



Sixth Form Briefing w/c 13th July

Dear all,

We have nearly made it to the end of what must be the strangest year in my teaching career, and this will be our final Sixth Form bulletin. This year, we are not sending out the old school year with proms, parties and musical performances but with the absolute certainty that we will be back in September ready to help students fulfill their potential in our Sixth Form. For each year group I offer some advice for the summer break:



Year 13: Use your time wisely as you prepare to take your next steps into the adult world. Set out to achieve something over the summer months – a new hobby, complete a MOOC, learn to cook some simple meals or take up some new exercise. Set yourself a goal and stick to it! We look forward to seeing many of you on results day on August 13th and hearing about your exciting plans for next year. Finally look out for an email from us later this week

Year 12: Use your time to get ahead and September ready. I have spoken to most of you about your plans for after St John's and there is certainly a lot of thinking that has gone on regarding future pathways. Aim to complete your personal statement and UCAS application over the summer if you are applying to university so we can just help you to tweak it in September; if you are looking at Apprenticeships do your research and update your CV. Make sure all your Y12 work is organised into folders and sections to help with your revision and be clear what you need to revise for your September exams.



Year 11: Make sure you have tidied up all your notes from Y11 and stored them if they may be of use on your new courses. Have folders for each subject you will be studying in September and dividers. Make sure all summer prep work is completed and try some of the

extension tasks published on the website today. We look forward to seeing you on results day on August 20th and signing you up to your new courses.

For all students please use the summer to be kind to yourself. If you have been working hard then take a break, if you have things you have been putting off, then get on with them! Use the six weeks as a watershed and ensure you are completely ready for the next academic year in September whatever new challenges it may bring.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer!

Mrs Haig-Williams

Assistant Vice-Principal and Director of Sixth form

Remember you can also follow what we are getting up to on our Twitter feed @Stjohns6thform.



Spotlight on mental health

As we approach the summer holiday it is an excellent time to remind ourselves to be kind to ourselves and others. The lockdown is not like any experience we have encountered before and we all have managed it in different ways. The following article from our school nurse, Jackie Rowberry offers some advice for over the summer months.

Mental wellbeing is critical to our health but there are times when we may struggle. The key to being able to weather these storms and build resilience is learning when and how to ask for help...

Talk to a trusted person as soon as you can.

Remember It is OK to say **“I am not OK”**

Tips from **YOUNGMINDS**

How to ask for help

Decide who is the best person to talk to. Who would you feel most comfortable talking to? Many of us prefer talking to family or friends, but you may prefer to talk to professionals, support groups, helplines or online discussion forums.

Pick your time and place. Choose a good time and somewhere you feel comfortable, so you can talk uninterrupted in a relaxed environment.

What outcome do you want? Do you simply want to be listened to? Would you like more practical or emotional support? It's okay if you don't know, but it can help to think about what you would like to achieve.

Make notes. Write down the things you want to say so you remember to include them in your conversation.

Explain how you feel and what support you would like. The other person will then know how to help you.

It may be difficult to talk about your feelings. But "a problem shared is a problem halved" and you'll probably feel better simply talking to someone. When you're feeling down, it's important that you are not struggling on your own. Just ask for some help.

There are many excellent websites and organisations that have information and support 24/7 and available over the summer holidays.

Mental Health Help lines

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/>

We also have links to helpful resources available on our school website.

<https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/life-at-st-johns/mental-health/>



Design a Poster to highlight Mental Health at St John's

We are launching a competition this summer to design a poster for the school to highlight the mental health resources available. Details to follow. We hope you will get involved!

I do hope that you have a wonderful summer, even if it will not be the one you originally planned!

See you in September.

Jackie

Jackie Rowberry, Academy Nurse and Designated Lead for Mental Health

Need a bit more summer work?

