



Sixth Form Briefing w/c 20th April

Dear all,

We hope you had a lovely Easter, enjoyed some sunshine and didn't eat too much chocolate! We spent some time focusing on the things we feel grateful for and you can see Mrs Haig's ideas below.

Today marks the start of a new term and although we are not together, it is really important that we start the term well. This means re-establishing routines, checking SMHW regularly and for each year group, working on a specific task:

Year 11 – Summer prep work is published today (if not there yet then check back later). You should have roughly 20 hours of work for each of your chosen Sixth Form subjects. It is compulsory that you complete this and bring in with you in September.

Year 12 – UCAS/ Apprenticeship preparation. Today we have shared the introduction to UCAS narrated ppt with you, a timeline and a sheet to fill in “all about me”. Please go through this ppt even if you do not think at this stage you want to go to university. Every year we have students who change their mind so it is important that everyone understands the process.

This ppt will be followed next week by apprenticeships/ jobs information and a timeline of activities and How to write a personal statement. All the files can be viewed on sharepoint in the KS5 Social Studies area.

https://excaliburacademiestrust.sharepoint.com/sites/STJ_Subjects_ST/Key%20Stage%2005/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Year 13 – What's next? For Y13 Mrs Joyce has shared some information updating everyone on UCAS. In addition, you can also take another look at the apprenticeship/ jobs ppt coming out for Y12 next week if you are still uncertain about your plans in September. Remember you can still contact your tutor, the sixth form team or Mrs Havill if you have career related questions.

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

Study tip of the week:

For Y12 students, information about your exams has been posted on SMHW. You should have used the time over Easter to organise your notes and revision. Now is the time to begin to prepare for the exams in earnest. I have had lots of questions about the exams over Easter – they are important, but we do appreciate that everyone has different challenges to face completing these exams at home. They are just one of the pieces of data we will use when considering your UCAS predicted grades – alongside your classwork, assessments, any other exams and your attitude to study.

Fancy stretching yourself?

We wrote to you before Easter about Eton self-study courses. The school has now signed up to two of these courses specifically with Y11 and Y13 in mind. There are around 200 free places available for our students on each of these courses and you sign up using the details below:

Y11 – Writing Skills

Access code: Z6N9NC5E

Y13 – Creative problem solving

Access code: 4PJO39YV

The instructions for joining these courses are:

1. Visit the EtonX website and click sign in
2. Choose sign up with Access code
3. Enter the access code
4. Follow the on screen instructions. Please sign up with your school email address

STEM Opportunity for Y12:

2020 In2scienceUK Summer Programme has extended the deadline to apply for a place at its summer school until 24th April. The summer school is free to join and will hopefully take place end of July/ early August. All students who apply will have a virtual interview in May. If the placements are not able to go ahead this summer then they will hopefully be arranged for another date. The programme includes:

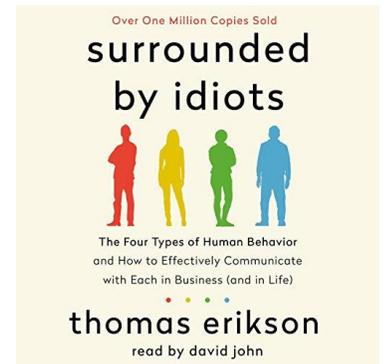
- 2 week summer placement (subject to date change)
- Access to UCAS and careers workshops
- University admissions support
- A change to acquire STEM skills.

To apply go to www.in2scienceuk.org

Book of the week:

Chosen this week by Mr Kemp: *Surrounded by Idiots* by Thomas Erikson

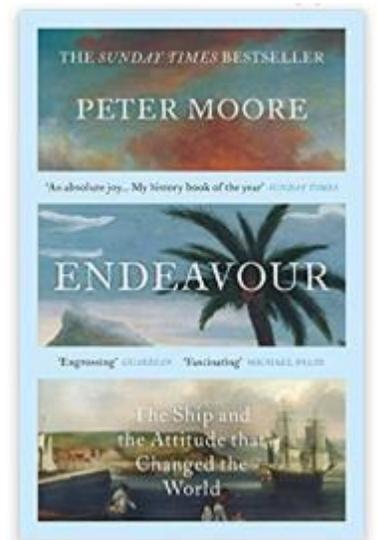
Surrounded by Idiots is an international phenomenon, selling over 1.5 million copies worldwide. It offers a simple, yet ground-breaking method for assessing the personalities of people we communicate with - in and out of the office - based on four personality types (Red, Blue, Green and Yellow), and provides insights into how we can adjust the way we speak and share information.



