



The Astley Cooper Newsletter

March 2021

It is now two years since we had a Spring Newsletter as exactly a year ago we went into the first national lockdown. As it says in Hertfordshire's annual services guide, which you may have already received at home, '*We continue to live through uncertain times [but] as we look ahead, we do so with a sense of hope for a return to normality.*' That normality may still seem some way off but the return to school on 8 March began the process of a society slowly returning to normal.

After two months of online learning, our students returned in good spirits, pleased to see their friends and teachers again and to get back to the rhythms and routines of daily school life. Congratulations to all those students who worked conscientiously online throughout the lockdown.

In the first week back, as the students came in a year group at a time, we completed 610 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. Our Drama studio became a makeshift testing centre. The excellent team administering the tests praised the students for their politeness and good humour. It is to our students' great credit that they responded to these unusual circumstances in a mature and positive way and made such a good impression on people they had never met.

Our Business and Personnel Manager, Mrs Catterall - who organised the LFD tests - writes elsewhere in the *Newsletter* about the next stage in this process.

Staff update

I am pleased to introduce a number of recently appointed colleagues who have joined us over the last couple of months: Learning Support Assistants Mrs Binfield and Miss Lawton; Cover Supervisors Mr Sharman and Mr Rourke; and Performing Arts Technician Miss Collier.



Miss Collier



Mr Sharman



Miss Lawton



Mr Rourke



Miss Binfield

I am also pleased to say that Miss White takes over as Subject Leader in Science from the beginning of the summer term. Associate Assistant Headteacher and former Subject Leader Mr Baker, who continues to take a key role in the Science department, will now focus on different aspects of whole school Teaching and Learning.

Our Pre-Apprenticeship Programme Co-ordinator Mr O'Brien is taking early retirement and leaves Astley Cooper on 29 April. After a rich and varied career in the trade union movement and in private business, Mr O'Brien joined us as a Teaching Assistant in April 2018. He subsequently took on the role of the Pre-Apprenticeship Programme Co-ordinator with great success and the programme won the prestigious Education in Employment award in the *Inspiring Hertfordshire Awards in 2019*.

Mr O'Brien has been a great support to the Post 16 students with whom he has worked closely and has been a valued colleague in the Sixth Form team. We thank him for his support of so many students over the last three years.

New Building Plans

We are very pleased that, under the Government's Priority School Building Programme, the contractor Bowmer & Kirkland has been selected by the Department for Education to redevelop our school, starting in the autumn term this year.

They will create two state of the art school buildings, including a leisure centre with a new swimming pool. Thank you to everyone who attended the public webinar on 2 March in which Bowmer & Kirkland presented their plans.

You can see a fly-through of the new building on the following link:

[Fly Through of ACS new build](#)

More information on this exciting project will follow in the summer *Newsletter*.

Thank you for your continued support during this extremely challenging time. I wish you and your families a happy and safe Easter. I hope that we can all look forward to a summer term in which our school and our communities can begin to enjoy a fuller life again.

Mr Gaynor
Headteacher

FEBRUARY 2021

ISSUE NO.1

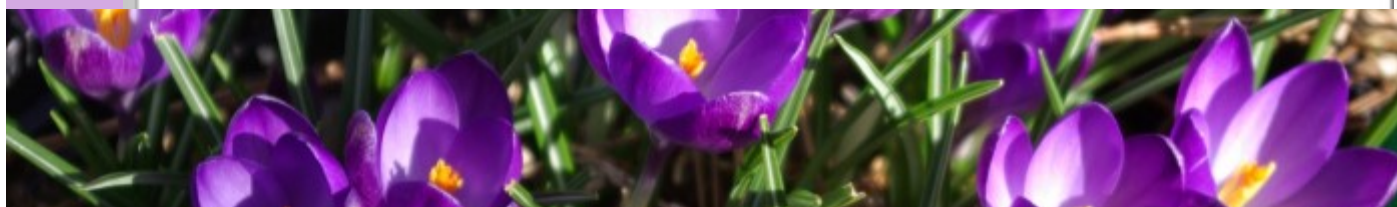
THE ASTLEY COOPER SCHOOL

New Building Plans



Bowmer + Kirkland has been selected by the Department for Education (DfE) as the main contractor on plans to redevelop The Astley Cooper School.

As part of the Government's Priority School Building Programme the plans will see the creation of two new buildings and improvements to the school layout.



Lateral Flow Tests

Lateral Flow Tests for Students

The student Lateral Flow Testing in school is now completed. We have sent home two self testing kits with every student - each kit has your child's name on it. The government recommendation is that they test themselves twice a week. One of these should be on a Sunday.

Students should continue to test themselves throughout the Easter holiday. Please ensure that one test is taken on Sunday 11 April before they return to school after the Easter holiday.