Many of our Y11 families have asked us for some more ideas to keep students motivated over the summer. Our subject staff were keen to help and have provided additional ideas for many subjects of things to watch, read, do and write to help prepare for September. The ideas will also be useful for **Y12 students looking for supra-curricular activities** to enhance their UCAS applications. The ideas can be found on the website on the Rising Y12 page under the subject links. <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/sixth-form/rising-year-12-summer-homework/#1563886871156-98efb262-5386>

Bus information from September:

Concerning post 16 transport, Wiltshire County Council have asked us to remind Year 11 students that even if they are currently entitled to school transport, they are required to apply as it is not an automatic entitlement and is not free for post 16. You can either apply online or by post and we have put the information on the St John's website. Please see the links below.

Post 16 online application: <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-V3-Eform-P16-Transport-Application-Secured.pdf>

Post 16 postal application: <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-V2-POSTAL-post-16-transport-application-form.pdf>

Things to watch:

The Big Short – Economics: *Recommended by Mr Vosper:*

This film is about how the American banking system collapsed, and the global contagion that followed in other banking sectors to cause the deepest recession since the 1930's. It illustrates how complex financial instruments created a moral hazard in bankers as it was not their money that they were risking, it shows how irrational exuberance can lead investors to buy into high risk financial products, creating a systemic risk. Sub prime mortgages were the gamble that went horribly wrong and were exposed by short selling which is a way of making \$bn's when the value of an asset declines.

News from the library:

Mrs Stokes is continuing to run her amazing mobile library service. If you would like to borrow a book or order revision guides, then please email her at astokes@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk Also, she is offering a book return service for Y13 students to return your school textbooks. It is imperative that all books are returned to school before results day. Currently we have 13 students with outstanding books.

Lectures for Philosophy and Ethics students:

There are still two lectures in the University of Chester Religious Studies webinar series. Both lectures cover topics on the A level Philosophy syllabus. On Tuesday 14th July at 12 noon the topic is *Can we deny God meaningfully* (religious language Y13 content) and on Tuesday 21st *Arguments for the existence of God.*

<https://www1.chester.ac.uk/theology-and-religious-studies/schools-engagement/trs-chester-level-webinars>

Book Review: *Recommended by Mrs Cardy*

The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse by Charlie Mackesy

This book was given to me by a dear friend who clearly knows me well. It is about differences and friendships, reflection and spontaneity. It is uplifting and quietly reassuring. Open any page and take enjoyment from the words and illustrations on that page alone, or read from cover to cover; either way there is something absolutely charming about this book.

But best of all the references to cake.



Learning to drive or a new licence holder?

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue service have published a digital leaflet in their "Back on the Road" series for **new licence holders**.

All three resources in this suite of education can be found here:

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/education/road-safety-education/road-safety-during-covid-19/>

Last week's puzzles

Art Puzzle

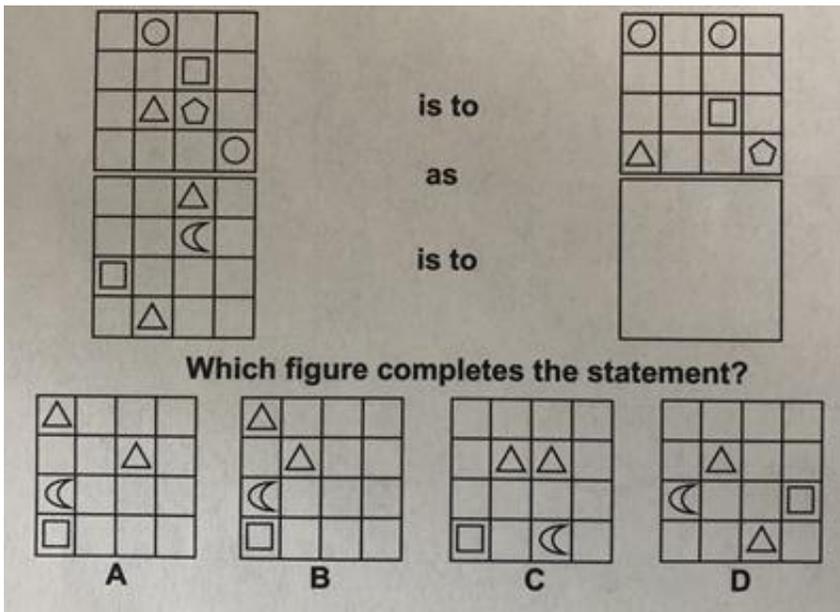
I asked you to take a look at the picture below. It is a detail from a famous painting, and to name the artist, the painting, the date it was created, and the river.

