course, I pay tribute to all teaching and support staff for all the work that they have put in to ensure that students continue to receive a high-quality education, despite the circumstances. And well done to our students also, who have embraced the new way of working extremely well.

I hope you are all keeping well and, once again, thank you for your support which is appreciated so much.

Simon Corner
Principal

So Proud of our Staff

Lockdown has brought with it so many challenges for all of us. Please spare a thought for our Teaching & Support Staff of whom we are immensely proud. They are all working incredibly hard to ensure that the normal curriculum is maintained. Delivering live lessons using Microsoft Teams is something that is very new to them. Coupled with this, they are trying lots of new things aimed at enhancing the learning experience for our students, whilst encouraging them to become more confident in giving feedback and speaking over the mic.

Teachers and Support Staff are all working well outside of their comfort zones and are doing an incredible job which we appreciate so much.



The Road to Baku

Our PE faculty have certainly been doing their bit to get staff, parents, carers and students moving a bit more with their Road to Baku Exercise Challenge. The aim is to cover the distance from Wade Deacon High School – right across Europe, with checkpoints at each of the host cities for football's Euro 2021 championships.

At the moment, we are currently halfway between Location 5 (Bilbao) and Location 6 (Rome) on our longest leg of the journey so far, which is a huge 1,470km.

Our running total so far is 3,701km and is made up from 636 bouts of exercise that have been submitted to Team PE. We have achieved this staggering amount in less than two weeks, which is hugely impressive!

We are roughly 1/3 of the way through the challenge and will need a big effort from all staff, students, parents and carers to be able to get to Baku before Feb Half Term. Come on everyone: let's get cracking!

Please get involved in the #WidnestoBaku Euro Challenge using the guidance on the graphics opposite. Good luck!

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Calling all Wade Deacon students and staff...

TEAM PE NEED YOUR HELP!

We want to visit all 12 stadiums that will be hosting the Euro 2021 Football Championships. But we can't do it on our own!!!

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How to help:

- Record your physical exercise on your phone. You can do this on apps such as the exercise app on your iPhone / Strava / Under Armour's Map My Ride.
- This can be a run, bike ride, or even walking the dog!
- Take a photo of the distance
- Tag us on social media
Twitter - @WadeDeaconPE
- We will then add up the distance and notify everyone when we have arrived at the next location.



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Here is our route:



Once we reach our final destination in Baku, we will have travelled a staggering 13,392 km!

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Hey Year 8 Girls! Your IT Faculty (and Your Country) Need You!



Year 8 Girls' Competition ACT NOW!

We're looking for at least one group of 4 Year 8 girls to join the CyberFirst Online Competition.

You will be working to crack code, solve problems and think logically to solve problems that GCHQ, the spy agency, has set!

All work will need to be completed at home, so you'll have to interact with your team remotely too.

This is an incredible opportunity to test your cyber skills ready for the jobs of the future – along with being among the first to earn your Computer Science Achievement Award on Synergy.

To take part you just need an open and inquisitive mind – no deep computer science knowledge is required.

Click this link to register your interest by Thursday 21st January so we can get you set up!

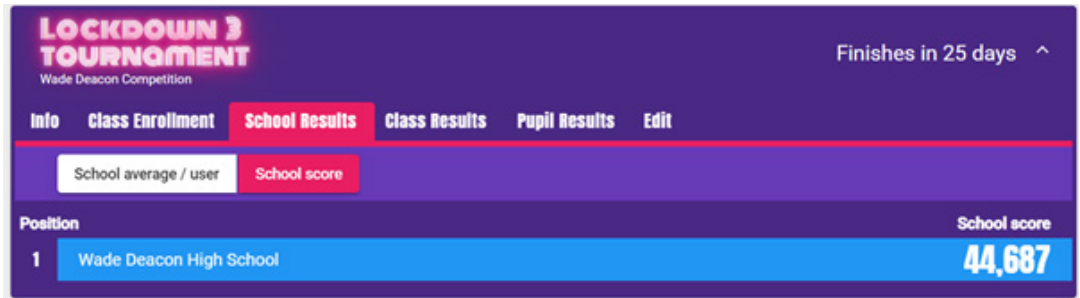
<https://bit.ly/3nXlkn1>



If you're successful in qualifying you can go on to compete against other schools in the country – can you imagine if team WD won the final? We believe in you!

