

# Newsletter

Lent Term, Issue 4

January 29th 2021

#### Headteachers Message

We're feeling very positive about the way in which students are responding to remote learning. Attendance and participation are excellent, and although some things are proving more difficult to manage than normal, much of what we aim to achieve in education is continuing at full pace. We're responding to feedback on the format and delivery of lessons and I would like to encourage students to continue to let me and/ or my colleagues know if they have suggestions for how things can be made more effective.



One thing we're all really enjoying is the ever-exuberant Dave Hemsley's efforts to keep us active. I've been enjoying my (very brief) cycle commutes to school, though this will now have to become turbo-trainer sessions instead. Many students, parents and others have joined in with our ChallengeHound "CERN and back (twice!)" challenge - more details below.

write to you now as I self isolate at home following my wife receiving a positive test result in routine screening at Astrazeneca, where she works. She has no symptoms and I'm hopeful that we'll all remain well, but it's a sobering reminder that the virus is lurking quietly among us without always showing any indication of its presence. We have also had a confirmed case of COVID-19 on the school staff

(now fully recovered and back at work) and we're hearing many stories of friends and relatives being affected. It's a very worrying time for everyone, but it's good to see the <u>new infection rate and other indicators</u> starting to look a little more promising.

We're now in the midst of recruiting the next cohort of students for ULMaS, with interviews taking place in school in a very staggered and socially distanced way over the next few months. We're keen to ensure that every student in the Liverpool and broader region with an interest in our subjects knows about us and feels able to apply. Although we are using social media as effectively as we can, word of mouth is still the most effective form of marketing we have, so please do mention us to friends and colleagues who may have teenage children who would benefit from the education we offer.

Our students are constantly impressing us in many different ways - some small and some more obvious. If you follow our social media feeds you will already know about Thomas's success with Oxford University's Quantum Club, James's impressive European Astro Pi Challenge work, Nicholas's thoroughly exhausting commitment to keeping fit and active, and the excellent contribution that Caleb, Sophie, Hannah, Thomas and George made to our January Open Evening. What you won't know about are the many small kindnesses and achievements that we see every day from students: the intelligent questions they ask us, the commitment they show to their learning, the support they provide for each other. Although I know there are one or two students who are quite happy with the more solipsistic lifestyle they now find themselves in, for most teenagers living and learning in lockdown while isolated from friends is, clearly, not easy. I think I speak for us all as parents and teachers when I say how proud we are of how well they are facing up to the challenge. It is hard going and there are very few of us who have not struggled. I'm pleased that students and parents have been able to contact us to talk about things when they are not going well, and I would like to encourage everyone to continue to do that: we'll always do whatever we can to help.

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#### **Holiday Dates**

- Half Term Break February 15th -19th
- Easter Break March 29th April 9th
- May Day May 3rd
- Half Term Break May 31st June 4th

Damian Haigh

## Tablets and Laptops for Home Learning

We have recently ordered and received a set of Huawei tablets and styluses for long term lending to students. The ability to write directly into OneNote, Jamboard and similar is really helpful in enabling teachers to see what students are thinking and give useful feedback. We have a list of students who have requested tablet loans, and will be delivering them over the next week.

If any students would like to borrow a tablet or laptop and have not yet told us, please get in touch as soon as possible. There is no means-testing or other requirement for this assistance: it's open to all students.

#### Reminder of Online lessons

As you will probably know, we have changed our timetable and lesson format to fit with the needs of remote learning. More detail about this is published on our website here.

You can see Damian talk about how we deliver the online lessons on a recent weekly vlog:

https://youtu.be/RppA\_i\_ZkHg

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In addition to this, please do let us know if you are having trouble with home broadband and we'll try to find a way to assist. We're aware of one student who is struggling with this and we're hoping that we can find some way to help, although we don't yet have an easy solution and in some cases the best answer is for students to come into school and use our wifi - we have plenty of room for students to study and be socially distanced. Attending school is appropriate where it is the best way to support a student's well being or where their lack of Internet access means that they do not have full access to remote learning.