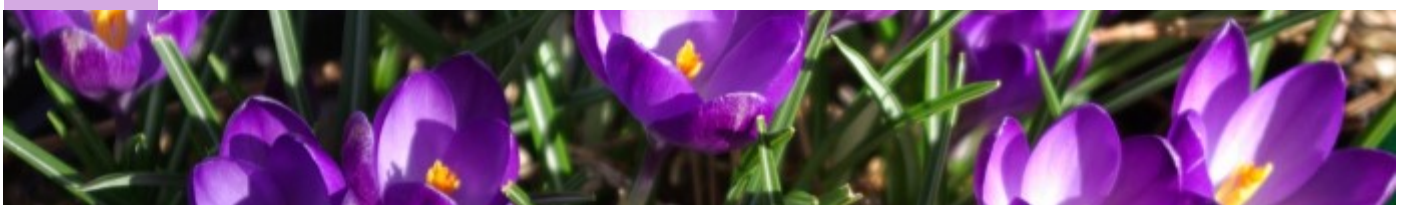
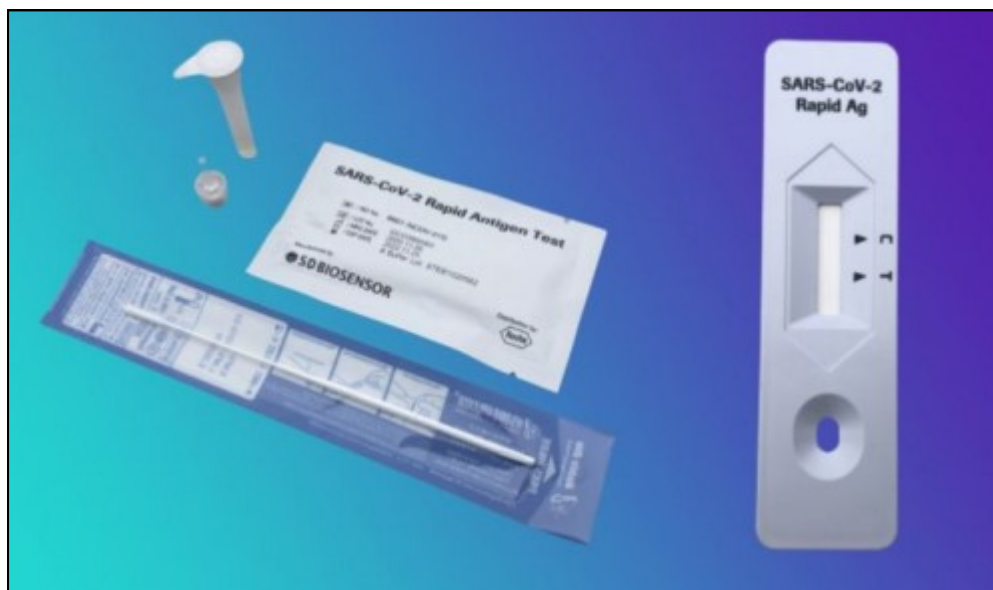
Each kit contains enough equipment for three tests. Therefore, the two kits will last three weeks. When the students return to school they will receive their next kit.

Please follow the instructions in the pack and report the result as per the instructions. If your child tests positive, you will need to take them for a PCR test to confirm the result. They must then self-isolate with the rest of the family for 10 days if they are confirmed positive.

Any positive test results should be reported to the school on :
admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk

Thank you for your continuing help with this important programme.

Mrs Catterall
Personnel & Business Manager



Hertfordshire County Council



Thank you very much to our team of volunteers who administered LFD tests - they were very impressed with our students.

Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to share this important update with you ahead of the Easter holidays:

As we go into the Easter holidays, and some Government guidance changes around socialising outside and outdoor sport, it's so important that we don't let our guard down and increase the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks when schools return.

From Monday 29 March, you can;

- Meet up outside (including in private gardens) with six other people, or as two households
- Take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen)
- Childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children

You and your family can continue to keep yourselves and others safe by:

- Washing your hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water or using an antibacterial hand sanitiser if soap and water isn't available
- Keeping socially distanced, staying at least 2 metres away from those not in your immediate household
- Wearing a face-covering where required and when it is difficult to socially distance
- Self-isolating and getting tested if you develop symptoms or receive a positive lateral flow test (LFT) result
- Not socialising indoors with anyone who isn't in your immediate household. You're not allowed to have sleepovers or playdates, even if your child is in a school bubble
- Not sending children back to school ill or with symptoms of Covid-19 after the Easter break – if your child is sick, please keep them at home

If your child is in year 7 or above and taking regular LFT, you should encourage them to continue to take these and report results as normal during the Easter holidays. If they receive a positive test at home, everyone in your household must begin self-isolating immediately and you need to book a PCR test to confirm the positive result. Any positive tests received up until 1 April, should be reported to your school so that they can complete the track and trace process with the Public Health team.

Babies and children in early years settings, nurseries, infant and primary schools should not be taking LFT, please don't do home tests on younger children. If you are worried about small children or they develop symptoms, please seek advice from your GP or call 111.

Thank you again for playing your part and helping to keep our schools safe and open for face to face learning.

We wish you all a safe and happy Easter.

Year 11 Sixth Form Discovery Day

On Thursday 17 December our Year 11 students came to school to experience life as a Sixth Form student. Students were asked to choose five subjects that they would like to find more information about to potentially study Post 16. On the day, students came into school wearing our Sixth Form dress code and engaged in five taster subject sessions delivered by our teachers. There was a real buzz and excitement in the air and it was wonderful to see the students dressed smartly, the taster sessions in full swing, and hearing students' positive feedback. Since then we have had a record number of Sixth Form applications for next year. Our most popular subjects being Business, Geography, Finance and Psychology. We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 11 students back as Sixth Form students in September.

Interviews will take place after Easter and an induction process will be held during the summer term - more information about this in due course.



Contd

contd



Year 13 - UCAS

Congratulations to those students in Year 13 who have applied for University. The UCAS deadline was in January and all the students that applied have heard from the majority of their choices.

Students need to reply to their offers by the following deadlines:

1. If you receive your last decision on or before 20 May 2021, your reply date is 10 June 2021
2. If you receive your last decision on or before 13 July 2021, your reply date is 14 July 2021

Can we also remind Year 13 students that they should be applying for Student Finance.

UCAS

student finance
england

Year 12

In the summer term, Year 12 will be starting to look at their next steps after Sixth Form during their PSHE lessons. We would encourage students to start thinking about this process during the Easter holidays to prepare themselves for these lessons.

