



AMHERST SCHOOL

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Amherst School Newsletter No. 4

Message from Mr Reid

This week I have been **spending time in classrooms** observing how the **protective measures** are being implemented and their impact on teaching and learning.

I have been **impressed** with how the new routines have become second nature and shifted to being incorporated into the **behavioural culture of the school**. Children have adhered and respected the measures put in place.

This term’s school value is **trust**.

Since the beginning of term myself and class teachers have **spent time exploring the topic of trust and its implications** with the children.



An **interesting project** we discussed was how in some cities road planners have created shared spaces for cars and pedestrians (The **Dutch town of Drachten** was one of the first to change into a shared space by the pioneer Hans Monderman). Research shows that there are less accidents due to drivers having to be more responsible rather than relying on measures such as speed limits and traffic lights.

Interestingly the **children immediately made links with the pandemic** and the need for everyone to follow the guidance to help protect each other. I shared in my year group meetings top tips for becoming a trustworthy person:

- **Be dependable**—Do what you say you are going to do.
- **Be honest**—Tell the truth and own up to mistakes.
- **Keep a promise**—No matter how small.
- **Have integrity**—Have strong moral principles and stand by them.
- **Stop gossiping**—Stop talking about others behind their backs.

It is also a good time to review our **pick up and drop off routines**.

Drop off routine appears established and the staggered start helps avoid congestion. Please **continue to move quickly away from the school gate** and pavements outside school as this can make it hard for people to socially distance when arriving and leaving.

Our **one way system is working well** at pick up with people moving swiftly off the school site. Please continue to move once through the school gate as the pavement is not big enough to be somewhere to wait.

As we are all aware **social distancing (2m) and the rule of six is in place and must be followed**. Please can I ask that you follow social distancing and the rule of six when on the **common**. I regularly talk to the children about representing Amherst School with pride when you are both in school and out of school, especially when wearing uniform. We are all being trusted to adhere to rules and guidance more than ever at the moment.

Finally if you have not had the **chance to watch** the **Amherst Grand Design Project** video from last week please click on the link on the next page.

I hope you all have a good weekend.



Important THIS week!

DROPPING OFF

Waterbottles / Music books

PE Kit



Please leave these NAMED items on the table in the lobby at reception and Mrs Talliss or Mrs Wells will collect and ensure the item make its way to your child.

VACANCIES

We are looking to fill the following vacancies — please click on the links below to see the job description or to apply:

[Breakfast Club Assistant](#)

[Midday Meals Supervisor](#)



PARENT TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS

Year 6:

Monday 28/09

Tuesday 29/09

Year 5:

Wednesday 30/09

Thursday 01/10

Year 4:

Monday 05/10

Tuesday 06/10

Year 3:

Wednesday 07/10

Thursday 08/10



SOCIAL DISTANCE

It is still of the **UTMOST** importance to please remember to keep your social distance when collecting children and dropping them off in the morning.



TERM DATES

For all term dates click [here](#)

Subscribe to the our school calendar [here](#)



REPORT ABSENCES

THANK YOU for reporting **ALL ABSENCES** via our website before 09.00am in the morning.

Click on the link and complete the quick form—no need to email anymore:

[Daily Absence Form](#)



AMHERST GRAND DESIGNS

If you have not had the chance to watch the Amherst Grand Design Project video from last week please click on the video.



STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to all our stars of this week!

3A Zach H

3S Jack F

3W Ethan S

4C Nathaniel C

4SF Phoebe M

4W Emma H

5A Oliver B

5B Eliza A

5J Taylor H

6B Daisy R

6D Ryan v H

6P Willow W

MUSIC

Whilst musical clubs are not able to take place in school, we have set up a **Music Google Classroom** to provide some resources including choir songs, Young Voices resources and potentially a platform to do online concerts in the coming months.

We would love to have lots of children signed up to this and just like our Google Classrooms over lockdown, your child can join by following the steps below:

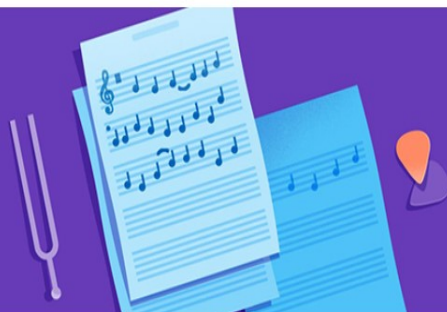
- 🎵 Click on [Google Classroom](#)
- 🎵 Your child has to sign in with their Amherst email address and password
- 🎵 Click on the + symbol at the top
- 🎵 Type in the code **ldh7i2y**.