## To CERN and back again challenge (Twice!)

The aim was to get students out safely twice a day and walking. Anything else was a bonus.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for the challenge so far. We will easily complete the challenge at this rate as we have so many people involved and going beyond the mile a day, which is great. We have done so well that we have revised the target to be more ambitious. We now want to get to CERN and back twice (and we are a little behind target for this, so we have a challenge on our hands!).

I think the parents and staff are showing the students how to do it so far, what a great example they are!

So please keep up your efforts (or increase them slightly!). Encourage all our community to join on Challenge Hound and add their activities. All information on how to join was sent via email. If you want the information again please email

david.hemsley@liverpoolmathsschool.org

Can everyone share our school Just Giving page which is set up to receive donations for Young Minds. You can also link your own page to a team page, details of this were also on the email.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/university-of-liverpool-maths-school3

Team Challenge

Run, Walk, Hike, Ride, E-Bike Ride, Virtual
Ride, Virtual Run, Row, Kayak, Canoe, Swim,
Inline Skate, Skateboard, Wheelchair, or
Handcycle 4,108 Kilometers in 36 days

Team Progress

1,831.19
2,277
Kilometers Remaining

1,831.19
2,277
Kilometers Remaining

1,831.19
2,277
Kilometers Ahead of Pace

130.80
Kilometers Per Day

Ridenters Per

Our wellbeing suggestions for everyone

can be seen on our weekly vlog from the end of January, you can see it HERE

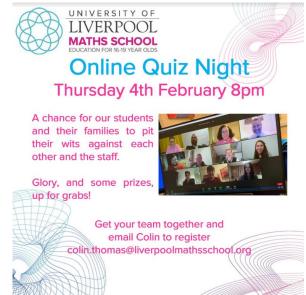
## Staying well

Form tutors will be speaking to students one to one this week and next to see how they are doing. We will then be in touch with parents to check how parents feel students are doing in lockdown. We regularly support students where we see a need, or if they ask. We want to ensure anyone who needs help with anything we spot and assist where we can.

## Family Quiz- Thursday 4th February - 8pm

As we can Only Connect online at the minute, many of us are reaching Tipping Point. So join us for our first Charity Quiz Night, an opportunity to Chase glory, Mastermind victory and be Universally Challenged (if these puns get any worse, my position as Quizmaster will no longer be Tenable and all my efforts will have been Pointless!)

Gather a team together, register by emailing colin.thomas@liverpoolmathsschool.org and join us at 8pm on Thursday 4th February via the zoom link which will be shared once everyone has registered. The quiz will last until 09:30pm, with rounds on general knowledge, films, music and of course, some STEM based rounds too (we are a Maths School after all). There will be some bonus rounds and prizes up for grabs (although unfortunately this year you'll have to provide your own refreshments!)



There is no entry fee, but we will share a link if you wish to donate to our ongoing charity fundraising. If you have any local charities which you would like us to raise awareness of during the quiz, please let us know.

# Lego Competition Winner



We recently had a fun competition with students to promote engagement in lectures and supervisions. The winners nominated by teachers were Maisie, Hannah, Lucy, Sophie, Caleb, Cameron, Dylan and Brad. The name drawn out of the hat to win the fantastic Lego Spaceship (suitable for Ages 5-10!) prize was Maisie - congratulations to her and well done to all our students who are doing their best to contribute to lessons in these difficult circumstances.

# Reading Books

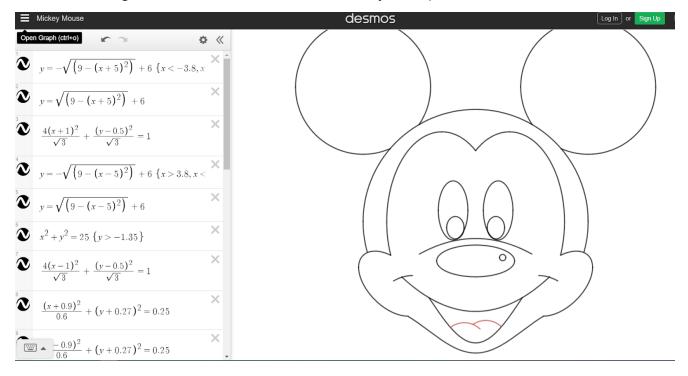
We're very keen to promote reading for pleasure with our students. In order to promote the idea of spending some quality time curled up with a real (paper) book we're planning to send students a book of their own to read over the next few weeks.

