

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are safe and well.

As we are in the final half term of the academic year there has been some easing of the lockdown restrictions, but we are by no means back to normal. The announcement at this week's Government briefing regarding education means that we will not be open to all students until at least September. This means that it is vitally important that all students continue to keep up with all of the work that teachers are setting each day on ClassCharts. I continue to be very impressed by some of the work and additional activities that students are sending to me during lockdown.

I want to assure you that staff are working very hard to ensure that the return to school will be safe when it happens. All appropriate risk assessments are being carried out. Hygiene resources will be readily available and plans are in place to implement new ways of working to minimise risks to students and staff in all areas of the school. In order to help us plan, we sent out a wellbeing survey to students last week. Results so far are really positive, but we will have a fuller picture of how students are coping once we have received all returns.

In the meantime, we continue to provide for our vulnerable students and the children of parents critical to the COVID-19 response. The definition of this has not changed and can be found by clicking [here](#). Should you require this support, please follow the instructions on our website.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all of the support and kind words that we have received from so many of you. These are always appreciated, but even more so at this time.

Please look after yourselves, your family, friends and community.

Mrs CA Moffat  
Headteacher

## Sigma Community Sew

Over the last few weeks, a team from Paxman Academy and The Stanway School has come together to sew for the community. From generously donated fabrics we made scrub bags and ear saving headbands, then donated them to the hospital, hospice and local care homes.

More recently we have turned these donations into fabric face coverings and became a branch of the national Community Mask Tree initiative. The idea is to make face coverings for everyone. To enable social distancing the masks are left on trees in hosts' front gardens and people can then take one for a donation to charity. Our chosen charities are Colchester Foodbank and the local women's refuge. You'll find us on Facebook if you want to keep a track of where our next tree will bloom.

We are so proud of Paxman Academy student Emily, who also helped to run one of the first Community Mask Trees in Colchester – well done Emily!

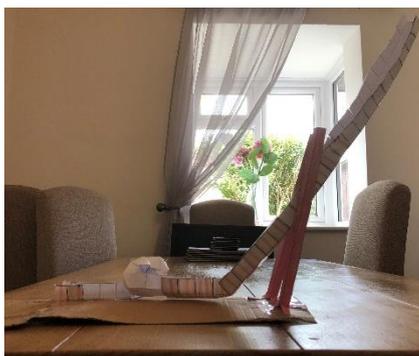


Mrs Newman

## STEM Challenge

The weekly STEM Challenge has been going strong over the past few weeks and students are really enjoying getting involved and producing some fantastic creations. It is incredible to see the perseverance that students are showing to improve upon their designs and achieve success, so a big well done to everybody who takes part each week.

Lily produced a very impressive rubber band car, Emily constructed one of the longest and best-designed paper roller coasters, and Brayden put together a captivating flipbook using the idea of apparent motion to get seamless transitions between pictures.



The challenge for this week is to produce a chain reaction obstacle course using household objects, and I'm really looking forward to seeing the entries when they come in.



A reminder that a challenge is currently being set every week, and winners receive a £10 Amazon voucher to spend on anything that they want. Challenges require a slightly different set of skills each week, so look out for them and give them a go if you are able.

Mr Newton  
STEM Coordinator

## Wellbeing Survey

All students were sent a copy of a wellbeing survey to complete via their school email. Please can you encourage your child to complete it if they have not already done so. Thank you.

Mr Mussett

## Fake News

Information about Covid-19 continues to come from a variety of mediums and it is often difficult to know where the information has come from at a time like this.

There is an educational resource available which helps to discuss the sharing of information, media literacy and how to discern where information has originated. It also includes advice on how to discuss Covid-19 with your child or family. Click [here](#) to access the link.

Media literacy and competence is an important and current topic for both media 'safety' and particularly in academic development, to help children become critical readers and develop awareness of how information and 'news' is shared. If you are interested in finding out more, please fill in your details from the link. (You do not have to be a teacher; simply type 'Parent' in the 'Job Title' field to receive the resource!)

Ms Rogers

## Family Support

On behalf of Essex County Council and the NHS, Virgin Care and Barnardo's provide a range of child and family services throughout Essex.

<http://www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/>

The Essex Child and Family Welfare Service (ECFWS) offers help and support to families, children and young people through the Covid-19 crisis. Please visit their website to access support and guidance via their Covid-19 Pandemic Resource Hub and also view regular bulletins which provide useful information, activities and contact details for the school nursing team.

A reminder that, in addition to this, we have a wealth of information, guidance, useful websites and contact details on the 'Wellbeing' area of our school website.

Miss Smith

Believe in  
children  
Barnardo's

virgincare

## History 101 on Netflix

If your son/daughter was interested in the recent space launch, Netflix has just launched a superb series of 20 minute documentaries called *History 101*. One of these episodes is about the Space Race. This short documentary provides an excellent background into space travel, and will help students understand why space exploration began and how it has developed since.

There is also an episode in this series on oil, which is the topic for one of our upcoming Geography home learning lessons.

Mr Suen



## Student Work

Between Easter and May half term, students worked through a Design Technology Project which involved them developing their own Pizza Restaurant. They were asked to consider design, from branding and logos, to staff uniforms and menus. They then had the option to cook.

Here is just a small selection of the incredible work that students put in to this project. It was such a pleasure to see all the awesome outcomes. Well done everyone!

Mrs Newman

