Alec Hunter Herald

Living for Learning, Learning for Life

Telephone: 01376 321813 | admin@alechunter.com | www.alechunter.com

27th November 2020 | Issue 82

Keep Going

Sir Winston Churchill famously said, "If you're going through hell, keep going". Whilst the current difficulties we are all facing may not compare with the 'hell' of warfare that Churchill was referencing, I feel we are all having to draw deeply on our reserves of energy and resilience as the current crisis extends towards the end of the year and beyond. I want to applaud our students for staying positive and for helping us to keep our spirits up as we try to maintain 'business as usual'. There is so much joy in working with young people, and joy has been in short supply recently in society if you listen to the doom-laden mainstream media. Hence, I do feel that we are privileged, as teachers, to spend every day in the company of our optimistic, undaunted students, who sometimes ask us the craziest questions ("How will I know if my dog has got Covid?" was one of my favourites) but largely comply with our expectations and just keep going.

I am also very grateful to our staff, who continue to go above and beyond, putting themselves on the frontline each day and embracing all kinds of new technologies to prepare for every eventuality. I have to admit that our resources are currently stretched to the limit, with some colleagues in isolation, some who are ill themselves and some being required to supervise their own children who are in isolation or whose bubbles have been closed. Yet we keep going, covering for each other where we can, providing remote teaching where possible, and doing our utmost to keep school open and maintain education in spite of the challenges.

Churchill also said that "Continuous effort – not strength or intelligence – is the key to unlocking our potential" and so it is that our current endeavours are helping us all to discover just what we are really capable of achieving. I firmly believe that it is in moments of adversity such as these, where we need to be courageous and tenacious, that we find out a lot about ourselves and I could not be more proud of the unity and commitment of all members of our school community. So let's keep going!

Mr Lawn (Headteacher)

Diary Dates

DECEMBER

3rd December, Year 10 Parent Contact
14th - 18th December, Year 10 Formal Exams
16th December, Year 7 English Exam
17th December, Year 7 Maths Exam
18th December, School close at 1.10pm

Mr Beezy Motivational Workshop

On 22nd October, all students across the school took part in a live Zoom workshop with Mr Beezy. Mr Beezy has been motivating students to be successful, resilient and to believe in themselves for the last 10 years. He believes everyone should be empowered to bring out the greatness that lives within them and the workshop was designed to give students the motivation to succeed in their exams and reach their goals.

As well as giving the students some tools and tips to succeed, Mr Beezy also offered students a different perception on school and spoke about how having a clear idea of the grades they want to achieve will help them work towards their future and achieve success.

Caitlyn Charles

Congratulations to **Caitlyn Charles** in Year 11 who recently won a cap at Braintree Town Football Club for being their longest serving female on record. Caitlyn has played for Braintree Town Girls for eight years and has scored over 100 goals - becoming one of their top goal scorers. A fantastic achievement Caitlyn, we are very proud of you!

Children in Need

Although we were unable to hold our traditional fundraising events this year we still managed to raise £56.83 for Children in Need through student donations alone. Thanks, everyone!

Student Absence: Please remember to report any student absence via:
Tel: 01376 559356 / **Text:** 07598 393348 / **Email:** jjackson@alechunter.com.

Headteacher's Surgery: Unfortunately, we are unable to hold the Headteacher's Surgery in its traditional format, however parents are able to make an appointment with Mr Lawn for a Zoom call if they have any issues they may wish to raise. We ask that parents request an appointment by contacting the school office.

Remembrance Day

On Wednesday 11th November we commemorated Remembrance Day by holding a special event within our school grounds. At 11am, Mr Lawn, our Head Boy, Travis Taylor, and Head Girl, Mia El-Fazazi, laid a poppy wreath in our Memorial Gardens and the whole school observed a two-minute silence. Thank you to Year 10 student Daniel Beckett who played the Last Post and to Cllr Andrew Hensman who was able to join us for the occasion.

House competition

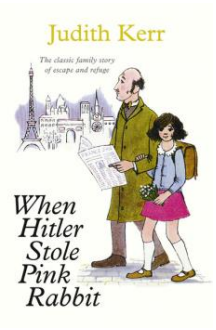
Don't forget to take part in the new House Photography Competition. The theme is 'View From A Window… Any Window!'. Even if you are isolating at home you can still send in an entry to earn points for your House. Please email all entries to ADean@alechunter.com by Friday 4th December.