The answers are: Bathers at Asnières, painted by Georges Seurat in 1884. The bathers are in the River Seine.

First correct answer was from Willow Smart! Well done!!



Answer to the abstract reasoning puzzle.



Answer: B

The grid contains a number of shapes. To create the right-hand grid from the left-hand one, all you need to do is move the shapes along horizontally by a number of spaces equal to the number of sides the shapes have. So a circle will move by one space, a

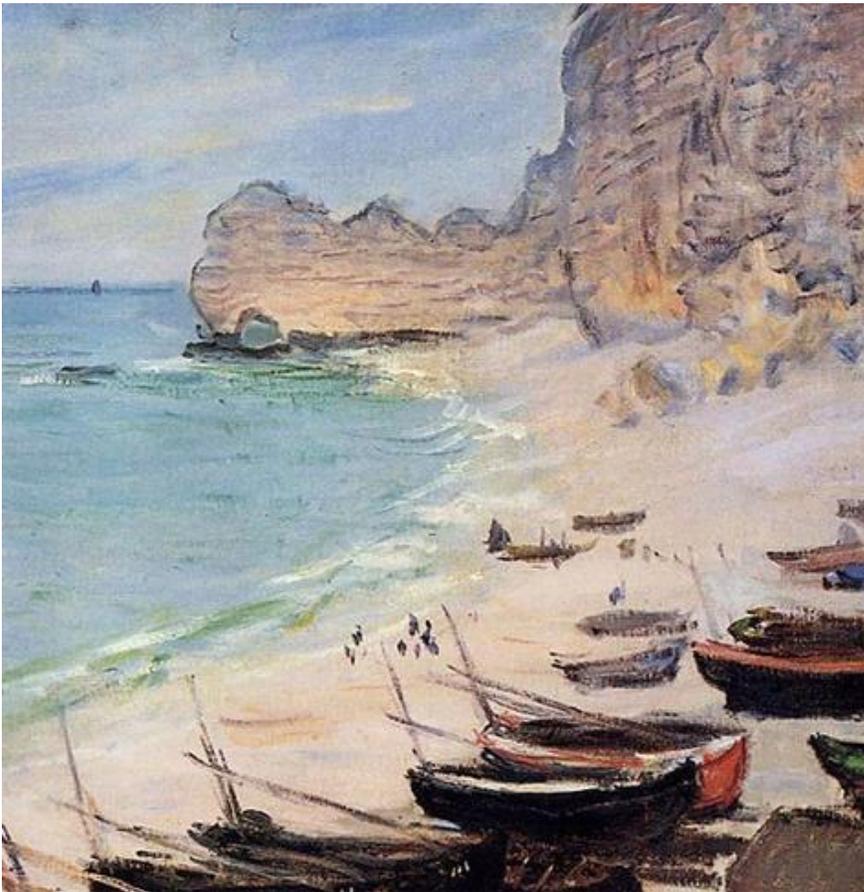
moon by two spaces, a triangle by three spaces, etc. If you reach the bottom of the grid then you start back at the top left corner.

Looking at the new frame we are given, then there is a triangle in the second square on the bottom line. If we move it by three spaces, it will end up in the top left corner. This points to Frame A and B.

The only difference between Frame A and B is the position of the other triangle. In the original Frame, that triangle sits in the third square on the first row. Therefore, moving it by three spaces will land it in the second box of the second row. This points to Frame B