Please find a **list of our music teachers** on the school's website—click [here](#)

Google Classroom

Music



AMHERST CHESS CLUB

Our first online tournament of the term was on Tuesday at 4.30.

Eight players entered, of all abilities, and all played a number of matches within 70 minutes. Ben H was the winner, with Mick H second and Poppy-Grace DL third.

Congratulations to them, and all the other players who entered:

Dylan D, William R, Cagan Y, Leon K and Fred K.

If any other players would like to have a go, next **week's tournament is Tuesday 4.30**. If you have not yet joined our online club, please see last week's newsletter for how to join.

You don't have to play for the whole 70 minutes- if you've played a couple of games and had enough, you can hit the **'pause'** button!



PTA NEWS

It's official. Amherst loves cookies!

Thanks to 3A and their stunning ingenuity of running a Covid-safe cake sale, plus your incredible support, we have, today, delivered a whopping 482 delicious cookies to your children!!! We hope that you enjoy them every bit as much as we have loved preparing this event for you. Also, a huge thank you to everyone for your additional donations – we say this often but it is so true, Amherst has the best family community.

Coming up:

Tuesday, 29th September – Uniform sale

- low cost uniform, sporting goods and dressing up clothing
- Tuesday 29th September – 1.30-2.30pm in the school courtyard
- Stall is unmanned – donations for items to be paid via honesty box provided
- Please do remember to socially distance

3rd October –

Amherst Great Balloon Race booking deadline

5th – 11th October –

Amherst Great Balloon Race takes place

12th October –

Balloon race winners announced

22nd October –

Scavenger hunt registration deadline

21st October –

Xmas4Schools submission deadline

24th October – 1st November – Amherst Scavenger Hunt



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

As school census is next Thursday 1st October, we would like to encourage all parents who may be entitled to free school meals to submit an application before the census date. This will enable the school to access additional funding to provide children with extra support.

Please find the eligibility criteria [here](#)

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you need any help applying, please contact the school office.



IN & AROUND Sevenoaks

Please click on the image for more information on the following half term club.

NEXT THING EDUCATION CAMPS PRESENTS

October Half-Term

Code

Create

Learn

FEATURING **MINECRAFT**

TECH Holiday Camp

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR HALLOWEEN THEMED TECH CAMP!

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 5-12
£189 PER WEEK, 9 AM - 4PM DAILY

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.nextthing.education

NEXT THING EDUCATION CAMPS PRESENTS

October Tech Camp

19th - 30th October 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Coding Lab	Creepy Circuitry	Evil Genius Experiments	Eerie Engineering	Mysterious Movie Making

Different activities each week following the themes above

Locations:

Bath	Gerrards Cross	Princes Risborough
Bishop's Stortford	Guildford	Reading
Brighton	Harpenden	Rickmansworth
Bromley	Hemel Hempstead	Sevenoaks
Cambridge	Kent	St Albans
Caterham	Kingston Upon Thames	Surrey
Caversham	Marlow	Twickenham
Chesham	Orpington	Weybridge
Epsom	Oxford	Woking

Reduced numbers . Limited spaces . Book Now !

W: www.nextthing.education
E: info@nextthing.education
T: 01442 873150

FOLLOW US




SECONDARY SCHOOLS Open Events

St Gregory's

Date

12 October online event

[Website / Admissions](#)

St Gregory's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Trinity School

Date:

The school will host small group tours on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday until the end of term.
Time: 9.15-10.15am

Two groups of 18 will walk around parts of the school during period 1, while students are in lesson.

[Website / Open Events](#)

Trinity School
Trinity School Sevenoaks

Knole Academy

Date:

Online event

[Website / Open Events](#)

KNOLE
ACADEMY

Hillview

Year 6

26 September at 10.00am and 12.00pm

Book tickets [here](#)

Parking on site is not possible

[Website / Admissions](#)

Year 5 Open events from January 2021

HILLVIEW
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Bennet Memorial

Date

30 September 6.00pm onwards

Book tickets:

2 tickets per family / please contact the school.

[Website / Admissions](#)

Bennett Memorial
Diocesan School

TWGSB

Date

8 October 6.30pm

Register [here](#) for the online event

[Website / Open Events](#)

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
GRAMMAR SCHOOL for BOYS