



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Newsletter

March 2021



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**Helping you
learn well at
home**



Rapid rollout for digital accessibility

Hundreds of laptops boost lockdown learning

As a school we are putting great effort into providing the best learning we can for students while they need to do so at home. What we have been able to provide has been rapidly changing through this term, as we have obtained hundreds of laptops to help students learn well at home.

In the past week we have begun to make a move towards more 'live' learning, though we recognise this is not always the most appropriate. In order to access a 'live' provision, a student needs exclusive use of a laptop, tablet, desktop PC, Chromebook or Mac (we refer to these types of devices as a 'good device'). At the beginning of January almost half of our students didn't have sole use of a 'good device'. Frequently, students are sharing a device between several family members and sometimes there is no good device at all in the household.

The second key point to understand is there is a mistaken belief that 'live' lessons are better. As Ofsted points out, it is not the mode of delivery that is important, rather it is the opportunity for independent practice and quality feedback that is important. We are proud of the curriculum that we are delivering through recorded lessons, and are constantly looking for ways of improving it.

In the past four weeks we have given out over 300 laptops to families, and a further 300 laptops have arrived in school and are starting to go out.

We are pleased to say that nearly all our Year 10 and Year 11 students have been offered a laptop if they don't have exclusive use of a good device. As this half term ended we are beginning to pilot the use of live elements as part of our provision at KS4. We will roll this out to KS3 if and when IT provision is good enough to do so.

Your online guide for Parents and Students

As we all get more used to learning at home, we understand that you are receiving a huge amount of rapidly changing information online, by text, email and post. Thank you for your outstanding response to these difficult circumstances.

To make things easier we have created two new sections on the website, one for parents and carers, and another for students. They will go live after the half term break.

www.theradclyffeschool.co.uk

Tutoring time helps students catch up and keep up

National Tutoring Programme

Students in Years 10 and 11 are seizing the opportunity to catch up on lost learning this term, as they take advantage of high-quality tutoring support.

The students are meeting one-to-one with their tutors online, joining hour-long lessons each Wednesday afternoon. The support is tailored for each student, answering the question 'What do you want to learn?'. At this stage the school is putting a focus on English and Maths, though this could widen to other subjects in future. The sessions will help to restore the learning that a student may have missed during isolation or when having to learn at home.

With funding support from the Government, The Radclyffe School has begun targeting the support at around one in ten students in Key Stage 4. Later in the year we're expecting to roll this out further to Years 7 to 9. The school has identified students to be involved according to the grades they are working at and the amount of teaching they have missed.



Assistant Headteacher Nicola Arnold explained, "We are pleased to be partnering with My Tutor, one of a team of approved organisations working with schools and young people across the country. All the tutors our students will work with are University graduates who gained an A or A* in the subject at A level."

To be part of the project the tutors have been through a rigorous process to get involved. An important skill will be to engage with students and ensure they make the most of the support on offer. The school will receive individual reports from the tutors on how well our students are attending and engaging.

Miss Arnold added, "We know that many students have faced difficulties learning at home, or have missed learning because of isolation or illness. The national tutoring programme is a wonderful opportunity to close gaps in a way that's accessible and convenient."

Mental health

Help and advice just a click away

The past year has been a time of unparalleled stress for everyone in our school community, students, families and staff. Across the school as it has been across wider society, our ability and willingness to look after one another has been a great help to many. However it isn't a surprise when we feel the pressure and need some extra support.

Here are some of the best sources of advice and support we have been able to find. They are easily accessible through our school website as a resource to help mental health and well-being. From mindfulness apps to helplines for local and national charities, you should never have to struggle along alone - help is just a click away.

Websites and helplines

[Healthy Young Minds](#) - this NHS run website includes this link for parents and carers to find out how they can help their child

[Kooth](#) - your online mental wellbeing community, offering free, safe and anonymous support

[NSPCC](#) and [Young Minds](#) - advice and support from this major national charity

[Anxiety UK](#) - whether you have anxiety, stress, anxiety-based depression or a phobia, this site can help you, with an expert team of medical advisors

Starving the Anxiety Gremlin - a workbook for teenagers, available via Amazon

[Childline](#) - you can speak to a Childline counsellor or get support from other young people

[42nd Street](#) - provides free online support to young people aged 13-25 around Greater Manchester

[The Mix](#) - aimed at KS4 students, talk to them via online community, social or via helpline or counselling service

[Minded](#) - safe and reliable advice about young people's mental health, created by experts and parents together

[Papyrus](#) - Young suicide prevention society

Helpful Apps

Take a look at these free apps

[Smiling Mind](#) - allows you to practice daily meditation and mindfulness exercises from any device

[Catch It](#) - a resource from the NHS that helps you learn how to manage anxiety and depression

[Mindful Gnats](#) - an app to teach young people simple mindfulness and relaxation skills

[Cove](#) - an app that allows you to create music to capture your mood and express how you feel

[Moodtracker.com](#) - a simple web app that lets you track and record important health measurements

[Moodgym](#) - an interactive self-help book which helps you to learn and practise skills to prevent and manage symptoms of depression and anxiety.