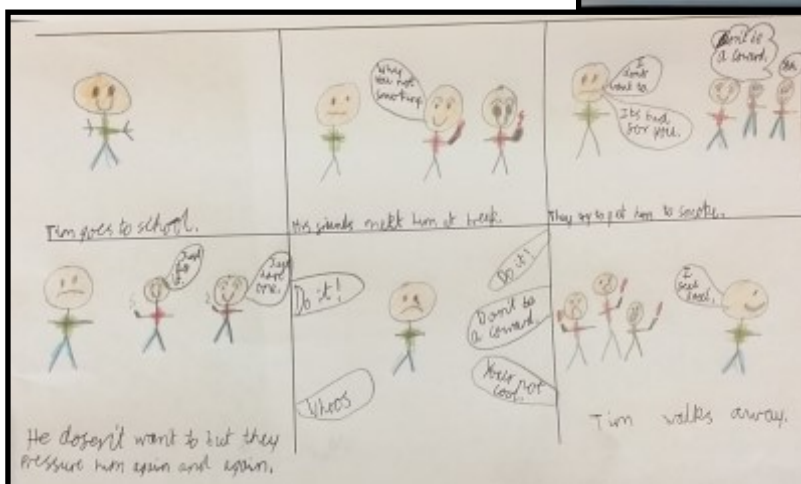
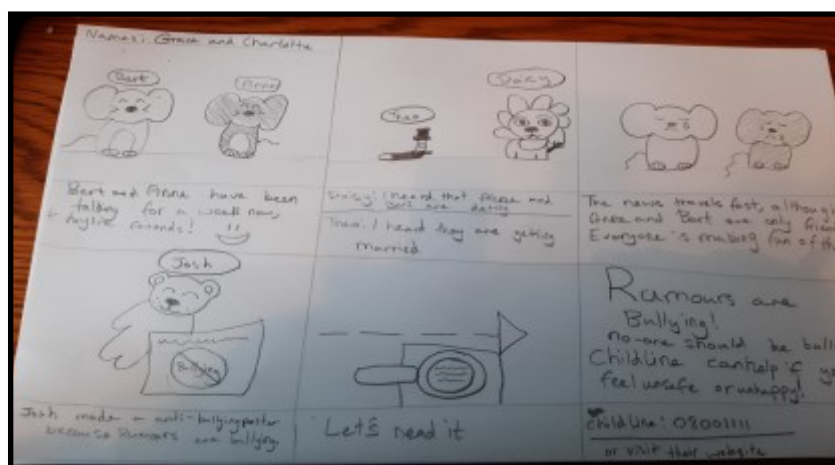
We would like to congratulate all of our students for their hard work during the lockdown. It was pleasing to see so many students attending and engaging in online lessons as well as completing work to the highest standard.

Miss East
Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Houchin
Post 16 Pastoral Support Administrator

Year 7 have been making comic strips to revise what they have been learning about this year.

Grace Mazillius and Charlotte Wait made a fantastic comic strip about Rumours and Bullying.



Samuel Norton made a brilliant comic strip about resisting peer pressure.

We were fortunate enough to have two virtual assemblies with guest speakers this half-term. In January, the GamCare delivered sessions on awareness around the dangers of gambling.

In March, UK Parliament Outreach delivered sessions explaining the role of Parliament and how young people can bring about positive changes in society.

Mr Moscovici
Spanish Teacher & PSHE Co-ordinator



Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education

Relationship and Sex Education

Citizenship

Y9 Virtual Assembly:

UK Parliament Outreach

Nikki Luke
(she / her / hers)

Rachael Dodgson
(she / her / hers)

The assembly will begin at **1:45pm.**

While we're waiting, what do you already know about the UK Parliament?

Ethics Contemplation and Reflection

In Year 10 Ethics, before school reopened, our students went above and beyond for the task of reflection in the introduction to our new topic of Buddhism, and produced some beautifully written prose. I nearly cried while reading the responses.

In a silent debate, the students edited the same document during an online lesson, without supervision, giving opinions and then commenting on each others work, using the debate stimulus of:

“People try to hide from unpleasant truths like death, sickness and pain by not thinking about them, rather than trying to understand or deal with them.”

An anonymous student wrote the following:

‘I agree with this statement as people are afraid of such topics such as death, why it occurs and where we go. As humans we try to avoid as much pain as people as we know what it can do to one. But what is more scary than fear itself?

We fear death and pain, but we haven’t actually experienced death. It could be quite peaceful for one as their soul is resting. Sure, we could protect ourselves and tell ourselves the world it is full of rainbows and blue skies, but it isn’t. As humans we are very intriguing creatures and always wanting to know reasons for rainbows and blue skies. We need to face real truths to understand the brutality of real life and understand even though pain really hurts it doesn’t have to be the end of things since we are all individually strong.

We have to feel the feelings otherwise we become robots and might even push people away who actually care for us. We were not put on this earth for an easy ride otherwise awful feelings wouldn’t occur. It is also how you perceive it, you can let pain change you and make you enclosed and shut out from the world or you can look at it as a factor for your own growth. Pain and feelings just means we are alive.’

Thank you, and well done to all of my students who gave such beautiful, heartfelt responses.

I wish I was able to include them all.

Mr Burnaby
PRE Teacher



Year 9

Since January, Year 9 have been learning about the history of the Second World War. All of the students were very enthusiastic, and even though most lessons were taught online, they constantly displayed passion for the subject. Many students, including Ryan Godfrey, Evan Buckingham-Smith,

Sonny Turner, Farron Smith, James Mazilius, Berti Recica, and Marc Nyberg showed great prior knowledge and we were able to have brilliant and mature debates over various aspects of the war. Many students worked incredibly hard, including Lauren Wishart, Nicoleta Remetan, Katie Brown, Emmanuel Abaha, Maria Makaza, Phoebe Kosmalski, Rosa-Mai Winch and Abigail Monk, and I look forward to helping some of these students look into their family histories, too.



Throughout the unit we tried to examine how the war was won by the Allies - Britain, USA, Soviet Union and other countries - by thinking critically about key events. We argued about whether appeasing Hitler was a good idea in the 1930s, the significance of technology in winning the Battle of the Atlantic, and the Strategic Bombing campaign, as well as why certain battles were won or lost, such as the Battle of Britain. A real treat came when the Second World War History Podcast 'We Have Ways of Making you Talk', with historian James Holland and comedian Al Murray, recorded a special video episode discussing why D-Day was important. The students did a wonderful job examining their arguments and explored the key features of the D-Day invasion.

The students are now moving on to the Holocaust, a topic which is inextricably linked to the Second World War. This is a challenging and sensitive topic, but quite possibly the most important one we will ever teach in history.