Book recommendation from Mr Tucker:

'Endeavour' by Peter Moore

This is the story of the Ship and attitude that 'changed the World'. It tells the story of how a humble ship (The Earl of Pembroke) built for moving Coal from the North East to London was transformed by The Royal Navy as the ship that would lead to Captain James Cook's first ever exploration and discoveries of the Southern Hemisphere and how it ended up as a blockship during the American Revolution. Riveting and one of the best history books I have ever read.



More reading:

Audible by Amazon are providing free access to audiobooks and stories for children and students of all ages whilst schools remain closed. All audiobooks are free to stream on your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet at <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>
Explore the collection, select a title and start listening!

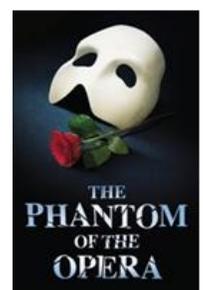
Missing going out to the theatre?

The National Theatre is still streaming a free play every Thursday evening.
23rd April – Twelfth Night (available until 30th April)

The National Theatre Collection – please email Mrs Haig if you would like the password for this.

BBC Culture at Home – The Shakespeare Sessions

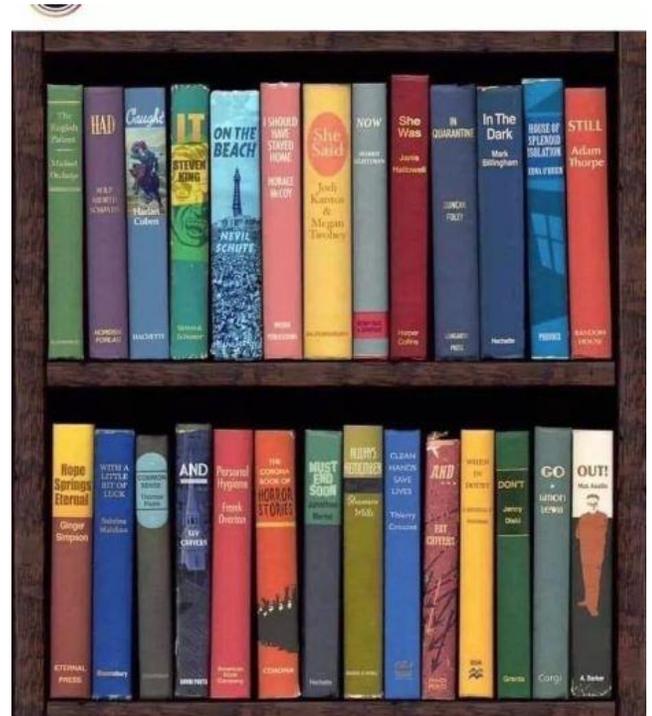
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0655br3/episodes/downloads>



And our personal favourite – every Friday Andrew Lloyd Weber shows a free musical on the YouTube channel The Shows Must Go On.

Competition time:

A little bit literary this week! Your challenge is to make a poem using book spines. You can't add in any extra words. Send pictures of your completed book spine poems to rhaig-williams@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk. The best ones will be tweeted on the 6th form account.



Quiz time:

Answer to last week's puzzle (Puzzle - week 2)

Set A: All shapes can be drawn without lifting the pencil or going over the same line again.

Set B: The shapes cannot be drawn in one single line without lifting the pencil or going over an existing line.

