



InForm

NEWSLETTER

Headmaster's message to students



As in April, the intention of my half termly newsletter is to reflect with the student body on learning during lockdown. I have been so impressed by how extraordinarily well the vast majority of you have coped with the massive change to your educational experience over the past two months.

Earlier this week, I received a lovely email from a student in Year 11 showing off her culinary as well as the gardening skills she has developed during lockdown. I am sure all of you have discovered, if you hadn't known it already, that there is as much if not more to learn outside of any school gate than within. As I quoted from Thomas L. Friedman's [The World is Flat](#) in a series of assemblies earlier this academic year:

"To learn how to learn, you have to love learning – because so much learning is about being motivated to teach yourself."

As a generation you have done it with social media and on-line gaming – are Maths and English really so much harder? On Bank Holiday Friday, I had a conversation with my niece, Rachel, in Ireland. She's 18 years old and was due to sit her Higher Leaving Certificate – the Irish equivalent of A Levels – this summer. Irish students had been promised final exams at some point this summer by an over confident Government. It was on our Bank Holiday Friday that they finally had to publically announce that they couldn't fulfil their promise. And so after two months of dedicated examination revision and preparation, Rachel and her peers were told that examinations would be cancelled and schools would submit grades along similar lines to how they are being calculated in the UK.

Many of her initial fears and concerns echoed the feedback I received from many of our own Year 11 and 13 students when they first heard the announcement made in Britain in early April. It gave me the opportunity to share with her my own reflections and try and provide some reassurance based on thirty years as a teacher and close on twenty years analysing examination grades at GCSE and A Level as a Senior Leader and Headmaster.

Her worries were many but after a while we agreed that in essence they boiled down to one particular "mock" exam where she felt she hadn't done as well as she could, the competitive nature of the university where she wants to study and whether or not the teachers at her school knew how hard she'd been working during the protracted period of lock down.

First off, **your teachers know you far better than you think.** We know your habits, your behaviours and just how seriously you take our subject and your learning. And what's more, they completely correlate with the results you achieve, year on year. As I have explained to students in Years 11 and 13 there will not be a single grade that I sign off that is solely based on any individual student's "mock" grade.

A teacher's professional judgement is always based on one overriding consideration about any given student – how reliable they are. Are you punctual, do you complete your work on time, do you give it your best shot, do you persevere when the work gets hard, are you proactive when it comes to improving your work? And these judgements are made "over time". One great piece of work doesn't prove anything just as one "failure" is never a condemnation.

Second, **your teachers are always on your side and will give you the benefit of the doubt.** Far from marking students down or seeking to penalise students, teachers are always looking to raise students' attainment not lower it. Teachers believe in every student's potential. It is your behaviours and habits that dictate whether or not your potential is fulfilled. There will always be special consideration for those with health, disability or Special Educational Needs to ensure that the school is as fair as it can possibly be to every individual student.

Third, **genuine ambition is a lot rarer than you think.** This is due to the fact that it is always allied to a strong work ethic which, for many, many people, is just "too much effort". Rachel was daunted by the fact that when she had attended her university's Open Day there were so many applicants and of course in her head she ranked herself far below these other people, who she had never met and never even spoken to. As I mentioned to her, it's one thing to turn up to a university Open Day and quite another to work hard with the sincere ambition to win your place there. Never be afraid of competition - for the genuinely ambitious always remember, the field is less wide than you think. Everything is possible and if you really want something (just as if you really want to learn something) you CAN do it. It's just down to you to supply the work ethic and not your teachers, parents or carers.

And last, **trust yourself and the efforts you make.** You will get what you deserve. These are unprecedented times and the future is extremely hard to predict. But whether you're awaiting final examination results or school calculated grades, if you can sincerely look in the mirror and tell yourself you have given it your best shot that should be good enough for each and every one of you. Your best is all any parent, carer and teacher can ever ask of you. And actually that goes for your true friends as well.

In conclusion, I want to remind each and every Parmiterian that the foundation of your success during your time at the school (and certainly in any final examination year) is always founded on those behaviours and habits you establish at the very start of Year 7 (and which many of you developed during your time in Primary school). Success does not come out of the blue and is never a fluke. Luck has nothing to do with it and neither does hope. We all want success and life on our terms but are we prepared to put in the shift?

Trust yourself – you're more special than you know.

Mr Jones

From the Headmaster

Staffing

Most of you will now be aware that Mr Field, Head of Design & Technology, is leaving us at half term. We are very sorry not to have been able to give him the send off that his 21 years of dedication to Parmiter's deserves but we wish him all the very best as he moves on. Teachers within the D&T department will take over the setting of work for Mr Fields' classes.

We have two members of staff who are beginning maternity leave; Ms French (Computer Science) and Mrs Clark (Geography). Congratulations to Ms French and welcome to her new daughter who was born earlier this week! Ms French's Computer Science classes will be managed by Mr Baker and Mr Allen and Dr Butler will take over setting work for her Business classes.

We also welcome Mrs Everitt who joins us as Acting Head of Geography while Mrs Clark is on maternity leave. Mrs Everitt and Mrs Nixon will be managing Mrs Clark's classes for this period.

