



# VIEW FROM THE CHALK FACE

## TRINITY 2020

WEEK 6 (W/C 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE)

Welcome to this new fortnightly update. This is an informal look across the whole Langley community and beyond; stories and thoughts to share.

It has been a busy week with pupils and staff returning to the two sites. We had approximately 83 (Early Years, Reception, Year 1 and 6) children return to the Pre-Prep and Prep site, and nine Year 6 at the Senior School. We have continued supporting vulnerable and key worker children too, with a total of 29 coming in across both sites this week.

The children have adapted fantastically well to the new set up, thrilled to see each other and their teachers again. My thanks to you for your patience and cooperation in the morning and at pick up as there are new structures for us all to get used to.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Taverham on Wednesday afternoon; a lot of smiling faces and teachers delighted to be back. It was lovely to speak to the Year 6 at the Senior School on Thursday morning as well. This week has also seen the expansion of the remote provision across all year groups and I hope that this change has been a positive one.

I am delighted that, despite the crisis, the roof and classroom work at the Prep is 'on track' and it is great to see the areas of roof being completed and exposed again after months of scaffolding. The children in Year 8 have produced some truly wonderful project work for their PSPQ element of the Prep School Baccalaureate and I know that Mr Crossley has handed out well over 25 Headmaster's Commendations each week in his assemblies.

Through all of this difficult time, it is the mental health of our children, and ourselves, that has been put under the greatest strain. Anything we can do to strengthen and support each other will be of benefit, and with the loosening of the lockdown restrictions, there are more opportunities for us to see different people and go to other places. Such changes of location and rhythm are extremely positive and I am sure you are embracing them.

The return to schooling in the UK has stirred up mixed feelings and messages across the media. Parents and staff are, quite rightly, wary of such a significant change to the lockdown rules. We want the children back in school and we want them to be safe. Never the twain shall meet? The easing of any of the restrictions inevitably leads to an increase of risk – we can never eradicate risk from our lives, but we can minimise it. We have to take that first tentative step at some point, in whatever forum you can think of, and we may never know the impact of it, but we know it has to happen. The government is evolving its strategy almost daily and thus making it difficult for many of us to plan and prepare, for both our families and our working lives. The impact of national decisions will not be truly felt for years to come; what might be seen



as right or wrong now, will be viewed through the 20/20 lens of hindsight in the future. However, necessity is the mother of invention, and all of us have had to adapt and modify; your support and collaboration is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Speculation about the future of office work, town centres and the rhythms of our lives abounds and I am sure that the reality will lie somewhere in the middle ground. Talk of Brexit, all consuming for so long, has rightly been temporarily silenced as we have graphically seen how entwined in the global community we are through this pandemic. However, businesses will be keeping a close eye on the negotiations as they will be important for us all going forward.

In recent days, our eyes have also been drawn to the civil rights issues erupting in the USA. Those issues are deeply ingrained in the American psyche: the nineteenth century civil war, Rosa Parks, the Martin Luther King era, through to today. Barack Obama, in typical erudite fashion, has penned a fantastic article about the right response to such issues; I encourage you to read it. <https://medium.com/@BarackObama/how-to-make-this-moment-the-turning-point-for-real-change-9fa209806067>

Next week sees the start of our Virtual Open Week. Please do share these links in your networks and communities so the event is as successful as possible. My thanks to the team who have worked incredibly hard to put this together.

<https://www.langleyschool.co.uk/senior/admissions/open-days/>

<https://www.langleyschool.co.uk/prep/open-days/>

Also, please follow us on social media, if you are not already, to get up to date stories and pictures:

Instagram: @langleyschool1960 and @langleyprepschool

Facebook: @LangleySchool and @LangleyPrepTH

Twitter: @Langley\_School and @Taverhamhall

Thank you for your continued support of the school. I will be hosting Q&A sessions next Friday (12th), so please look out for those details and do come along.

My best wishes to you and your family,

Jon Perriss  
Headmaster