Times Tables Rockstars:

Our Lockdown 3 Challenge has got off to a flying start. After the success of the first and second challenges, the target this time is half a million coins by half term.



Here is the latest update as of 18th January (after being live for only a week!) Brilliant!

Quick and efficient recall of times tables facts, eliminates barriers to learning in many different topic areas, with fun practice making repetition effective.

If students require a login and password, please ask your child's maths teacher or message through our maths instagram page [@wadedeaconmaths](https://www.instagram.com/wadedeaconmaths). Updates and leaderboards will be updated regularly on the page.

Hurry Back!

Mr Fitzpatrick sent us some photographs of one of his lessons recently, which we didn't manage to publish. They show his class getting a visual experience of places like Niagara Falls and Machu Picchu. The photographs communicate more than words about why we love our kids and miss them so much. We can't wait to see them all again. Hurry up back!



Heading to Oxford



Wonderful news that two of our former, and current Cronton college students – Rebecca Powell and Jack Meredith, have received offers of places at Oxford University: Rebecca to study French and History and Jack to study Physics. We done guys: we are all very proud of you!

Covid-19 Test Centre Opens



Wade Deacon's Covid-19 Testing Centre is now up and running. A great deal of time and effort has been put in to this facility which, we believe, is exceptional.

From Monday 11th January, we started the process of testing staff which will continue on a weekly basis for as long as is necessary. Our facility, which is housed in our sports hall, will now be upscaled to ensure that we have the capacity to test all students and staff after the February Half Term. Naturally, the safety and well-being of students and staff is our number one priority and we believe that our state-of-the-art testing facility will provide our whole school community with the reassurance and certainty that the school is safe and that effective learning and teaching can continue.

A big thank you to all staff and community volunteers who have helped to make this possible. You have all been brilliant and so supportive!



Remote Learning Update

We have been delighted with the attendance and engagement we have seen in the first weeks of remote learning. Over three-quarters of students have managed to take part in all of at least 75% of their lessons, with nearly half attending every one! We're proud of the positive attitude and resilience our students have shown and very grateful for the support of parents and carers.

By taking part in a full timetable of live lessons, we believe our students will be well placed in their learning when school returns to normal. Our commitment to protecting and delivering our curriculum is intended to provide structure and support to families and maintain students' momentum and progress. We realise, however, that this can be challenging for students and parents. We're working hard to make sure our communication with you is timely and effective, but also supportive - not overwhelming.

We are actively seeking the views of parents, carers and students through our surveys this week. Thanks to the hundreds of you who have already replied. Your feedback will help us to further improve our provision over the coming weeks.

Please use the link on our website:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MU55zEfNvEK4TIkUUqhJLJCvaVZ0eYhNgv2tC4b-44WUOFNCSzJBRDBXUVQ2TE5GNEJXVDE0RVhCVS4u>

Students can also give their views by accessing the [Pupil Bulletin on Synergy](#).

Staff in the Spotlight

Mr Perritt

Associate Assistant Vice Principal & Leader of Geography



In each edition of Insight, we will profile a member of staff, revealing a little about them and their personalities. This time, we are very pleased to tell you a little about one of the school's most avid readers – Mr Perritt, our Associate Assistant Vice Principal and Leader of Geography, who gives us an insight into the origins of his love of reading, his current book of choice and what his next purchase might be.

My parents instilled a love of books into all of their children and this is something that I've tried to pass on to my own children too. Children whose parents read to them, hear an extra 1.4 million words before they enter Reception which is a very powerful statistic. And there's no greater joy than your own children asking to go to Waterstones to choose a new book. My oldest is now into *The Mazerunner* and my youngest has just completed all of the *Harry Potters*.

