



NEWSLETTER • SUMMER TERM
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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoyed the bank holiday weekend and that you and your families are well and safe.

Mr Johnson's announcement on Sunday raised a number of questions, but it did confirm our expectations that the risk remains too high to allow for the reopening of schools for all pupils at this stage.

The government has prioritised the return of reception and primary school children to school on 1st June, but we await further guidance on how and when we will be able to re-open. The new plan asks secondary schools to prepare to begin some face-to-face contact with Year 10 and 12 pupils in support of their continued remote home learning before the end of the academic year.

Whilst I appreciate that more of you will be required to go back to work, we will continue to stick to government advice, which is to remain closed except for our most vulnerable students and children of key workers. We will therefore continue our provision at Philip Morant until further notice. This is a particularly challenging time for all of us and it is impacting on every aspect of our lives. It is at times like this that courage, generosity and resilience make a difference. Please look after yourselves, your family, friends and community at this time.

Mrs CA Moffat
Headteacher

You may find the following government information useful:

- [Key workers list](#)
- [HMG Covid-19 Recovery Strategy Document](#)

2020 Danbury Residential

Due to the on-going situation regarding COVID-19 we have sadly had to take the decision to cancel our residential visit to Danbury Youth Camp.

As outlined in the correspondence emailed this week, we are still very keen to provide our Year 7 students with an opportunity to celebrate their successful start at Paxman Academy. With this in mind, we hope to organise a day trip in 2021 when it is safe to do so. This will be an opportunity for our current Year 7 students to celebrate what has been a great start to life at Paxman Academy, despite a turbulent finish to their first year.

Mr Morgan

Provision at Philip Morant

Our current schooling provision is being held at The Philip Morant School and College. Our students who attend will find themselves working as a Paxman Academy group with our staff members.

If you are a key worker and would like to potentially take up a place at Philip Morant for your son or daughter, please send an email in the first instance to admin@paxmanacademy.org.uk

Mr Morgan

STEM Challenge

The past couple of weeks has seen the start of Paxman Academy's 'STEM Challenge'. Every week, students are set a challenge relating to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects. Students are given some guidance on how to approach the project, but otherwise they have free creative reign over the challenge. The winner each week will receive a £10 Amazon voucher to spend on anything they want!



The very first challenge was to build a bionic hand with whatever materials students could find, and we had some absolutely fantastic entries. The winner for this challenge was Zachary, pictured left. A fantastic entry Zachary, and I was really impressed with the way that you continually improved your model.

The second challenge was to design an app to incentivise people to recycle. As an added bonus, some students went even further and actually started building an app using the MIT App Inventor! Lots more fantastic entries, and the winner of this challenge was Ruby.



Look out for all future challenges, and be sure to get your entries to me on time. You have to be in it to win it!

Mr Newton
STEM Coordinator

Well-being and Support

With disruption in everyone's lives due to coronavirus (COVID-19) it's important that we all pay attention to our mental health and wellbeing and the mental health of children and young people. Research suggests that the pandemic is going to affect everyone's mental wellbeing, particularly vulnerable groups such as children. Children and young people may be feeling worried or anxious about different things. Beyond the virus itself there is the interruption of the normal school routine, suddenly spending most of their time indoors and no longer regularly seeing family and friends.

NSPCC Learning has pulled together some useful resources and on-line tools to help support children and families through this challenging time. <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/> is a dedicated coronavirus page by Childline which provides:

- Information about coronavirus using age-appropriate language
- Tips on how to cope during social distancing measures
- Advice on how to cope with anxiety
- Details of where children can go for help and support

Childline also provides a number of online tools which children and young people may find helpful:

- Calm Zone - activities to let go of stress - <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>
- Games to take your mind off things - <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/games/>
- Information and advice on topics from feelings and relationships, to family and schools - <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/>
- Peer support message boards - <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/message-boards/>
- Childline Kids - a website for under 12s - <https://www.childline.org.uk/kids>

It is important for children to try to have some routine and structure when working from home and they therefore may find this plan useful to follow on a daily basis:



Supporting home learning routines - planning the day

		M	T	W	T	F
	I woke up at a good time	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	I did some exercise	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	I had regular meals and drank water	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	I enjoyed some reading in a quiet space	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	I practised a maths skill	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	I completed some school work at my work space. I chunked it so I had some breaks too	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	I talked to my family about my day and how I am feeling. I asked them about their day	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	I contacted my friends	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	I helped with a household job and talked with my family while I did it	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	I spent some time on a creative hobby	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	My parent / carer told me what I did well	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	My goal for tomorrow is					

Please also be aware of the following useful links and contact details:

- Child Line - Advises and protects children 24 hours a day and offers free confidential counselling: 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
- Children's Society - 0300 303 7000 - www.childrenssociety.org.uk
- KOOTH - free, safe and anonymous support online for young people: www.kooth.com
- MIND - www.mind.org.uk
- Samaritans - 24 hour confidential listening and support for anyone who needs it (adults included): Phone 116123 (24 hours) or email jo@samaritans.org
- School Nurse - Text for confidential advice and support - 07520 615734
- Shout – 24/7 crisis textline – text 'Shout' to 85258
- Supportline - 01708 765200 www.supportline.org.uk Email: info@supportline.org.uk
- The Mix – helpline and digital support for young people across a range of issues <https://www.themix.org.uk/get-support>
- YoungMinds – online information and social channels for young people and also guidance for parents www.youngminds.org.uk/coronavirus www.youngminds.org.uk/coronavirus-parents and the following blog is recommended for discussing Coronavirus with your child: <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>

Miss Smith



During this unprecedented times, we know our students are spending more time online, while we must never underestimate the importance of staying safe on the internet.

I would like to inform you over some of the dangers in using a VPN (Virtual Privacy Network) as they are readily available to download for free online.

What is a VPN?

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) is a privacy tool used to hide internet activity from being monitored. Without a VPN, internet traffic is sent directly from your computer or smartphone, letting anyone in-between you and a website or service that you're accessing. The way a VPN works means that children can also use VPNs to hide what they're doing and get around any restrictions that you might have in place.

What are the risks?

There are two main issues with VPN usage by children, potentially affecting their privacy (and yours), and opening them up to seeing inappropriate content.

- 1) Viewing age-inappropriate content - Parental control tools work by looking at the sites that a child is trying to visit, and then blocking according to a list of what's not allowed. With a VPN, the secure tunnel that's created means that web traffic can't be viewed, so parental controls stop working. Once on the open internet, a child using a VPN can look at anything they like unrestricted.
- 2) Malware infections - Installing any unknown application is fraught with danger, and the same applies to many free VPN applications. In an investigation, it was found that 38% of free Android VPNs contained malware, with 75% also designed to track activity. By installing suspect software, a child may be opening themselves up to being spied on and their private details being stolen. If you use a shared device with a child, an infection can also affect you.

What you can do

- 1) Filter VPN sites - Check the parental controls software that you're using to see if there's a filter to block VPN/Proxy traffic. If this is selected, it will prevent most known VPNs from working, along with proxy websites.
- 2) Block VPN applications - Stopping and removing any VPN applications running on a child's device is a must. If you have parental control software that can restrict application use, make sure that you investigate any application that your child wants to install and block all VPNs. Look out for tell-tale signs, too: computers and phones will usually display a different connection symbol when a VPN is connected.
- 3) Monitor your child's online activity - In order to prevent your children from falling prey to inappropriate content, it's important to monitor your child's internet usage and have open and honest discussions with them about their online activities.

Well known VPN apps

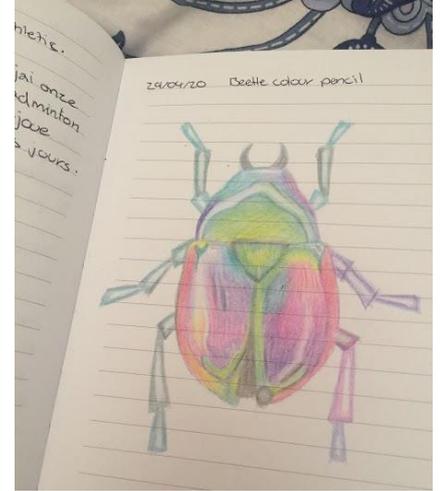
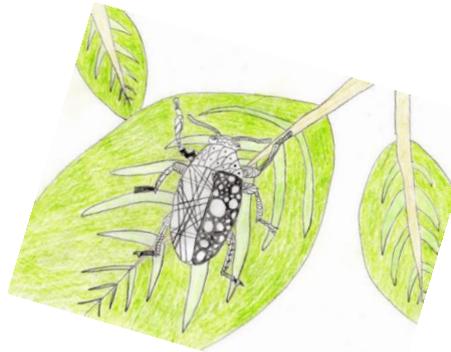


More Fantastic Student Work!

Our students have found many innovative ways to use their time productively at home during lock down. Elias has been making 'EcoBricks' utilising waste plastic. An Ecobrick is a reusable building block created by packing clean and dry used plastic into a plastic bottle to a set density. This is something which we could look at producing in school upon return to build some sustainable structures – for more information visit <https://www.ecobricks.org/>

Below are some other examples of brilliant student work produced in the last two weeks.

Mr Mussett



WHAT IS VE DAY?

VE day stands for Victory in Europe Day and is celebrated on the 8th of May. It was the end of the six years, of suffering misery and courage during the Second World War in Europe. Although it was not the end of warfare in Europe.



Final Thought

"There are people all around the world just like us. People who have heard about the Coronavirus and are deciding to do something to make this sad and scary time better. Let's be helpers like that. Let's think about what we can do - not only for ourselves but for everyone - to show that we care and to make things better.

**Your words, your efforts, your actions matter.
You are helping to heal the world."**

*Dawn Huebner PhD,
author of **Something Bad Happened***