If a student loves the book and wants to keep it, that's great. If they don't want to keep it then they are encouraged to bring it back to school when possible and we'll put it in the library. Rather than send everyone the same book we're giving students some options and there's an opportunity for them to request suggest other books. The request form is here.

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#### **Competition Time**

Damian launched a Desmos art competition last week. You can use formulae to draw lines that make something artistic. Hannah in Year 12 is already an expert as shown below.



Damian's competition launch video: https://youtu.be/YnGkulZH0Ag

Damian's lesson on desmos delivered to his outreach KS4 class: https://youtu.be/qlXE-hJBTu4

Closing date- 21st February 2021

# Parent Survey

Students know that we are a little obsessive about asking for feedback as we develop our approaches in school. It's now time that we give parents and carers an opportunity to provide feedback. We have designed a brief online survey that is partly based on the standard Ofsted ParentView questionnaire (in order that we can compare the responses to those received by other schools), and partly designed to reflect the special purpose of our school. We very much hope that you can find 5 minutes to complete the form, which should work on smart phones as well as other computers: please complete the survey here <a href="https://forms.gle/4n6goUKWjARNxYyt9">https://forms.gle/4n6goUKWjARNxYyt9</a>

We'll be sending a separate reminder out by email as well. As the survey is anonymous we won't know who has responded and who has not, so please forgive us if you get a couple of reminder emails.

# **Student Survey**

Naturally, we want to know how students feel about the same questions so there's an equivalent survey that's just for students:  $\frac{\text{https://forms.gle/TAYExZb3wkUVKHat9}}{\text{https://forms.gle/TAYExZb3wkUVKHat9}}$ 



Sir Alastair Pilkington Building Back Bedford Street, Liverpool L69 7SH

Phone 0151 640 0397

Email reception@liverpoolmathsschool.org

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/LivMathsSchool

#### **Our Mission**

We exist to enable children with a strong interest and high potential in the mathematical sciences to achieve global impact through careers in the mathematical sciences. By preparing them thoroughly and comprehensively for STEM degrees and significant roles both within local communities and the global community of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, our students will be equipped to become tomorrow's industrial and academic researchers, innovators who will address the world's greatest challenges, teachers who will inspire the next generation, wealth creators, entrepreneurs and problem solvers.

#### Outreach

As well as teaching our students we also support students and schools in the Liverpool City Region. Our fundamental aim is to ensure that as many young people as possible throughout our area have access to high quality teaching and learning across our core subjects. To do so, we currently offer a wide variety of online courses aimed at Years 8 to 13. Our most popular courses are aimed at Year 10 and 11 where the focus is on developing the core skills needed to study maths, physics and computer science at a higher level. Alongside this, we also offer support to other sixth form students in preparing for university admission tests, and have just launched our first courses aimed at Years 7 to 9 to both develop fundamental algebra skills and introduce students to computer science. Details of all our courses can be accessed on the website <a href="here">here</a>.

If parents could pass on what we do to friends, and share our social media posts regarding outreach we can help support even more students.

#### Social Media

We have been posting a lot of information on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to help get the message out that we are here to help students across the region in our Outreach, and some of these may join us in September. Please do share and pass on information to those who may be interested so we can be sure to help as many students we can in the North West.

# UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL MATHS SCHOOL BUGATOR FOR FLAR OLDS David Hemsley Assistant Headteacher Wellbeing in lockdown 24th January 2021

liverpoolmathsschool.org

#### Youtube

We have been posting videos on our Youtube channel including Maths Challenges and weekly vlogs. The vlogs are so that you can get a feel for what we do here daily at the Maths School. Staff and students briefly share their thoughts on activities after a lesson or event. You can access all our youtube playlists on this link:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?