



NEWSLETTER • SUMMER TERM
ISSUE 11 • 24TH APRIL 2020

Message from the Headteacher

I would like to welcome you back to the new term at Paxman Academy. I hope that you and your families are safe and well during this difficult time and that you have coped well so far with the pressures associated with home schooling. Please remember that we are here to support you and should you need to contact us, teachers' email addresses are available on our website.

Prior to lockdown we had set up a number of ways to continue communication. It has been gratifying to see the volume of students who have engaged with their form in their Google Classrooms. I asked students to send me details of new skills that they were learning or interesting activities that they had carried out earlier this week and have been overwhelmed by the talents and diversity of activities that have been taking place in our community. The students continue to make me proud of them, even when I am not in contact with them every day, and I have included some of the things that they sent to me in the newsletter today. Communication includes regular phone calls to keep in touch. Mr Mussett has included a message today that outlines the importance of these.

We sent out some useful online resources to support learning prior to the Easter break. The Government has produced additional guidance, which can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

In addition to this they have launched Oak National Academy which is an online classroom and resource hub that offers 180 lessons per week across a broad range of subjects and is free to use.

These can be accessed at <https://www.thenational.academy/>

The BBC has also launched an education package across TV and online, featuring celebrities and teachers, helping to keep children learning at home and supporting parents.

This can be accessed at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

We hope that you will access these resources to supplement the work that we are providing.

Time does not stand still during lockdown and we have had some good news regarding traffic management on Walnut Way. Essex County Council have agreed to start work on designing and installing advisory 20mph signs when lights flash outside the school. At the same time they are exploring pedestrian barriers to improve the safety of students. They are aware of the work that has taken place in the community to campaign for a zebra crossing. However, work on monitoring traffic flow cannot take place until things return to normal. Therefore, this may take some time, but well done to the students who started the campaign.

I would like to thank you all for your support at this difficult time and am looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Mrs CA Moffat
Headteacher

School Provision

Please remember that if you are a critical key worker and your son/daughter is unable to safely stay at home, they may report to The Philip Morant School and College on weekdays from 8.30am until 3.00pm. Further details are available on our website.

Free School Meals Update

We are currently purchasing weekly vouchers via Edenred and can confirm that messages received from this company are safe to open and are not a scam. The Department for Education has approved the use of Edenred, and those eligible should have received activation codes by email covering this week and next. We will continue to use Edenred whilst the closure remains in place.

If your financial situation has recently changed and you are unsure whether your child is now eligible for Free School Meals, we would urge you to make an application as a matter of urgency. This is an easy process and can be accessed via this link: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/ofsm-east>

Ventilator Appeal

A parent of a Paxman Academy pupil is striving to manufacture a low-cost ventilator targeted at low- and middle-income countries.

ROOTS Medtech (not-for-profit) have teamed up with Lungfish Dive Systems who have developed a ventilator which is gas powered, and therefore does not require electricity. The company are fundraising to refine the design of the Lungfish system and manufacturer it within six weeks, so it can reach countries like Africa and help in their fight against Covid-19.

If you would like to donate, please visit the GoFundMe page at <https://lnkd.in/eNcPRnS>

Paxman Scrubs

We have put the Textile room to good use over the last week, as Mrs Moffat, Mrs Reynolds and myself have successfully made 10 sets of scrubs for Colchester General Hospital (social distancing taken into consideration). It has been an amazing experience, cutting and sewing as we think of the utter selflessness of the NHS on the frontline. We know it is only a drop in the ocean, but doing our bit to support the amazing workers from our local community is really important to us.

I know I will be clapping loud and clear for the NHS workers and everyone who is continuing to support us as we navigate these challenging times. If you would like to get involved with producing scrubs, please visit <http://www.colchesteripswichcharity.org.uk/cv19staffwellbeing/scrubs/>



Mrs Newman



Home Study Arrangements

A reminder that work is set daily for students on Classcharts and the expectation is that students should be studying the three lessons daily. Teachers are available via email to support the work to be completed. Please let your child's form tutor know if there are any issues in accessing this work. Classcharts is the diary of work and not all work will need a computer to be completed - we have asked staff to create a variety of tasks.

