

Headteacher: Dr. J Bartlett – NPQH, PGCE, D.Phil, M.Chem **Specialisms:** Mathematics

13th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the summer break. I am writing to you with an update for English and maths. As core subjects, I cannot emphasise enough the importance of continuing to study these over the break, especially with the disruption to learning which we have encountered over recent months due to the Coronavirus and subsequent school closure.

These subjects are essential to progression in later life, in order to further education and employment. As a school, we have plans in place to bridge the gaps, so no child is left behind. The first of these are outlined below and further information will follow.

If you have any technical issues please contact the school by email to shenley.enquiry@e-act.org.uk. Additionally, if access to IT is limited and paper copies are required please contact the school at the same email address by this Friday 17th July latest, so we can arrange this.

English

Summer learning has been set for all current year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students. These are on the virtual school site on Teams under year groups, plus year 10 will have theirs emailed to them as follows:

Year 7 - reading for meaning

Year 8 – reading for meaning

Year 9 – reading for meaning

Year 10 – An Inspector Calls

We also need to emphasise the importance of reading regularly for all years. This is difficult whilst libraries remain closed and we understand that purchasing books can prove costly, in a time of economic uncertainty for many families. As such, we would ask you to explore the following:

Kindle have a free app that is available on all phone stores and laptops, tablets and other devices. Please download this to your own device. You will need to set up an Amazon account to use this, which is again free. Within the kindle store there are over 50,000 free titles which are added to regularly, alongside paid for titles which start from 1p. You can either search for free books in the title bar or a subject, using the filter to start with lowest price first. Below we have a list of free titles as suggested reading. Please don't feel limited to these, although as parents, it is important that you check reading texts for age appropriateness if your child chooses something different.

Digital reading will be continued when we re-open in September due to Covid restrictions, so it will be of great benefit if your child gets used to using this platform now, alongside the obvious benefits of regular reading over the summer break.

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Title	Author
Body Swap:Catastrophe	Katrina Kahler
The Mystery of Smuggler's Cove	Paul Moxham
49 Excuses For Not Tidying Your Bedroom	James Warwood
Winter of The Crystal Dances	Angela Dasey
A French Girl in New York	Anna Adams
Medieval Madness	Paul Johnson Jovanovic
Gulliver's Travels	Jonathan Swift
The Railway Children	Edith Nesbitt
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain
David Copperfield	Charles Dickens
The Lost World	Arthur Conan Doyle

Donna Blythe

Head of Department – English

Hayley Tatlow

Curriculum Leader – KS3 English

Mathematics

Just as English provides the building blocks, rules and support that students need to communicate appropriately and effectively, maths uses its own language, made up of formulas, symbols and numbers to explore the rules we need to measure or identify essential problems like distance, speed, time, space, change, force and quantities.

Over the summer, it is important for your child to continue to work on their maths skills in order to make up for lost time during the pandemic and also to help them prepare for their return in September to full-time education.

Certain qualities that are nurtured by mathematics are power of reasoning, creativity, abstract or spatial thinking, critical thinking, problem-solving ability and even effective communication skills; therefore during the summer break, there will be 6 tasks (1 per week) assigned as preparation for the next academic year. The tasks will appear on Hegarty Maths (www.hegartymaths.com) with one task appearing each Monday for students to complete. As always, the videos will help students if they become stuck or find something difficult. All six tasks will remain visible until the 3rd September – so if for any reason a student misses one they will be able to go back and complete it before this date.

David Speake

Curriculum Leader of Mathematics