

Coping with the COVID challenge at Haileybury Turnford - Press Release 10.7.20

From 20th March, schools were told that they could no longer operate as usual and that they could only open for very limited numbers of students, including those whose parent was a critical worker essential to the country's response to coronavirus.

This presented a new challenge to students, staff and the wider community at Haileybury Turnford. The school community has really risen to the challenge school closure has brought, and has come together as one.

Robin Newman, Principal commented "our school community has been magnificent responding to the challenges which we have been presented with. Staff have worked incredibly hard supporting our students in so very many different ways, and students have completed some amazing work over the past 10 weeks."

Mr Newman added that "wellbeing has been at the forefront of our minds, with the aim to ensure that all students and staff remain as positive as possible during these difficult and uncertain times". Student wellbeing challenges, House competitions and weekly phone calls home have helped staff and students to keep in touch with each other. The school has also developed an online communication system signposting parents to useful online resources to help support with mental health issues and the challenges of supporting students with their learning from home. Maxine Goodes, Vice Principal commented that "our staff and students took part in 'Wear Blue for the NHS' to show our appreciation for all workers within the Health Service and also the recent national 'VE Day 75' celebrations. Students have been extremely engaged with work that has been set; producing some amazing project work that encompasses a variety of knowledge and skills across a wide range of subject areas."

Teachers have had to adapt to, and learn to use new technology, in order to deliver an online curriculum and virtual assemblies. Haileybury Turnford is currently preparing for the wider re-opening for students in Year 10 and Year 12 from 15th June. This will begin with initial meetings with students and families to help re-familiarise themselves with the school environment, and for the school to find out more about how students have coped during lockdown. New floor markings and hand sanitiser stations have been installed following government guidance to ensure social distancing and enhanced hygiene measures. Haileybury Turnford look forward to seeing their students back at school in the near future.