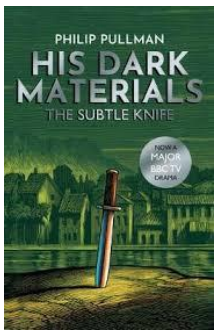
Library News

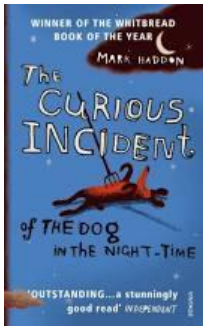
Over the Spring Term, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be invited to complete a series of worksheets to help them develop Library Skills. This includes a guide to using the Eclipse System to search for books and authors, and the Dewey Decimal System. It will also show the students the best way to use reference books, dictionaries, thesauri, and encyclopaedias. Proud Points will be awarded for all completed tasks and worksheets will be available on Microsoft Teams. Please see Mrs Pipe for further information.

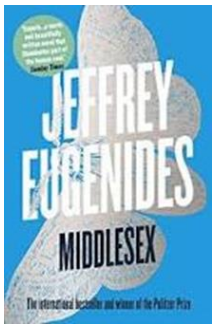
New Library Access Times	
Monday	Year 7
Tuesday	Year 8
Wednesday	Year 9
Thursday	Year 10
Friday	Year 11

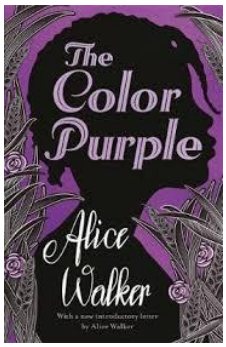
New Books available in the Library

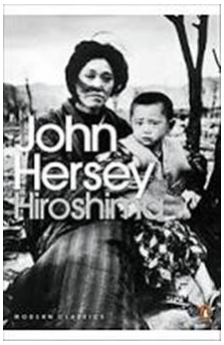


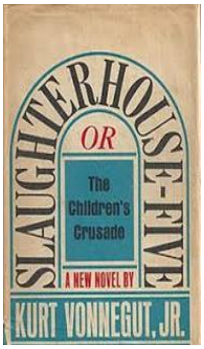


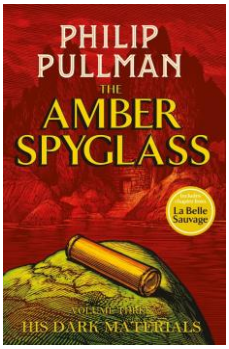


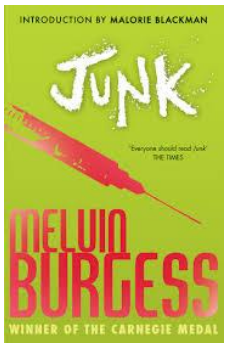


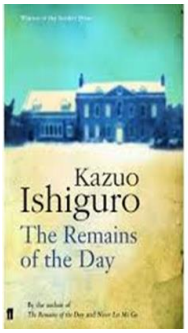






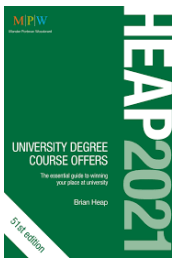


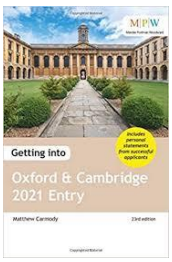


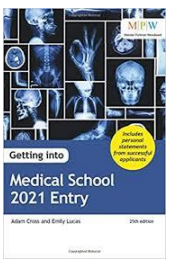


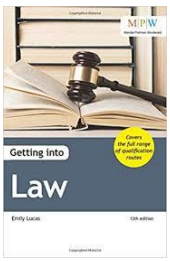
Careers Library

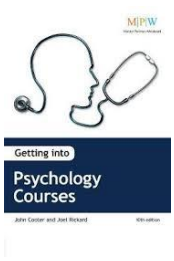
Don't forget to check out the Careers Library – here's a selection of recently added books:

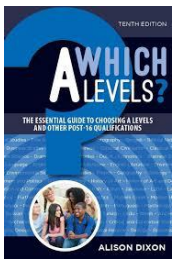


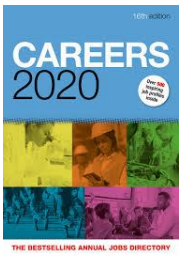












Year 11 Careers Guidance Interviews

This interview is designed to give you information, advice and guidance about:

- Future career goals and qualifications required
- College or Sixth Form courses and applications
- Information on progressing to University
- Apprenticeship opportunities and applications
- CV writing

If you have not already been seen and would like an appointment, please let Mrs Pipe in the Library know that you would like to be seen.