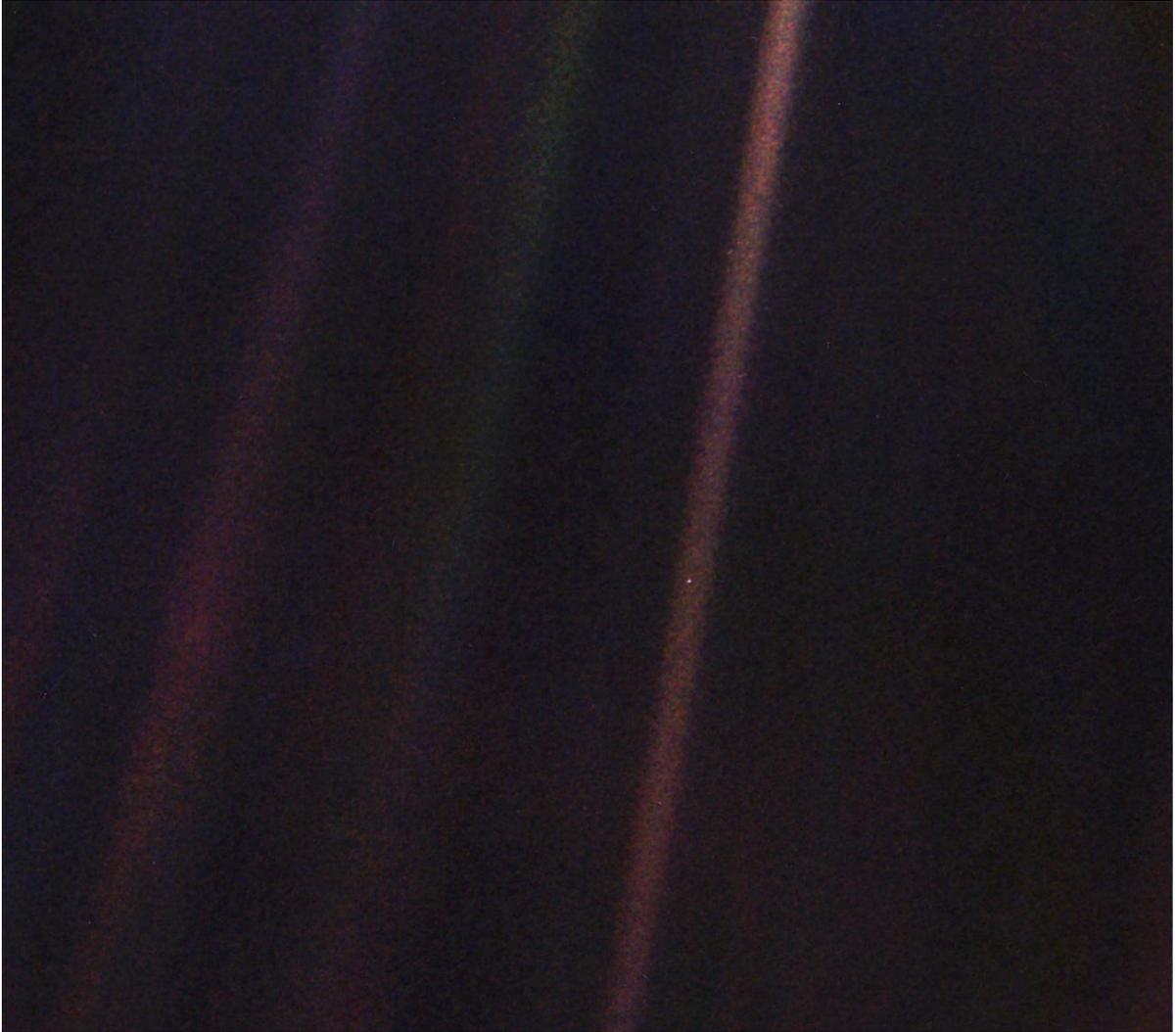
This week's puzzle

Take a look at the picture below. It is a section of painting by a French artist. Name the painting, date and where the painting was created.



Email me with the correct answers.

Photo of the week



Pale Blue Dot is a photograph of planet Earth taken on February 14, 1990, by the Voyager 1 space probe from a distance of about 6 billion kilometers (3.7 billion miles).

In his 1994 book, *Pale Blue Dot*, Carl Sagan comments on what he sees as the greater significance of the photograph, writing:

'Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every

teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there--on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.

It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known'.