Mr Bowsher
History Teacher



Language Facts

- Half of the world's population speaks only 23 of the world's languages
- Knowledge of a foreign language increases your lifetime earnings by 10-15% on average
- Half of the world's population is bilingual
- Over 60% of UK companies who want to do business abroad do not do so because they do not have multilingual employees. Being able to speak a foreign language makes you a more attractive candidate in any career
- Papua New Guinea has 841 languages
- Nigeria has more native English speakers than the UK
- English is the fastest-evolving language. Each year, the English dictionary sees an addition of almost 4,000 new words. This is a result of the diversification of language and technology, and new words replacing older words
- There are over 200 fake languages such as Klingon and Dothraki
- Russian was the first language spoken in outer space
- The English language has the highest number of words -over 250,000
- We use many Spanish loan words in English such as *guacamole*, *mosquito*, and *llama*



Sources: SpeakT, BRIC Language Systems, British Chamber of Commerce

The Brand New MFL Website

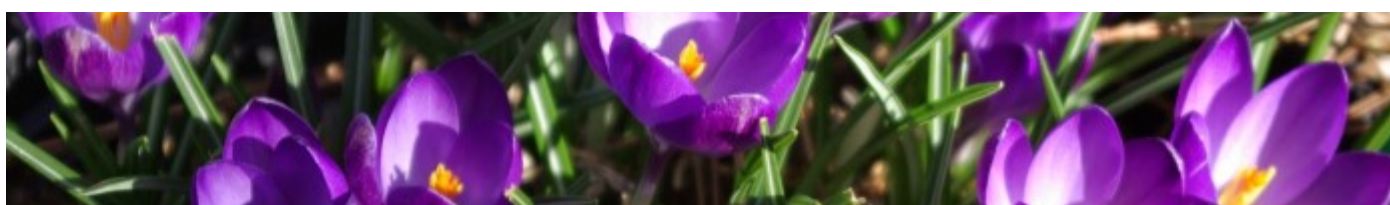
The Modern Foreign Languages Department was proud to launch a website during lockdown to support students and their families with language learning. The website will remain active as it offers students video lessons recorded by MFL colleagues, resources, websites, international recipes, and links to watch TV in other languages, it also helps families to support language learning at home.

Take a look at the site at the link below.

<https://sites.google.com/astleycooper.herts.sch.uk/mfl/home>

Thank you! Gracias! Merci! Grazie!

Mr Moscovici
Spanish Teacher



World Book Day

This year was our first remote World Book Day and saw many Keyworker students and staff dressing up as characters from an array of books, bringing many smiling faces to the day.

Among our Year 11 students we had a Polar Bear from *The Golden Compass*, A Dinosaur from *Jurassic Park*, *The Clueless Girls – Cher and Dionne* and Tom from *Tom Gates*.

A few staff members dressed up to enjoy the fun, including Sebastian The Lobster from *The Little Mermaid*, Hercule Poirot from the Agatha Christie Novels, a Pizza from A Cook Book, Napoleon from *Animal Farm* and finally, June from *The Handmaids Tale* by Margaret Atwood which is studied at A Level.

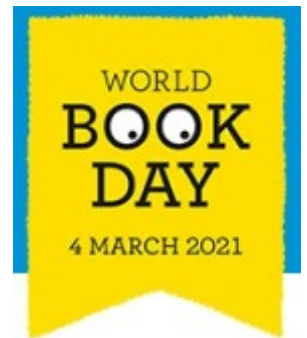
Students were also provided with a remote library, their World Book Day token and an online assembly. In this assembly we touched on the powers of reading for our mental well-being and development of empathy:

'Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while.'

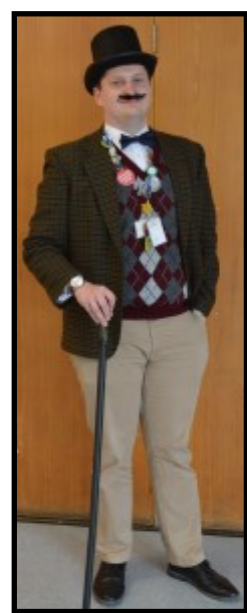
Malorie Blackman

Students have shared the books they have read in our online classrooms, reminding us how important reading has been during this challenging time.

Miss Gilmour
English Teacher



World Book Day



This spring term our Year 7s have been studying a variety of poems. Many students have produced their own poems inspired by those that they have read or events that they have experienced. This is a selection from all of our English classes.

Miss Gilmour
English Teacher

**Summer is a beautiful place to be
around,**

**The flowers start to bloom, and
swimming pools come out,**

**As the heat rises, the more people
there are at the beach,**

**The hot burning sand squeezing
through your feet,**

**And lovely smell of barbeques cook-
ing food.**

**The floats and the boats start to go
to sea,**

**And right after it ends – it all starts
to go to sleep till next year**

Joseph Bryant

Racism

Danger in this world
Of being in danger
Of your skin colour
Every day you wonder
Am I alive or dead?
Is there justice
In this world
And people yelling
I can't breathe I can't breathe
It's not just that
There are people
Being judged
Just for what?
Being gay?
Being black?
Being a woman?
People whispering freedom
But it never returns
It just came back
To life.

Charlotte W



Love

'Was there something in the air'

'Was it love, or was it care'

'Like a dove that came and went'

'Our love was like a dent in a car, that could never be fixed'. 'As our love crunch like a twix bar.' 'As our love went far and far, never seen again.' 'You used to be my world, but love is limitless and unpredictable that's why I want to say I loved you with care'.

Jack Gosden



Alive

A young child standing alone, people sitting depressed and crying praying for a life. They are weak, hungry but happy to be alive.

Alive, Alive, Alive, happy to be alive.

The little boy stands alone not knowing anything, he has nothing, no toys, no bed, no house, he is hungry, not knowing when he will eat again but he is alive.
Alive, Alive, Alive happy to be alive.

By Samuel Norton



Summer Poem

As I lay in the long, wispy grass, I could hear the earth finally moving after an eternal winter,
The birds singing again,
Only crispy, clean skies ahead,
And if it were to rain it be passionate and warm,
The clear water running again- full of energy,
Flowers blooming again as if coming out of their shell to show the world its inner beauty and the sweet smell of life,
After months of frost the earth finally shed its cold coating and reminded us of how much we missed summer,
How much we longed to be free,
How much we felt like we were trapped and contained in your houses,
To feel the sun welcoming us each morning and coat us in warmth and light,
For light isn't so easy to find but we appreciate it every time when we do.

Alesia Balut



The sun is out.
The birds are humming.
It's warm,
And every child is happy.

The sun is out.
The rain disappears.
And the jackets never appear.
With every smile
The sun gets brighter,
And every kid is happier.

Sergiu Amazilitei Tatu

Warm fluffy air like walking
through a cloud of soft feathers.
The smothering sun beat down on
me like a hot hand over my nose
and mouth.
Summer is a cup of coffee, always
making spirits high.
Summer is your melting ice cream.