VE Day Commemoration week

I was amazed at the fantastic response to our VE Day activities, we have thoroughly enjoyed looking through the submissions. As usual, our students have shown incredible imagination in their work; you will see great examples of this further on, particularly in the imaginative way some of the famous images of the time have been recreated. We are working to post lots more examples on the website as soon as possible.

And finally

I was delighted to receive so many submissions from students to my short story challenge entitled "Parmiter's 2121." The quality has been so high and I include, on the following page, the story written by Emilija Randall in Year 10 and a member of Mayhew House as an example of the creative writing talent at our school. Mrs Pottle and I will be looking to compile a selection of the very best stories to be available for you all to enjoy at the end of term.

IET Virtual Faraday Challenge

The Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) have opened up their Virtual Faraday Challenge for aspiring engineers. It has been a pleasure to see our students participate in this extra-curricular opportunity despite the closure of school. The challenge requires students to design a product for Airbus that can deliver aid supplies to people who have experienced a natural disaster. The challenge requires creativity, problem solving and clear communication. A huge well done to those who have entered so far, your work was fantastic; George Beasley, Adit Paniker, Neha Raj, Sara Kulkarni and Anya Kanani.

There is a rolling entry so if you are in Yrs 7-10 and want to get involved here is the link <https://education.theiet.org/faraday-challenge-days/virtual-faraday-challenge/>.

Parents' Association

Despite these difficult and challenging times, the Parents' Association is continuing to work on your behalf to plan for the future and the hope that a normality will return at some time. Not wanting to be held back, we had our first virtual Zoom meeting in early May with excellent attendance and lots of enthusiastic discussion and creative ideas.

Unfortunately, this term we have had to cancel several fund raising activities and popular events including the Quiz Night, 2nd hand uniform and book sales, Celebrating Creativity Exhibition and also the postponement of the awesome Three Peaks Challenge until next year. Please accept our apologies for this, but we know you will agree that it was outside of our control. As well as being fun activities that bring our Parent and Carer community together, these events also raise much needed funds for the school.

During the last autumn term the PA committee discussed with school where our main attention should focus longer term and we agreed to support the idea of funding something exceptional and innovative for the new Science block. We aim to confirm what this will be after the summer holidays. However, with the impact of COVID-19 we now have a significant shortfall in the money we had planned to raise. For reference, the events we have cancelled and postponed, have in previous years, raised in excess of £15,000.

You will shortly be receiving a letter from the Parents' Association with some suggestions we would like you to consider to help bridge this gap. We do appreciate that everyone's personal circumstances are different but we also know that the support and generosity of our Parmiter's community has always demonstrated a strong commitment to the school and responded to help when asked and we believe this will again be the case during these unprecedented times.

Our message to all parents, students and school staff is stay well, look out for each other in these exceptional times and keep smiling.

Parmiter's Parents' Association

Stay connected with the PA social app:

parent.classlist.com



Parmiters School Parents Association



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The dilapidated buildings that stand before you are like nothing you had seen before. Each skeletal block is a silent witness to a past that no human could possibly remember; their timeless, withering forms pleading to be heard. Left disregarded and forgotten, the structure's once proud appearance now looks fragile with age. One would have thought that the entire site would collapse with the next gust of wind. Tracing your hands against the stone, you hold your breath as you feel the building tremble beneath your fingertips. Crumbling brick and mortar fall to the ground, and you take an uneasy step backwards. A small vibration suddenly sounds at your wrist. Glancing down at your Life Pod, you frown at the sinking orange bar. The small digital print underneath reads 'Happiness Level: 4'. Something about the old abandoned school, clearly unsettles you.

"Best not to take too long then..."

The howling wind is your only response. You make your way across the spacious grounds, feeling the heavy weight of prying eyes and whispers made by a non-existent creature; a wavering presence only visible in the corner of your eye. The gaping window frames are like hollow sockets that bore into your soul - watching you wherever you go. Shattered shards of glass scatter the floor like shimmering ash, glinting in the morning sunlight. Just as you turn towards the sanctuary of the indoors, a flash of colour catches your line of sight. Four tables stand in an orderly vertical line, each one wearing the same uniformed blue, tinted with stripes of white. Well, to be perfectly honest, the colours seemed faded and layered with years of grime, but they could still be seen; breaking through the barriers of dirt anywhere possible, fighting to not be kept hidden. Taking one last look across the field of battered benches, herded in a cluster under a towering metal roof swaying precariously on four beams, you make your way up the concrete steps and into the main sector.