You can hear Carl Sagan here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GO5FwsblpT8>

Careers Links from Mrs Havill

Students in years 11 and 13 – My Choices Event

Please be aware of a national event on Monday 3rd August at 10.00am to 2.30pm to help with decisions and transition choices – to find out more <https://learnliveuk.com/the-careers-enterprise-company-my-choices/> My Choices is aimed at 16-18 year olds to support students feel more confident and prepared on results day, and will take place with plenty of time to consider all your options and feel ready on the day. The agenda includes :-

- Pathways - identifying choices and opportunities
- Decision Making and Planning - investigating jobs and LMI
- Being prepared - handling applications and selection
- Positive wellbeing

- Adding value - preparing for employment

The **National Literacy Trust** are launching a **virtual internship programme** for young people aged between 15-19 in partnership with PwC, Lancôme and Great Portland Estates. Through the Words for Work internship programme students will have the opportunity to:

- Complete a large scale creative project set by an industry leading employer
- Take part in employability training
- Benefit from one to one mentoring
- Attend masterclasses led by industry leading experts
- Receive their own laptop

All internship placements are part time and will take place virtually. NLT will ensure that all participants have access to the technology they need to take part. Students can find out more and apply at the [National Literacy Trust's Zone In](#) website. Entries close on Monday 20th July.

Law Fair 2020 - For students considering career in law, [Law Fair 2020](#) takes place from Monday October 26 to Friday October 30. The event will feature workshops and presentations from law firms and law schools as well as special interest days and events.



In place of Arcadis work experience week they are running a series of Insight & Skills sessions, hosted online and will be run between the **16th- 28th July**. There are a range of sessions scheduled over alternative dates and times, The sessions will be hosted by their recruitment team and recent **graduates and apprentices** will give you their views into life at Arcadis and as well as wider industry key facts and knowledge, including insights into their career with Arcadis. To find out more <https://careers.arcadis.com/events?from=0&relevance=date>

Here is next week's full [VTALK Schedule](#).

WEEK STARTING MONDAY 13TH JULY 2020

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Mon 13 th July 10am Add to calendar	Reemah Sakaan, Group Launch Director, Britbox	Hear from Reemah Sakaan, Group Launch Director, BritBox on what it takes to have a career in TV, the skills and qualities that you might need and more about their career journey.
Mon 13 th July 2pm Add to calendar	Andrew Bailey, Governor of the Bank of England	Join us to hear from the Governor of the Bank of England, Andrew Bailey, as he talks to students across the UK about the work of the Bank and answers YOUR questions.
Tues 14 th July 10am Add to calendar	Richard Aylard, External Affairs and Sustainability Director and Rebekah Kenyon, Senior Sustainability Awareness Advisor, Thames Water	Reflections on sustainability in a lockdown world: Join us to hear from Richard Aylard and Rebekah Kenyon as they discuss sustainability and lockdown, from home working to how lockdown has impacted Thames Water's activities and our new appreciation for the environment.
Tues 14 th July 2pm Add to calendar	Sara Crofts, Chief Executive, The Institute of Conservation	Who looks after the dinosaurs in the Natural History Museum? Who uncovers the hidden stories in old paintings? Who keeps Big Ben running like clockwork? Join Sara Crofts to find out how professional conservators care for the treasures in our museums and galleries.
Wed 15 th July 10am Add to calendar	Anna Turney, Paralympian	Paralympian, Anna Turney, is joining SFS virtually to reflect on her own journey and share life lessons with young people including the important of goal setting, working hard and developing resilience.
Wed 15 th July 2pm Add to calendar	Alejandra Castaño GHG Air Quality Lead Advisor, Upstream - GOO, BP	This talk will be given by an environmental engineer with BP about her career at the company and the kind of work she's involved in with the company's carbon ambitions.
Thurs 16 th July 10am Add to calendar	Sharon Walpole, Director, Careermap	We're delighted Sharon Walpole, Director, Careermap has kindly agreed to join us to discuss how young people can prepare for their future careers from understanding what your passion is, how to research to find out more about the careers you might be interested in and sharing the resources that can help you think about your future.
Thurs 16 th July 2pm Add to calendar	Julia Angeles, Investment Manager, Baillie Gifford	Interested in learning more about the skills it takes to succeed in the future job market? Julia Angeles has joined us to give insights in to the investment industry and to highlight the importance of collaborative and creative thinking in any career!