Damjan Mitrov

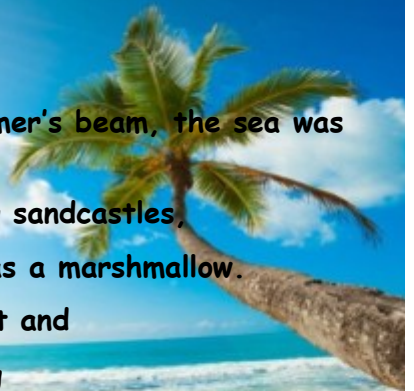


Summer is fun
And lying in the sun
It's always hot in here
The sun burns my ear
I love to rhyme about summer
Which makes me want
to be a drummer.

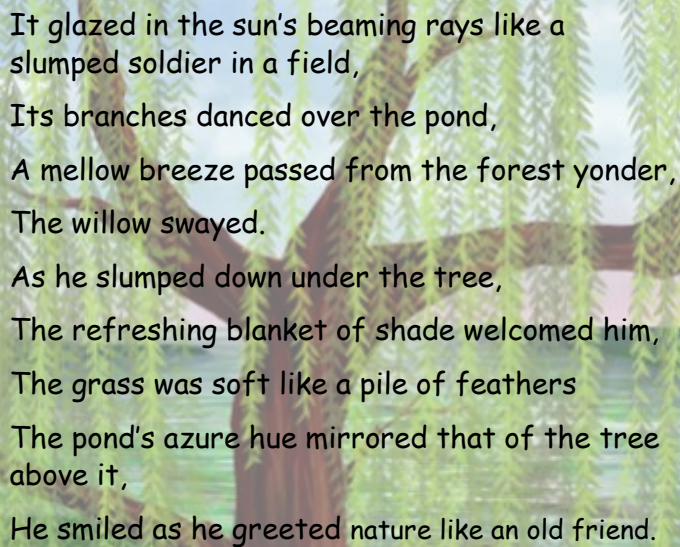
Libbe Edmends

Dancing joyfully in the summer's beam, the sea was amazing,
Whilst everyone was making sandcastles,
The clouds were as fluffy as a marshmallow.
The sand is a yellow blanket and
The sea shells were jumping

Ronnie Palmer



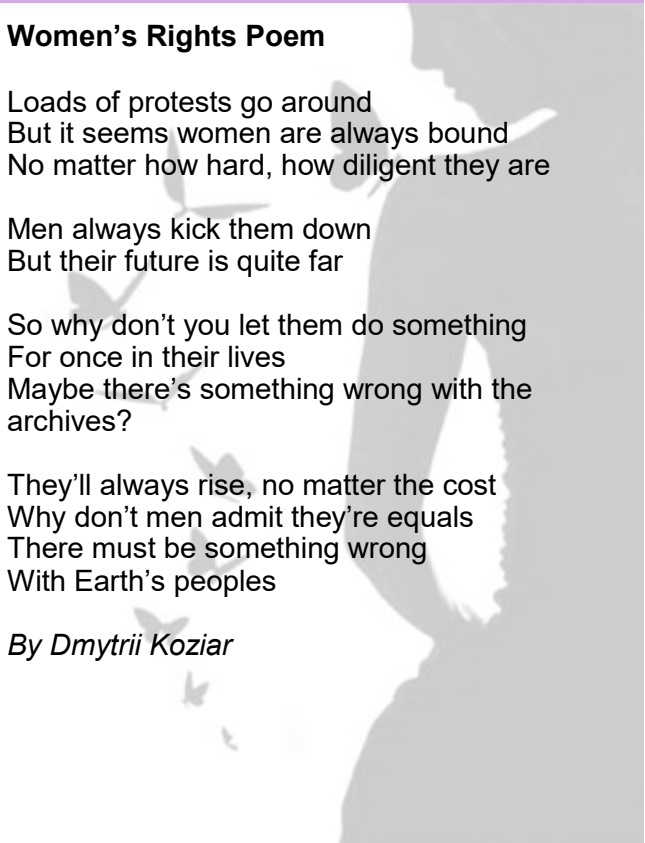
Under the Willow

An illustration of a large, leafy willow tree with long, drooping branches. The tree is situated next to a calm pond that reflects the sky and the tree's branches. The scene is peaceful and naturalistic.

It glazed in the sun's beaming rays like a
slumped soldier in a field,
Its branches danced over the pond,
A mellow breeze passed from the forest yonder,
The willow swayed.
As he slumped down under the tree,
The refreshing blanket of shade welcomed him,
The grass was soft like a pile of feathers
The pond's azure hue mirrored that of the tree
above it,
He smiled as he greeted nature like an old friend.

Christian Phillips

Women's Rights Poem

A grey silhouette of a woman's head and shoulders. She has her right fist raised in a gesture of protest or solidarity. The background is a light grey with faint, stylized birds or leaves.

Loads of protests go around
But it seems women are always bound
No matter how hard, how diligent they are

Men always kick them down
But their future is quite far

So why don't you let them do something
For once in their lives
Maybe there's something wrong with the
archives?

They'll always rise, no matter the cost
Why don't men admit they're equals
There must be something wrong
With Earth's peoples

By Dmytrii Koziar

here

Summer is here

We're all having fun

Under the bright yellow sun

The bright sky looks like the sapphire sea


The hot burning sand covers our feet

Flying beach balls splash in the water

Cheering voices shouting around

You could hear them from a mile away

Valeria Ali

A photograph showing the silhouettes of four children running and playing on a grassy field. They are positioned in the lower half of the frame, with the bright sun setting directly behind them, creating a strong backlight effect. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, transitioning into a darker blue at the top.

Comic Relief



On Friday 19 March, we aimed to raise money for Comic Relief by running the Big Comic Relief Quiz and a sweepstake for students to take part in. The quiz happened during period 5 as the students' wellbeing lesson on their return to school. Students competed in groups of five and took part in seven different rounds that ranged from music and celebrities to the more unique rounds like Mar-vowel-less where students had to work out a top Google search with the vowels taken out. Do you think you could get this?

"HWMNY DYSNT LCHRSTMS?"

It was great to see all our students so enthusiastic and engaged in the quiz, it created a fantastic atmosphere around the school and was a great way to finish the week. Thank you to all of those who have contributed to the cause. We look forward to the next fundraising event.