As you push against the double doors, a putrid smell sweeps across your entire body, forcing its way into your nose. You gag, hurriedly pulling a piece of fabric over the lower half of your face, and yet the choking smell of pestilence clings to you in all directions. It's sweet, in a way that is violently sickening, and causes you to cling the nearest piece of furniture, in an attempt to stop the bile that rises up your throat. Concentrating on your primary task, you walk purposefully through the acrid-smelling room until you finally find what you were looking for. Breath catching at the sight before you, you slowly shuffle across the main hall. The echoing sound of your footsteps is the only greeting you receive as you spin around the huge room in a daze. A single stage is placed at the front of the room, with the rest of the hall waiting patiently to be filled with an audience. A few chairs lay strewn along the left side, haphazardly placed in a makeshift pile. But the chaos of the room's last memory still lingers in the air. *What happened here?* The thought forms effortlessly in your mind, but the words due in your mouth as your searching gaze lands on a single book rested on a podium at the centre of the stage. A single strand of curiosity unfurls itself and coils around your heart, tugging you closer and closer to the stage. Upon reaching the podium, a shiver makes its way down your spine as a deafening silence fills the room. Crimson curtains sway in the sudden breeze that chills you to the core. Steadying your trembling breath and hand, you turn the first page of the book. The paper is torn and covered in ink stains, but the few words you manage to uncover grab your interest immediately.

'It has been a privilege...such a shame to end this way...can only hope...better future...this is goodbye...your headmaster.'

Confused and excited at the prospect of a new investigation, you grab the book and turn to leave the hall. But as you take the first few steps, lights flood the room, and you are deafened by the sudden uproar of sound. Gazing out ahead of you, you are met with a thousand pairs of eyes. Staggering back, you blink rapidly at the audience that has appeared before you. Looking to either side, you search desperately for an escape route to appear, but no such luck. In your hand is still the tattered book, only it is no longer ripped and marked; it is brand new, with its leather-bound cover shining against the light. Hastily opening the book, you scan down the page, but the previous speech seems to have disappeared. In its place is a small paragraph, and as you read what's written your mind is filled with dread.

Dear Friend,

The place you stand in is Parmiter's School, and the year is 2121. You are to command as headmaster of this school, until the school year has been completed. You will receive no training to do so, however, please be informed that resistance to comply will be treated with the upmost severity. If you succeed, a deposit of £1,000,000 will be added to your bank account. If you do not succeed, the letter previously held in this book is an insight to the consequences you will face.

Good luck.

Recreating famous photos



Ben Mcgaughey
9MKO



Asu Cetin
VIALC



Emilia Brooks
VIALC



Alby Gill
7LCA



Sports Round Up

Whilst working from home, the students have been set some challenges by the PE Department to test a number of different skills and fitness components. The challenges range from 'How far can you run in 30 minutes?' to 'How many basketball/netball shots you can score in 5 minutes'.

Students have been submitting their results through Google with the leaderboard (below) updated at the end of each week.

It is really great to see the students taking on these personal challenges. Why not get involved and see if you can get on the leaderboard?

PE Department - Stay at Home Challenges - Leaderboard

Challenge	1st	2nd	3rd
Alternate Hand Wall Throws in a minute?	Harry Dalton (64)	James Beasley (63)	Anay Maheshwari (62)
How fast can you run 1km?	James Beasley (3m16)	Joe Fagan (3m25)	Romeo Rojas (4m13)
How far can you run 3km?	James Beasley (11m49)	Joe Fagan (13m00)	Anay Maheshwari (14m38)
How fast can you cycle 5km?	Alex Wood (8m24)	James Beasley (12m13)	Romeo Rojas (14m13)
How many keepy ups with a football can you do?	James Beasley (1650)	Henry Ball (459)	Josh Mercer (180)
How far can you cycle in 30 minutes?	James Beasley (11.72km)	Thomas Aston (8.66km)	Camille Vannier (7.21km)
How far can you run in 30 minutes?	James Beasley (7.02km)	Henry Ball (5.7km)	Amaia Dacres (5.2km)
How long can you hold a plank for?	James Beasley (6m21)	Anna - Year 7 (5m01)	Thomas Aston (4m11)
How many netball/basketball shots can you score in 5 minutes?	Harry Dalton (118)	James Beasley (101)	Grace Eames-Illingworth (96)
How many tennis ball keepy ups can you make?	Diana Nastase (276)	Adit Panicker (202)	Aaron Peng (186)

PARMITER'S SCHOOL



PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

SPORTS AWARDS MONDAY 6TH JULY 2020



This summer, we will not be able to host our annual Sports Awards evening as usual.

However, in order to celebrate the achievements of you all, we will be 'hosting' it virtually.

The nominees will be contacted in the coming weeks before the yearly reports are published and names of the winners are announced on Monday 6th July.

Look out for more information on this shortly!
Mr Clark

House News



We are delighted to announce the winners of the Commemorative Coin Design Competition as detailed in the table below. The Headmaster selected the six winners from around 100 entries and chose Dillon Carter's design as the overall winner. (pictured right)

Congratulations Dillon!

(All the winning designs can be seen on page 4)

Place	Name	Form	House	Points
1	Dillon Carter	7MWO	Renvoize	100
2	Sohie Durham	10JMA	Woolley	70
3	Hariet Kilpatrick	10EJA	Beven	60
4	Asfiya Mehreen	8GMO	Lee	50
5	Avi Darbari	7LLA	Carter	40
6	Lauren Bennett	V1MST	Mayhew	30