[Gamefully](#) - a framework that brings the psychological strengths and mindset of gameplay to real life

Discover great science from home at half-term

Manchester Science Festival

Manchester Science Festival returns from Friday 12th to Sunday 21 February 2021 with a programme of free online talks, exhibitions, debates and activities that explore our changing climate and ideas for a better world



Hear from scientists and experts at the forefront of the fight against climate change, ask your most pressing questions to those campaigning for a better world and discover practical ways you can make a difference.

You can explore the programme and book your free tickets on the [festival website here](#)

Lockdown toolkit for adults

Like to learn something new?

We have been asked to pass on to you a special offer from Hopwood Hall College. The college, with campuses in Middleton and Rochdale has put together the 'Ultimate Lockdown Toolkit' - a treat for grown-ups across Greater Manchester.

It's a set of brand new, free taster sessions to complete during lockdown and also beyond. You could benefit from these courses if you have been furloughed, if you're between jobs or if you're simply eager to enjoy a new experience.

The college's expert tutors have come together to design this offering, helping to provide life-long learning for the whole community.

You can access up to five courses, which will entertain, inspire and inform you over the next few months. It's your opportunity to spread your wings and make fantastic use of your spare time - all from the comfort of your own home!

Here are just some of the subjects you could choose:

- Preparing your car for its MOT
- Basic plastering
- The best ways to style hair
- Nutrition nuggets for lockdown wellbeing
- A guide to creating the ultimate fakeaway
- Baking artisan bread
- Introduction to setting up a dog walking business

You can find more information on all the courses, with start dates and how to register at this link:

[Hopwood Hall :: Free Ultimate Lockdown Toolkit](#)

We hope you enjoy whatever you sample!

News in brief

Look out for Radflicks. Each week while we are learning at home, a faculty makes a shortlist of suggested viewing around their subject. Find the list on the website and on social media.

RADFLICKS

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Year 11s have you ordered your Leavers' hoodie yet? Contact Mr Lunt to order yours. But don't leave it too late - deadline is February 19th.

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Look out for our half-term literacy activities to keep you active at home. We have set a 'Reading Challenge' - so well done to our winners William (Y9), Emily (Y8) and Raisa (Y9)



Learn what you can trust when you're online

Safer Internet Day

Each year in the UK, Safer Internet Day explores a new area or theme that is important to the young people we work with every day. While it wasn't possible to have any activities in school, when so many of us are accessing the internet at home, Safer Internet Day allows us to raise important messages about how we stay safe online.

Safer Internet Day 2021 was celebrated with the theme 'An internet we trust – exploring reliability in the online world'.

Whilst it celebrates the amazing range of information and opportunities online, and its potential to inform, connect and inspire us, the event looked at how young people can separate fact from fiction. The campaign focuses on how we can know what to trust online, supporting young people to question, challenge and change the online world.

It explores how influence, persuasion and manipulation can impact young people's decisions, opinions and what they share online. We want to give young people the skills to support one another, and the strategies to spot and speak out against harmful and misleading content online.

Safer Internet Day can inspire conversations about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. If you missed it, the resources are all still available - visit saferinternetday.org.uk.

To give you a taste here are some top tips for students and parents.

Our #SaferInternetDay Top Tips

Check with friends

If you are not sure about something you see online talk to your friends for a second opinion!



saferinternetday.org.uk #AnInternetWeTrust 

Our #SaferInternetDay Top Tips

Fact or fiction

Opinions you see online are just that, you don't have to follow them and your opinion is just as important



saferinternetday.org.uk #AnInternetWeTrust 

Our #SaferInternetDay Top Tips

Stay safe online

Check with an adult if you are ever unsure about what to share or who you are chatting to online



saferinternetday.org.uk #AnInternetWeTrust 

Our #SaferInternetDay Top Tips

Take positive action

By working together, we can make the internet a better, more respectful and more trustworthy place!