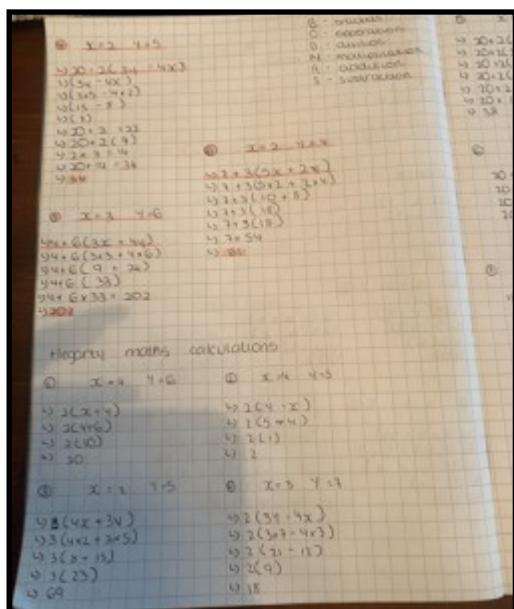
Have a great Easter from the Student Council.

Mr Hardy
Geography Teacher &
Student Council Co-ordinator

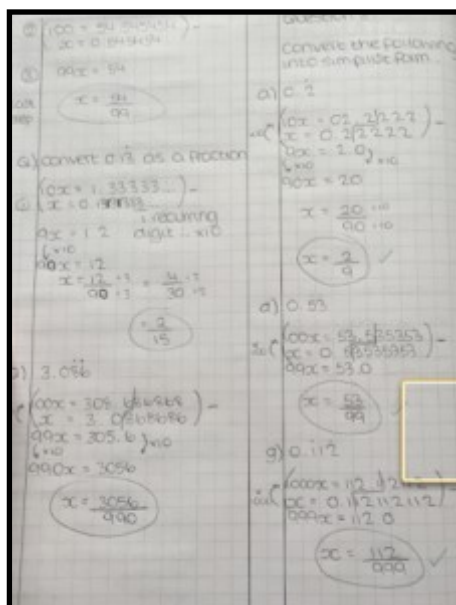


Welcome back

The mathematics department is happy to have all our students back in the classrooms. Over the lockdown period, our students submitted outstanding pieces of work on Google Classroom. Here is a sample of work from a couple of our students.

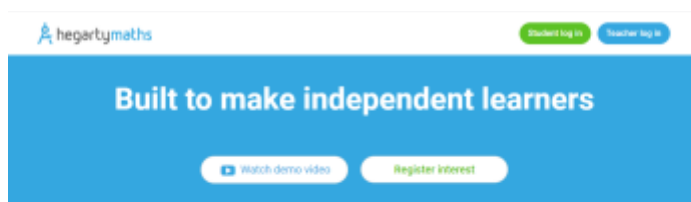


Year 10 student



Year 11 student

Hegarty Maths



We have recently purchased a two-year subscription to Hegarty Maths. Students have an online ID and become independent learners. All our students have been shown how to log on to the website.

If your child has not yet logged on to the website, click on <https://hegartymaths.com/> and you will see the following screen. Enter your child's first name and last name, followed by their date of birth. Students need to create their own passwords.

The maths department is extremely proud of all of our students who have made a fantastic start to Hegarty Maths.



We will be running a competition in the Summer Term. More details will be provided in April 2021.

contd

Maths related Movies

If you get bored over the Easter holidays, why don't you watch one of the following recommended maths movies:

A Beautiful Mind

The Man who Knew Infinity

21

The Imitation Game

A Brilliant Young Mind

BEST MATHS DRAMA MOVIE

Hidden Figures: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4846340/>

Hidden Figures is the true story of Katherine Goble, Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan, three black, female mathematicians, who worked for NASA and played significant roles during the launch of astronaut John Glenn into space back in 1962. This film is full of some pretty high-level maths but it will open children's minds to the significant impact maths has on space travel and the vital role it has played in modern history.



MOVIE COMPETITION - 20 merits

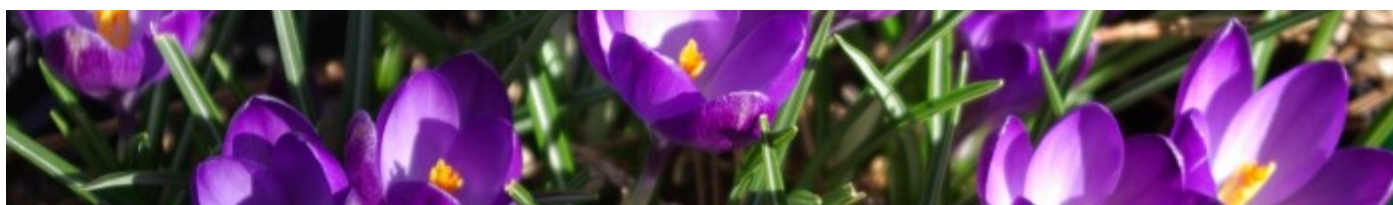
Do you want 20 merits? If so, you can watch Donald Duck in Mathmagic Land - a 28 minute cartoon - and complete the quiz and word search. Once completed, please submit your work to your maths teacher to receive the 20 merits.

Link to the movie: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_ZHsk0-eF0&t=866s

During this classic cartoon, students will be taken on a magical journey through the wonderland of mathematics alongside everyone's favourite animated angry bird, Donald Duck. Along the way they'll learn about the maths behind billiards, the vital role maths plays in engineering and even how modern music can trace its roots back to the work of mathematicians and noted 'egghead', Pythagoras. Released back in 1959, this has been a popular maths movie for almost 60 years and remarkably still holds up today.

Enjoy the activities and have a well deserved break. Happy Easter

**Miss Fernando
Acting Subject Leader Mathematics**



Donald Duck in Mathmagic Land Activity (complete the quiz and the word search)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Donald Duck in Mathmagic Land



Instructions: As you watch the video, please answer each question. The answers are in chronological order.

1. What are the first three digits of Pi?
2. Who was the father of mathematics and music?
3. When a string is shortened by $\frac{1}{2}$, the tone changes by an _____.
4. The Pythagoreans helped give us the basis of today's _____.
5. Unscramble the letters to get the name of this shape shown below:



M, G, R, P, E, T, N, A, A

6. What does the word **infinity** mean as defined in the movie?
7. List three pentagon shapes that appear in nature are:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

8. Pythagoras once said, "Everything is arranged according to _____ and mathematical _____."

9. What game is played on squares?

10. The moves in chess are _____.

11. What other games are played on

Geometrical areas:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

12. Unscramble the letters to get the name of this game shown below:



S, D, B, I, L, L, I, R, A

13. "All optical instruments are created through _____."