Answers:

1. Frame D
2. Frame B

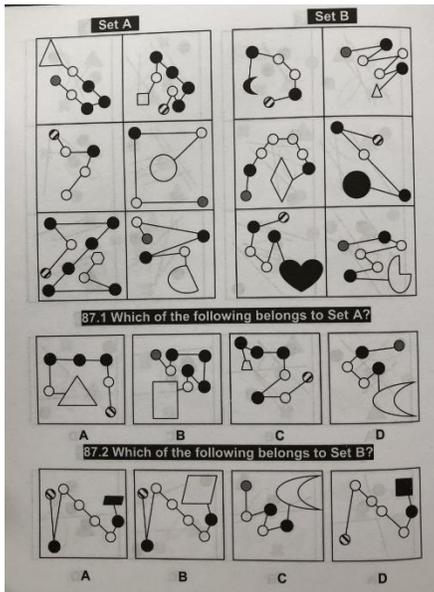
I had the first correct answer emailed to me on 8/4/2020 by KR.

This week's puzzles (Puzzle - week 3)

Whose hands are these? Name the painting, the artist and the model.



Abstract Reasoning puzzle



If you have the answers, then email me.
mharrison@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk

The sender of the first correct answer will get a mention in next week's bulletin.
Answer will be revealed in next week's bulletin.

Keeping fit and healthy

Exercise should now have a place in everyone's daily schedule, especially given the free time we may now have. This could be a great opportunity to kick start a fitness regime that you might have been struggling to get going due to other commitments. There are loads of great apps or YouTube fitness channels to help you:

Fitness Apps:

- *7 Minute Workout*
- *Yoga for beginners*
- *Couch to 5K*
- *Freeletics – the signature freeletics workouts are all free*

YouTube fitness channels:

- *The Body Coach TV – lots of free home workout videos with Joe Wicks*
- *Search for Les Mills workouts for some free online content.*

You could go out for a walk or cycle in the countryside near where you live and may even come across some Bluebells!

Careers Links from Mrs Havill

For those wanting to apply to university, think of what you can do during this time to help with personal statements - if universities are providing online resources then utilise these. For example, Southampton Uni are promoting educational resources, available online and completely for free. Click here for the link to current resources. (Where a password is required, use 'disco'.) They have a virtual open day experience, and you can register for Open Days and they will provide a personalised experience if they share what they're currently studying and what subjects you're interested in. Check the websites of other universities to see what they offer.

Exeter University are offering virtual summer schools and virtual tours. Find out more either on their Facebook page @DiscoverUniExe or via their website:

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/>

Plymouth University are offering a series of zoom sessions. These talks aim to give you insight and advice you may need with each session lasting approximately one hour. To book a place please register at:

<https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/21FO00iuq8f90x007dx9h4af1s> or email outreach@plymouth.ac.uk

- Choosing a Course and the Benefits of University - Tuesday 14 April at 14.00 and Monday 27 April at 10.00

- Student Finance and Budgeting - Wednesday 15 April at 14.00 and Wednesday 29 April at 10.00
- Choosing Between Your University Offers - Thursday 16 April at 14.00 and Thursday 30 April at 10.00
- Student Life - Friday 17 April at 14.00 and Friday 1 May at 10.00
- UCAS and Personal Statements - Tuesday 28 April at 10.00 and Friday 1 May at 14.00

Mental Health:

If you need to talk to someone about your mental health over the next few months please remember that school is still here to support you. You can email pastoral staff or your tutor or use the links found on St Johns website at <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/life-at-st-johns/mental-health/>

Also, the online counselling service for children and young people **Kooth**. **Link below.**
<https://www.kooth.com>

Ted Talks

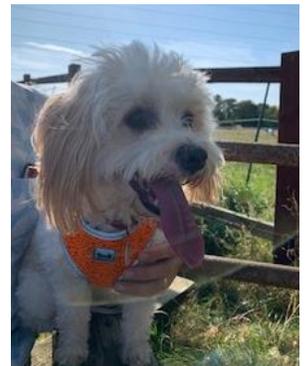
Richard St John – **the 8 Secrets of Success** (in just over 3 minutes)

https://www.ted.com/talks/richard_st_john_8_secrets_of_success

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 Mrs Haig:

1. The sunshine
2. Being able to take my dog on long walks in the Wiltshire countryside
3. Family – although having my children back from university makes the house seem very full!
4. The internet – what did we do before it?
5. My garden. I am even attempting to grow my own veg....



Stay safe!
Best wishes from the Sixth Form team.