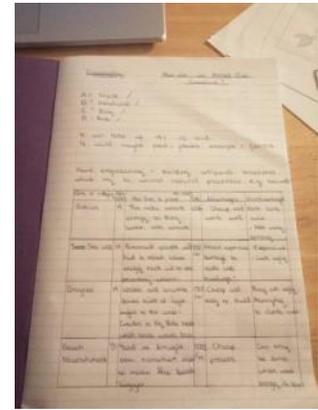
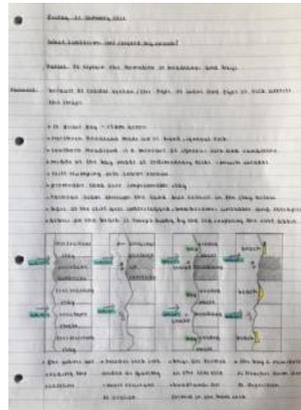
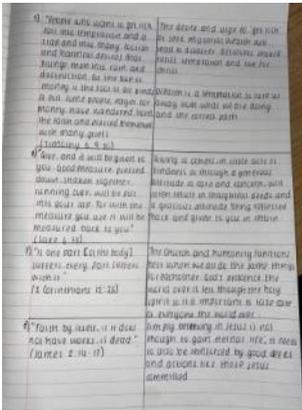
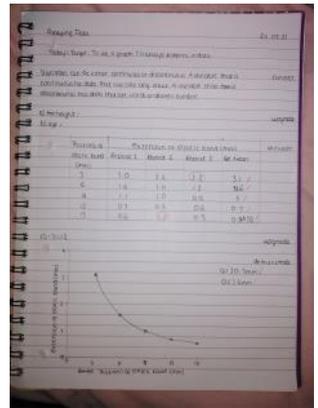
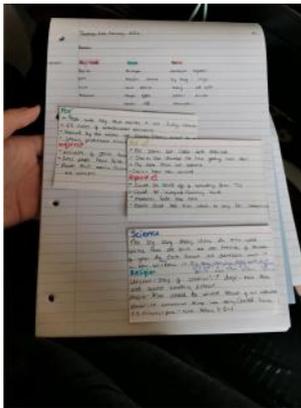
saferinternetday.org.uk #AnInternetWeTrust 

Proud of our students (and their families)

Celebration of great work at home

In such unusual circumstances, we have been so impressed with the standard of home learning that students have been sending in to their teachers, as images and electronic files. Congratulations to everyone for showing how determined and resilient you are.

During this latest lockdown we have taken to social media to celebrate students who have done particularly well. We know that for many families there are substantial barriers to overcome to ensure effective learning at home. On behalf of all the staff at school, well done and thank you for all the support you have given your children during this latest lockdown



If you are on social media, we would love to share more of school life. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Staff & students take up lockdown walking challenge

3 Peaks in 4 Weeks Challenge

The challenge was given, and so many of us have responded brilliantly. The '3 peaks in 4 weeks challenge' set students and staff a target to walk, or run, a distance of 22 miles. This is equivalent to a hike up the three tallest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales - Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon.

Despite the winter weather, as we entered the final week of the challenge our intrepid travellers have clocked up an impressive 6600 miles between them. Students were encouraged to take a picture of their step count and send it to their teacher.

Without doubt this total will have increased further - any walks done in the last week, as temperatures struggled to get above freezing was worthy of congratulations (and a hot drink when you get home!)

Not content with just the joys of exercise and enjoying the landscape around Oldham and beyond, SENCO Mrs Williams took her challenge to the next level, seeking donations in support of Dr Kershaw's hospice. So far this has raised more than £500.

If you would like to contribute, please visit Dr Kershaw's Hospice page on Facebook - in the left column scroll down to fundraisers and donate via 'Radders fundraiser'.

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3 PEAKS CHALLENGE WITH @PE_TRS

Mountain	Height (ft)	Trekking Distance (Miles)	Location
Snowdon	3560	7	Wales
Ben Nevis	4413	9	Scotland
Scafell Pike	3209	6	England

Challenge:
From 18/01/21 – 15/02/21
We want to see if you can climb the 3 peaks!
If you do make it, can you make it back? **All 22MILES**

How to enter:
Tweet a picture of your step count after each walk/run to @PE_TRS
Send a picture via email to your class teacher

GOOD LUCK!

Prizes for:

- First student to complete all 22miles
- Student who completes the most miles in a week

Ayeza's Oxford offer

Students aiming high for University entry

We are delighted to hear that former student Ayeza Akhtar, who is currently studying at Oldham Sixth Form College, has been offered a place at Pembroke College, Oxford to study Medicine.

Ayeza said, "I'm most looking forward to meeting like-minded people who are as passionate about Medicine as I am. At Oldham Sixth Form I have received fantastic support from the Oxbridge and Aspiring Medics' programmes, helping me with every step of my application."

Congratulations to Ayeza, and the best of success with your application in the unusual circumstances that students are coping with.

Every year it is hugely rewarding to staff at The Radclyffe School to hear of the continuing achievements of students we have known and seen develop up to their GCSE year. They then go on to pursue a wide variety of qualifications at colleges in Oldham and beyond, as well as finding other routes of study and training. We get to hear of their progress and achievements, and this can be a great motivator for current students.

We are looking forward to discovering the higher education destinations of all our past students, which we use to inform students of the options they have for future study, training and employment.



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