HOW TO JOIN THE VTALKS

- Join 10 minutes before the VTALK to be ready
- You can join without needing an account – [Watch how here](#)
- For full speaker descriptions visit the [VTALK Schedule here](#)

VTALK LIBRARY & MORE

- Watch pre-recorded VTalks from our library [here](#)

Historians - University of Plymouth have created an interactive web page that your students can access [here](#) through this link at any time, so please forward onto your students. **This web page is here to inspire the future Historians in your school.** With taster sessions from our renowned academics and History snapshots that cover topics from the Roots of Vegetarianism to the US Civil Rights Movement. We want to encourage your students to keep exploring their passions in these times and we hope this provides them with some inspiration.

Food Fraud mooc – University Of East Anglia has joined forces with the world-renowned Institute of Food Research (IFR) to provide this unique course, led by Kate Kemsley, a specialist in the use of advanced instrumentation for measuring the chemical composition of food materials.

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/events/event/60052/identifying-food-fraud-mooc>

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are still being advertised for school leavers albeit in much smaller numbers – and the hope is these will gradually improve with additional government funding. Through social media channels such as Twitter, you can follow organisations like the National Apprenticeship Service @Apprenticeships and Amazing Apprenticeships @AmazingAppsUK to stay informed about different employers who are recruiting. The latest parent publication is available <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2020/07/Parent-Pack-July-2020.pdf>

Chancellor announces Plan for Jobs initiative - Delivering his Summer Economic Update in Parliament yesterday, the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, announced a [package of measures to support jobs](#), in part, by focussing on skills and young people. The measures include:

- Businesses will be given £2,000 for each new apprentice they hire under the age of 25. This is in addition to the existing £1,000 payment the Government already provides for new 16-18-year-old apprentices and those aged under 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan
- A £111 million investment to triple the scale of traineeships in 2020-21
- £17 million of funding to triple the number of sector-based work academy placements in 2020-21

- Nearly £900 million to double the number of work coaches to 27,000
- An extra £32 million investment in the National Careers Service



The Big Bang Digital Event

Teachers! Introduce your students to **Big Bang Digital 2020 – science, engineering & Covid-19**, the free online event for young people aged 11+ on **Tuesday 14 July**.

Hosted by TV & Radio Science Presenter, Podcaster & YouTuber Greg Foot students can take part in:

- Short, inspiring sessions looking at all aspects of STEM in a pandemic
- Live polling, Q&A sessions with real life engineers and scientists
- Big Bang Explore with activities to do during the day and a chance to win prizes
- Meeting NHS frontline staff and asking the experts coronavirus questions

Big Bang Digital can be included as part of home learning or streamed in-school and is a secure environment with safeguarding measures in place. It's the perfect way for young people to celebrate the amazing work of scientists and engineers in the pandemic, see STEM careers in action and discover how what they learn at school is used in real life.

The incredible line-up:

- Hear from people designing PPE, ventilators and a social distancing lanyard
- Find out how the NHS Nightingale hospitals were built so quickly
- Meet the teams keeping things moving, water in the taps and food in the shops
- Explore lockdown cyber security and staying safe online
- Look at the environmental impact of staying at home

- Pay tribute to key workers with a rainbow science show with Gastronomist Stefan Gates

Spread the word, share with colleagues and parents! For more details and to look at the full line-up visit: www.digitalbigbang.co.uk

Five things to be grateful for during this difficult time

Inspired by Mrs Parry's work with Yr9 we will ask one member of staff each week to share 5 things they are grateful for. *This week's ideas come from Mr Jefferies*

Five things I'm grateful for:

1. Unlimited exercise was allowed during lockdown – I like to run (quite a lot!)
2. The energy and laughter that my children have
3. Music – not sure my neighbours necessarily appreciate my music taste though!
4. Online shopping
5. My complete Marvel film collection and Disney+!



Stay safe!
We hope you have a fantastic summer break.
Best wishes from the Sixth Form team.

