



Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 5th February 2021

“The Sun will shine on you again”

At times, listening to the news can be a rollercoaster. Some really hopeful and promising news followed by tragedy. At times, it can be hard to know how to feel and the wait for a return to a life we all once knew can seem distant. So, this week more than ever before, the words of Sir Captain Tom Moore have felt important to share.

‘The sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away.’

As a school community, this pandemic has really strengthened the bond between school and families. We are all experiencing this together and are looking forward to a time when life can continue without all of the current restrictions.

The Government have stated that schools will not be re-opening before the 8th March. As yet, we do not know when we will re-open and as soon as we do we will write to you all and keep you informed.

We have already started the work of ensuring that the Academy site is ready and that we have the measures in place to continue to keep our school community as safe as possible. We are starting that work now so that we can give you as much information about returning to school as soon as we know when that will be.

A quick reminder that the Academy breaks up for half term next Friday, 12th February.

Damian McBeath
Principal

**FOR ALL THOSE PEOPLE FINDING
IT DIFFICULT AT THE MOMENT,
THE SUN WILL SHINE ON YOU AGAIN
AND THE CLOUDS WILL GO AWAY.**

- Captain Tom Moore



Guest Speaker #3

It is an absolute delight to announce that double Olympian and double Commonwealth Champion Chris Cook will be joining all students from Year 3 to Year 7 on Tuesday 9th February from 1pm.

He has sent a special message to students on our Facebook and Twitter pages.



IGNITE day 2

On Wednesday, we held our 2nd IGNITE challenge day. Once again, we have had a lot of positive feedback from parents, pupils and students and lots of photographs.

Self Praise Jars



A Message from the Chaplain

My daughter had her Covid vaccination last week as she is clinically vulnerable and a frontline worker. She is one of many millions who have now received the vaccine. Did you know that the word vaccine comes from the Latin word *vaccinus* meaning derived from a cow.

In the eighteenth century, Edward Jenner noticed that women who worked in dairies and milked cows often contracted the disease of cowpox, but they didn't get the more serious smallpox disease. Jenner investigated how injecting somebody with a small dose of cowpox could prevent smallpox. We've come a long way in terms of treatments that help to prevent infection. These developments are down to the hard work and skills of scientists. We may not all be scientists but we all have gifts and talents that we could use to benefit others.

Dear God, we thank you for the gifts that you gave to important scientists who have worked hard to produce safe and effective modern vaccines. Please help us today to be more aware of the gifts and skills that we have. Help us to see opportunities today when we can use our gifts to bring hope and healing to others. Amen. Mr I Rich, Academy Chaplain (irich@thejohnwallisacademy.org)



Local update COVID-19

Ashford

200 cases per 100,000 people in the week 25th January – 31st January 2021.

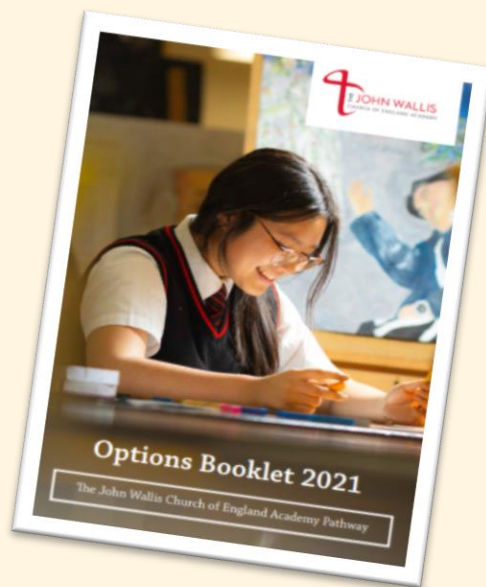
The average area in England had 239.

(source Department of Health and Social Care, via BBC.co.uk)

GCSE Options (Y8)

The GCSE Option Booklets are now ready for students in Year 8. They can be found on the school website at [KS4 Options Pathways](#).

The majority of students will choose between 'The John Wallis Academy Pathway' and the 'Extended Pathway'. I have shared further details regarding the options process in a letter to parents and carers of Year 8 students.



Keeping Connected



Please follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

We will continue to share important information and updates on our social media platforms.