Reading is a habit: I always read before I go to sleep and it's so ingrained that even when I'm incredibly tired after a hard day at school, I make sure that I read at least one page! My Mum always bought me the whole Booker Prize shortlist for Christmas which I valued so much. My mum recently passed away, so I've asked my mother-in-law to keep up the tradition. This is a very special way to remember my mum too.

I have a strict policy of reading one fiction book, followed by one non-fiction. I'm currently on non-fiction and am halfway through the new Bill Bryson book about the human body which is pretty good. Non-fiction is great because it makes me appear extremely clever during pub quizzes! Before Bill Bryson, I read *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro - a classic Booker Prize winner from 1989 that I've been meaning to read for ages. My next novel will be a thriller from my favourite author, John Niven, or one of Margaret Atwood's as I haven't read enough of hers.

***'Children are made readers on the laps of their parents and carers.'* Emilie Buchwald**



John Niven



Kazuo Ishiguro



Bill Bryson

Safeguarding Update

Due to the government announcement on 4th January, many of our students are currently accessing school remotely. However, it is important to remember that school staff are still available to offer advice and guidance to parents, carers and students and can be reached in the normal way during the school day. If you have a concern about your child, then please contact the Personal Tutor, Progress Leader or Mentor to discuss support. If your concern is a safeguarding matter, then please ask for a member of the Safeguarding Team.

We would also like to take this opportunity to share some useful numbers and websites which may provide support:

Local/National Helplines & Online Support

Wellbeing Enterprises: www.wellbeingenterprises.org.uk (Activities and support across Halton for positive wellbeing)

Childline: 0800 1111 online or phone anytime www.childline.org.uk

Samaritans: 116 123 www.samaritans.org

Papyrus: 0800 068 4141 or Text 07786 209697 www.papyrus-uk.org (for anyone who has suicidal thoughts or is worried about someone else in relation to suicidal thoughts)

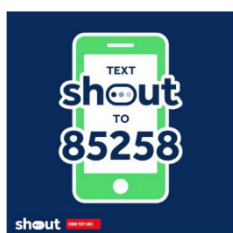
Kooth.com: Online support

Child Bereavement UK: Pre/post bereavement counselling

YoungMinds: www.youngminds.org.uk to support young people's mental health

Parents Helpline: 0808 802 5544 from YoungMinds Mon-Fri 9:30 to 4pm

Widnes Foodbank: 0151 422 0031 www.widnesfoodbank.org



Free 24/7 text support

Shout 85258 is a free, confidential, 24/7 text message service for anyone in need of support in the UK. Our trained Shout Volunteers can help with issues including anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, relationship problems, sexuality, money worries. The video below explains how the service works <https://youtu.be/UpCl8FMt0uY>



The local mental health info point has lots of information and details of support available for a variety of worries including who can support you if you are in a mental health crisis and need help now

www.halton.gov.uk/mhinfopoint



Money Navigator tool

The coronavirus restrictions have affected millions of people and things are taking a while to recover. What this means for families finances will be very personal to them.

So if families need money guidance but don't know where to start the Money Navigator tool gives you action plans based on your own situation.

<https://www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/en/tools/money-navigator-tool>

Staying safe online – As children are spending a lot of time on their computers, laptops or tablets, it is more important than ever that parents and carers regularly speak about staying safe online. Below are some key points to help you start the conversation with your child:

1. Private stuff needs protection (if you wouldn't want your parents or grandparents to see it, don't post it);
2. You can only really know a person if you know them offline- think about and discuss what "a friend" means to you;
3. What you share will always be there and can be used negatively by others (think before you post);
4. Not everyone online is who they say they are (remember that behind the screen it is easy to pretend to be someone you are not);
5. If something doesn't feel right, speak to a trusted adult (discuss and name who these trusted adults may be).

Please visit the school website for much more advice and guidance on e-safety and supporting your child's mental health and wellbeing.