14. What shape has been the basis for many of man's most important inventions?

15. "The _____ is the birthplace for all of man's scientific achievements."

16. Who said: "Mathematics is the alphabet by which God has written the universe?"



Mathmagic Land Word Search



1. Algebra
2. Billiards
3. Circle
4. Diamond
5. Galileo
6. Geometry
7. Greeks
8. Instrument
9. Math

10. Music
11. Nature
12. Octave
13. Pentagon
14. Pi
15. Pyramid
16. Pythagoras
17. Rectangle
18. Shapes

19. Square

Headteacher's Commendations

March Award

Kameel Hembley 7SWi

Neeve Kemble 8HMY

Kyah Welch 9MG

Richard Pegg 10LWH

Jessica Lancaster 11HH

Hannah Brown 12RP

Alfie Abrey 13JHo



Congratulations

**for excellent effort,
attitude & achievement**

Year 7

It has been lovely to welcome Year 7 students back to school. The students have approached the Covid testing in a mature manner and I am very proud of them.

Year 7 have had a good first term and have worked extremely hard. I really want them all to enjoy being back at school and to continue the amazing start they have made.

I would like to congratulate all the students in the way that they adapted to home learning. In my eyes they were all lockdown champions. A big thank you to parents and carers for your continued support during this difficult time.

The Form Tutors nominated one student from their form group as a Lockdown Legend.

Nominations were for various reasons, including attending all online lessons, submitting extra work, helping others during form time and remaining positive.

Congratulations to : Grace Mazillius 7AMo,
Millie Watts 7CKe, Nina Nachajova 7JNo,
Danny Kidd-Simmonds 7KFa, Ronnie Eldridge
7SE and Kameel Hembley 7SWi.

Have a lovely Easter.

Mrs Goodchild
Head of Year 7



Year 8 and Year 9

The Year 8s have had an excellent return to school. They have settled back into school life very well. During lockdown, the students rose to the challenge of remote learning. The following students have been awarded with Lockdown Legend certificates:

Manal Habib 8LFo
Tammy- Faith O'Hara 8GH
Joshua Hopps Bacon 8LFo
Lexi Scarborough 8HMy
Kara Hutchinson 8PHa
Ryan Spearman 8SCI
Ronnie Palmer 8GH



Before the end of term, I will be rewarding the form with the highest number of merits. The totals so far are:

8LFo - 2870
8PH - 2458
8SCI - 2855
8HMy - 3180
8AB - 2797
8GH - 2349

Keep up the good work.

Mrs Buzzle
Head of Year 8



The following Year 9 students have been awarded with Lockdown legend certificates:

Emmanuel Abaha	Pheobe Kosmolski
Gabrielle Bennett	James Mazillius
Lennie Flavin	Abi Monk
Grace Gibbons	Eva Mutavchiera
Ryan Godfrey	William Roast
Bobbi Jones	Gabriel Souza
Cassidy Kirton	

Miss Roberts
Head of Year 9

Year 9
Lockdown
Legends

It has been an interesting time for the students of Year 9 - time that I will not forget and a time that I have felt immense pride in our students. It has been difficult and in the welcome back assembly I reflected on the journey our students took. Some would have enjoyed this last



lockdown, others would have struggled with the pressure of online learning and not having the routine of coming into school. The pride I feel is that our students have shown determination. They have continued to shine, and I have had a great number of compliments about the way that the students have conducted themselves in lessons and with any submitted work.

During this lockdown, the students have been engaged in online lessons which has helped with some normality, even if it meant that some pupils were doing lessons in their pyjamas. The attendance was excellent, so I would like to thank you all for the support at home and encouraging students to join in.

We had guest speakers for some assemblies; this enabled students to still enjoy a rich and diverse curriculum even though they were not in school. Thank you to Mr Moscovici for organising these and Year 9's very own Miss Gilmour for presenting a live World Book Day Assembly for us.

Another part of the journey that our Year 9s took was to attend a virtual Options Evening to make decisions about Key Stage 4 and what GCSE Options they might like to take. We are lucky to have a wide range of subjects on offer at Astley Cooper School and I hope that all the students are becoming excited about studying these when they start in Year 10.

The key worker bubble students also need a mention as they worked tirelessly in Room 6, and Mr Dwane helped adding a touch of humour that the students were thankful for.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Form Tutors for all their support during this time; their care and concern for their forms is a marvel and I know that the students do really appreciate them.

Parents and carers, your support at home has been incredible. I am so grateful for all your help in encouraging your children.

Finally, Year 9 students, I am so pleased to have seen you all back before Easter. You are a wonderful year group who are capable of great things; when you arrive back after Easter the final part of your journey will be to complete Year 9 and travel to Year 10, where our journey will continue...

Happy Easter.

Miss Roberts
Head of Year 9



GCSE Mathematics

Easter Grade Booster Workshops

Eighteen topic-based sessions, nine at Foundation and nine at Higher, designed to support students preparing for assessment in GCSE Mathematics in 2021.

Designed to motivate and challenge students in an engaging and active learning environment, our remote workshops will provide students with the opportunity to take part in a number of focused revision activities and complete exam-style questions.

All 55 minute remote workshops cost £10 (incl. VAT).

Click on course code for details and online booking.