Please remember that you can apply to as many places as you wish, and that applications to Sixth Forms and/or Colleges should be submitted online preferably before Christmas to ensure you get a place on your chosen course/s. Final deadline dates for Sixth Form applications vary from December-January so you should check this on individual websites.

YOUTH SERVICE | THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Virtual DofE Award Bronze, Silver or Gold

Start Today

- Monthly Skype sessions
- From the comfort of your own home
- No barriers to starting your award
- Join us on a practical training weekend in central Essex

Literally, what are you waiting for?

Sign up to The DofE Award:

https://youth.essex.gov.uk

Open to all 13*-24 year olds.
*13 year olds must be in year 9.

DofE | YOUTH SERVICE | Essex County Council

Virtual Work Experience Services

www.vwes.co.uk

Welcome to our School Christmas Challenge 2020

The theme of the challenge is "A VIRTUAL Christmas"

Father Christmas is worried about how to deliver presents across the world in the middle of the Pandemic

He wants original ideas from you on how he can get the job done safely and quickly

There are prizes of **£100 Amazon vouchers** for the two winners:

Category One – up to year 6 **Category Two- up to Year 11**

Entries need to be received by email on or before Monday 7th December 2020

Winning entries will be displayed on our home page

You can send Drawings, Essays, Videos, PowerPoints, anything you choose

Your ideas must be clear and totally original

The judge's decision will be final

Please send your entries to competitions@vwes.co.uk

Good Luck!

Visit https://www.vwes.co.uk/christmas-challenge for more information

LINE MANAGEMENT FROM SEPTEMBER 2020

Please find below our line management arrangements for students. The first point of contact for enquiries should be your child's tutor and then their Student Support Leader or Head of Year depending on the nature of your query.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Attendance / Wellbeing / Behaviour /Safeguarding				
Form Tutor				
Mrs Porter (7H/7U) Mrs Johnson (7N/7T) Miss McInerney (7E/7R) Mr Cleevely (7A/7L) Student Support Leader	Mr Cleevely Student Support Leader	Mrs Porter Student Support Leader	Miss McInerney Student Support Leader	Mrs Johnson Student Support Leader
Mr Booth Assistant Headteacher			Mrs Watson Assistant Headteacher	
Learning / Behaviour / Academic Progress / Standards				
Class Teacher				
Head of Curriculum Area *(see below)				
Mr Holland Head of Year	Mr Moreno Head of Year	Mr Lee Head of Year	Mr Spooner Head of Year	Miss Jones Head of Year
Mr Birley (Deputy Headteacher) – Learning & Progress				
Mr Booth - Assistant Headteacher Behaviour & Standards			Mrs Watson - Assistant Headteacher Behaviour & Standards	

Mrs Gillett	SENCO
Mr Booth / Mrs Watson	Child Protection / Safeguarding
Mrs Jackson / Mrs Brydges	Attendance Officers

*** Should you have a subject-related query, for example, regarding homework etc., the first point of contact should be the class teacher. Listed below are the Heads of each Curriculum Area, along with the member of the Leadership Group responsible for each Curriculum Area, to help parents in knowing who to approach for assistance.**

	Head of Subject/Curriculum Area	**Senior Leader**
English	Mr Doolan	Mr Birley
Mathematics	Mrs Baird	Mrs Watson
Science	Mr Fernandez	Mr Lawn
Geography	Mr Birch	Mr Doolan
History	Miss Depper	Ms Woolnough
RPE	Mrs McEvoy	Mr Fox
Technology/Art/Child Development	Mr Todd	Ms Woolnough
Computer Science/ICT	Mr Butler	Mr Fox
French/German/Spanish	Mrs Steward	Ms Woolnough
PE/Drama/Music	Mr Edwards	Mr Fox
Special Educational Needs	Mrs Gillett	Mr Birley
Learning for Life	Mrs Hewes	Ms Woolnough
Vocational Education/Business Studies	Mr Jones	Mr Fox

alechunteracademy
a Saffron Academy Trust school

Academic Year 2020-2021

September 2020						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2020						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2020						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2020						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

= Schooldays / Weekends

= Bank Holidays

= School Holidays

= Non Pupil (INSET) Days
(There is one further date to be confirmed)

Autumn Term:	Thursday 3 September 2020 – Friday 18 December 2020 *Half Term 26 October – 30 October*	72 days
Spring Term:	Monday 4 January 2021 – Thursday 1 April 2021 *Half Term 15 February - 19 February*	59 days
Summer Term:	Monday 19 April 2021 – Friday 23 July 2021 *Half Term 31 May – 4 June, and May Bank Holiday, 3 May*	64 days
		195 days

Please note: The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies. You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.