Please be aware that we will continue to make welfare calls to all students, approximately every two weeks. These are really important to identify if there are any other ways that we can further support students and families in these challenging times. We will continue to telephone until we make contact, and may make a home visit if we are unsuccessful. Can I also ask that you encourage your child to interact with their form via Google Classroom where possible? In addition, please remember that there is lots of self-help and other useful information on our website, which can be found in 'Key Information' and then under the 'Safeguarding/Wellbeing' section: <https://www.paxmanacademy.org.uk/key-information/safeguarding/>

Mr Mussett

Food Plant Banana Loaf Bake

This banana loaf recipe features on the break time menu in our Foodplant - why not have a go at baking it while you are on lockdown?



You Will Need:

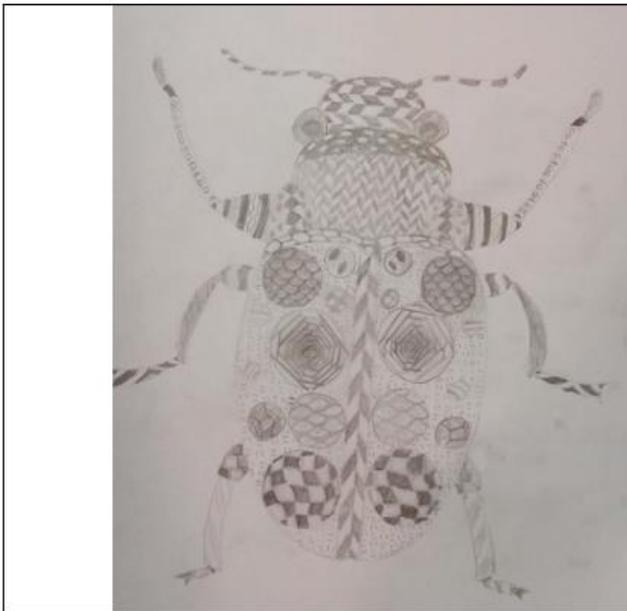
Loaf tin or tray bake tin, or individual muffins cases
2 ripe bananas (TIP: you can freeze any bananas which are going brown or black and then thaw them for this recipe)
175g soft margarine
175g caster sugar
225g self-raising flour
3 eggs
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp vanilla essence
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

- Heat the oven to 180C or Gas 5, then line and grease a 450g (1lb) loaf tin with parchment paper
- Use a wooden spoon or electric mixer to beat the margarine and sugar together in a large bowl until light and creamy
- In another bowl, mix the flour, baking powder and cinnamon together
- Whisk the eggs and vanilla essence together in another bowl
- Mash the bananas, using a fork, in another bowl
- Now gradually add the egg mixture alternatively with the flour, to the margarine and sugar. Do not over beat otherwise you will knock the air out and your bake will not be fluffy. You can continue with the mixer at this stage
- Stir through the mashed banana and then spoon into your loaf tin (or tray or muffin cases)
- A loaf will take approximately 35-40 minutes (check after 25 minutes and if the top is browning too quickly, cover with foil). It is ready when a knife inserted comes out clean. A tray bake will take approximately 20-30 minutes, and muffins approximately 15-20 minutes
- Leave to cool in the tin or tray and remove when able to handle - run a knife round the edges to help

Enjoy and have fun baking!

Ms Tinworth
Catering Manager

How We've Been Busy During Lockdown



Introduction



Bees are flying insects that are known for their role in pollination. They travel around in large groups called a grist, hive, swarm or nest. These peculiar insects are becoming close to extinction, with only 80 to 100 million hives left in the world. This may sound a lot, but one bee hive is home to around 10,000 to 60,000 bees.

Swarming.

When a bee swarms, they are carrying honey and want to find a place to store it. They will try to build a hive around the queen to protect her from any dangers. If the hive is not secure it will fall (see photo), and all the bees will scatter and try looking for the queen. There will be around 14,000 bees in a swarm.

The silent world
I opened my window
and all I could hear
were the birds in the trees
With no fear
The big bulky cow
wanders through town
looking for grass
there is no one around
It feels like the earth
is completely still
It feels like a dream
It gives me a chill
I opened my window
and all I could hear,
were the birds in the trees
with no fear.