Thursday 1st April 2021

FOUNDATION TIER	
Time	Topic
9:30am	Fractions Course code: MAT/21/240/S
10:30am	Percentage calculations Course code: MAT/21/241/S
11:30am	Ratio calculations Course code: MAT/21/242/S

Thursday 8th April 2021

FOUNDATION TIER	
Time	Topic
9:30am	Factors, multiples and negative numbers Course code: MAT/21/243/S
10:30am	Algebraic Expressions and Equations Course code: MAT/21/244/S
11:30am	Graphs in algebra Course code: MAT/21/245/S

Saturday 17th April 2021

FOUNDATION TIER	
Time	Topic
9:30am	Statistics: averages and diagrams Course code: MAT/21/246/S
10:30am	Perimeter, area and volume Course code: MAT/21/247/S
11:30am	Angles Course code: MAT/21/248/S

Thursday 1st April 2021

HIGHER TIER	
Time	Topic
1:00pm	Enlargement and similarity Course code: MAT/21/249/S
2:00pm	Trigonometry Course code: MAT/21/250/S
3:00pm	Angles and proof in geometry Course code: MAT/21/251/S

Thursday 8th April 2021

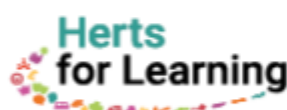
HIGHER TIER	
Time	Topic
1:00pm	Algebraic expressions and proof Course code: MAT/21/252/S
2:00pm	All about quadratics Course code: MAT/21/253/S
3:00pm	Statistics Course code: MAT/21/254/S

Saturday 17th April 2021

HIGHER TIER	
Time	Topic
1:00pm	Surds and indices Course code: MAT/21/255/S
2:00pm	Bounds and accuracy Course code: MAT/21/256/S
3:00pm	Proportionality and Graphs Course code: MAT/21/257/S

Parents and carers can book places through the HfL CPD Hub at cpd.hertsforlearning.co.uk

For more information regarding these workshops, please contact: training@hertsforlearning.co.uk or call 01438 544477.



01438 544464
hertsforlearning.co.uk



GCSE Mathematics

Easter Grade Booster Workshops

Foundation Tier workshop details

Fractions

- Calculating with fractions
- Problems involving fractions of quantities
- Equivalence between fractions, decimals and percentages

Percentage calculations

- Calculating percentages of quantities, with and without a calculator
- Percentage increases and decreases
- Compound percentage changes
- Reverse percentage problems

Ratio Calculations

- Sharing in a ratio, including reverse problems
- Applications (e.g. recipes, value for money)
- Relationship between ratios and fractions
- Compound ratio problems

Factors, multiples and negative numbers

- Factors, multiples, LCMs and HCFs
- Prime numbers and prime factorisation
- Calculating with negative numbers
- Collecting like terms in algebraic expressions

Algebraic Expressions and Equations

- Multiplying out and factorising (single and double brackets)
- Formulating linear equations
- Solving linear equations

Graphs in algebra

- Plotting straight line graphs
- Gradient and equation of a straight line
- Parallel lines
- Drawing simple curved graphs
- Recognise types of graph

Statistics: averages and diagrams

- Mean, median, mode and range of simple data sets
- Mean, median and mode of grouped data
- Drawing and interpreting pie charts

Perimeter, area and volume

- Solving problems involving perimeter and area of plane shapes (including circles)
- Solving problems involving volume and surface area of solid shapes

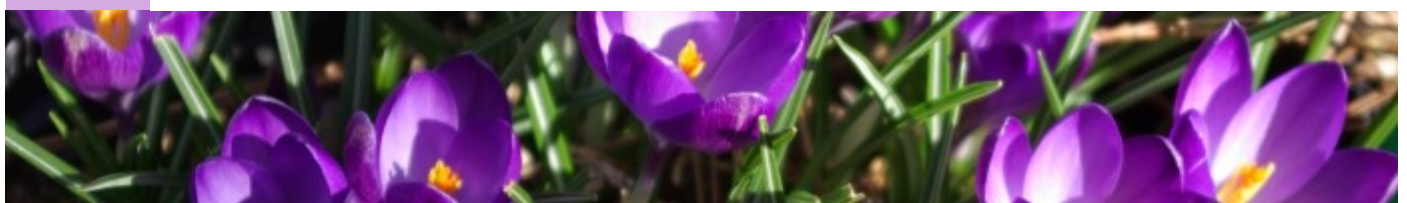
Angles

- Simple angle properties
- Angle properties of intersecting and parallel lines
- Angle properties of polygons

Parents and carers can book places through the HfL CPD Hub at cpd.hertsforlearning.co.uk
For more information regarding these workshops, please contact: training@hertsforlearning.co.uk
or call 01438 544477.



01438 544464
hertsforlearning.co.uk



GCSE Mathematics

Easter Grade Booster Workshops

Higher Tier workshop details

Enlargement and similarity

- Enlargements, including those with negative and fractional scale factors
- Properties of similar triangles, and other similar plane shapes
- Relationship between the area and volume of similar shapes in 2D and 3D

Trigonometry

- Sine and cosine rules
- Using trigonometry and Pythagoras to solve problems in 3D

Angles and proof in geometry

- Circle theorems
- Using congruence to prove results in geometry

Algebraic expressions and proof

- Simplifying algebraic expressions, including those involving fractions
- Proving results using algebra

All about quadratics

- Solving quadratic equations
- Properties of quadratic graphs
- Finding the n th term of a quadratic sequence

Statistics

- Using cumulative frequency to estimate medians and quartiles
- Drawing and interpreting histograms
- Using diagrams, including box plots, to compare distributions

Surds and indices

- Manipulating and simplifying expressions involving surds
- Negative and fractional indices
- Solving problems using laws of indices

Bounds and accuracy

- Upper and lower bounds
- Calculating with numbers expressed to a given degree of accuracy
- Problem solving involving bounds

Proportionality and Graphs

- Calculating with quantities in direct and inverse proportion
- Graphs of quantities in direct or inverse proportion
- Translations and reflections of standard graphs



Hertfordshire
Family Centre
Service

Public Health – School Nursing

Supporting your child's transition back to school after lockdown

Some children will have some worries about returning to school, may find it difficult to return to school, may become upset, distressed or even refuse to go in. There is a presentation to provide information, advice and practical strategies that can be used to support your child's return to school on our website:
<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing/>

Health advice you can trust

It can be tricky to find good health advice on the internet. Try these – they're managed by the school nursing service...



[Health for Kids!](#) – local health services and advice for children aged 4 to 11 years old.



[Health for teens](#) – bite-sized info and advice for 11 to 19 year olds in Hertfordshire.

School nurses offer support for emotional wellbeing including anxiety and anger. To refer to our service please go to the Family Centre Service Website and look for school nursing:

<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/>

For more information about the School Nursing Service watch a short clip available here:

<https://youtu.be/7RoTkp3vkB0>



Aged 11-19 - Did you know you can text your school nurse for confidential health advice and support? Text 07480 635050. Check out the YouTube link on here:

<https://youtu.be/DBNmrlbFcCE>


Hertfordshire Community
NHS Trust

