



## A WORD FROM THE HEADTEACHER



I hope you are keeping safe and well, and managing to make sense out of this slowly changing phase of the Covid-19 situation. This last half term has presented challenges in different ways for each of us and our families, and it is difficult to generalise across all members of the Greenshaw community. What has been the constant has been the commitment of our students, the care of the staff and the efforts to stay connected with families.

School has not closed, it is just not judged to be safe for students and staff to currently be in the school buildings. Depending on which school year your child is in, you will read the plans below for the various groups with different emotions but please read on, and particularly enjoy the thoughts of each

Head and Deputy Head of Year on the following pages.

### Year 7, 8 and 9

The government has highlighted 'priority year groups'. For example, in primary schools these are classes in Reception, Years 1 and 6. In secondary, Years 7, 8 and 9 are not in a similar group so they will continue remote learning for much of the summer term. I know, as a parent with two children home learning myself, what challenges this brings. However, it seems that for most of the summer term the government advice will be that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are not likely to return to school. We will continue to set the learning tasks, and the ongoing contact with students and families in these year groups. Thank you all for your support and care with this challenging activity.

### Year 10

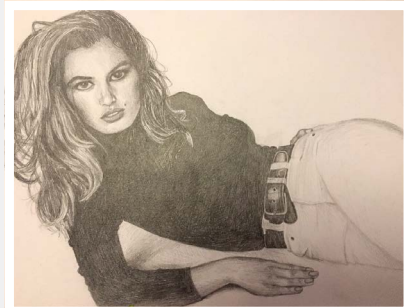
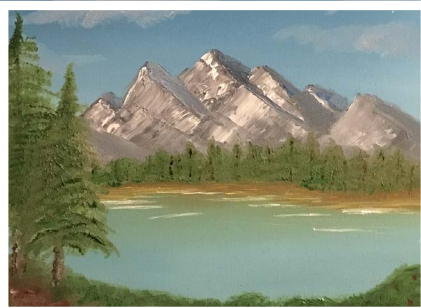
In secondary schools, students in Year 10 have been identified as a 'priority year'. I have written to parents and carers of students in this year group with our plans for the next phase.

### Year 12

This year group has also been identified as a 'priority year' and I am considering how we get some face to face contact for these students with their staff. The current rate of students' engagement with their subjects is very high, and they will start next half term by continuing their home learning.

I know that having different provision for each year group is complex, and particularly for those of you that have siblings in different years, or even at more than one school. Thank you for all of your support in these very challenging times. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us with any queries, particularly through your child's form tutor or head or deputy head of year. Contact details can be found at the back of this newsletter or on the school website [here](#).

**Mr House, Headteacher**



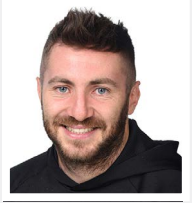
Some superb examples of Year 10 art and photography work by Konrad, Khalila and Daniel (from left to right).





## AN UPDATE FROM OUR YEAR TEAMS...

### Year 7



Firstly, I would like to extend my thoughts and thanks to each and every one of you regarding the current situation we find ourselves in and the outstanding support we have received. In this ever-changing environment, if your financial circumstances have changed and you would like to see if you are eligible to apply for free school meals, please do contact your child's form tutor who will be able to help.

Year 7 students continue to make me proud, both academically and in the wider community. At the time of writing, 251 students in Year 7 have received texts, emails or certificates rewarding their hard work with the home learning, with many more working towards it. This is a fantastic achievement for all those involved – you should, as I am, be very proud of yourselves. Outside of the academic progress, I am also very proud of the students who contributed to sending poems, letters, posters and art to thank key NHS workers and care workers in our local community. These have been publicly displayed and letters of thanks have been received by the school. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we shall return to some normality but for now please stay safe, work hard and remember: we are here for you whenever you need us. Well done Year 7, and keep it up!

**Mr Higgins, Head of Year 7, and Miss Wilson, Deputy Head of Year 7**

### Year 8

*"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." – Helen Keller*



I hope you continue to remain safe and well, which is the most important thing of all.

As we approach half term, during a time which has developed into our new norm, I find myself reflecting on the past eight weeks. For us all, I am certain, it has been demanding, exhausting and challenging. We have had to learn a new way of living, it is not to be underestimated in the energy and sheer will power this can take.

However, as I reflect, I also feel exhilarated by the huge amount of support that has emerged from students, parents, the Year 8 team and colleagues to maintain the Greenshaw community spirit. This has manifested not only in establishing the home learning schedule, but the communication and consideration made by all towards health and wellbeing.

I would like to thank parents and carers for all the kind emails you have sent and for your patience while we work to resolve the various technical issues that sometimes appear. I am confident now that nearly all students are using the correct school email (I hear a collective sigh of relief at the mention of emails) which means we can be sure we are able to recognise all the time and effort students are putting into their home learning.

By the time you read this, we will have held the first parent forum designed to help you help your child at home. We recognise this may be incredibly difficult in many households, with other demands on your time and hope you found it useful. The recording of the event will be available if you were not able to attend, and of course you can continue to email myself and the Year 8 team with any queries.

#### **An update on subject options**

I am pleased to inform you that Year 8 students will receive their options confirmation for Year 9 via Frog after the half term holiday. When the final option allocations are ready to view, I will send out a message to you all.

Finally, as we approach half term I am aghast at the speed at which time is passing. Despite forgetting some days what day it is, they are passing at an alarming pace.

The students have been outstanding in their work ethic and, judging from the emails I have received, I can see they have taken ownership and have been proactive in sharing and also following up on any difficulties with the work. Clearly, everyone has earned a very restful and peaceful half term, to recharge batteries for the final half of this school year. Who knows what the immediate future holds, but we can take comfort from the adaptability, resilience, consistent and mature approach the students have taken, along with the wider support of the adult Greenshaw community.

To those celebrating Eid in half term, I wish you and your loved ones 'Eid Mubarak!' and to all a safe and wonderful half term.

**Ms Radwan, Head of Year 8, and Mr Richards, Deputy Head of Year 8**





## AN UPDATE FROM OUR YEAR TEAMS...

### Year 9



This last half term has been a significant period of reflection for many of us. All of us have been affected by the virus to varying degrees, and for many this has been a particularly challenging period of time. Our thoughts are with all families who have been directly affected and we would like to extend our sympathies.

Throughout this last half term we have been humbled by the ability of so many of our students to show empathy and compassion for those directly impacted. A group of Year 9 girls made posters for the Dementia Hub they had visited before school closure, while other students and staff have participated in 5 km sponsored runs to raise funds for the NHS. A particular mention goes to Elena, who raised £75. It is this ability of our students to look beyond themselves and reach out to the wider community which we are particularly proud of.

We are now seven weeks into the home learning programme. The determination of Year 9 to continue learning has been noteworthy. Our most successful students have developed good routines and tried to follow the daily schedule as closely as possible, and as a result we have been able to recognise this perseverance with text messages and certificates from form tutors. We are particularly impressed by how many students have persevered despite the challenges of working from home independently. The skills learnt through this determination will be useful far beyond the boundaries of school life.

As the half term draws to a close, we want to urge students to use this time to reach out to each other. Though we are not able to see each other physically, we are still a community and it is our connectedness to each other that makes us Greenshaw.

We would like to wish a happy Eid to our families celebrating this weekend, and hope that all our families will enjoy this week together.

**Mrs Blackham, Head of Year 9, and Miss Thompson, Deputy Head of Year 9**

### Year 10



Ms Angell and I would like to wish each Year 10 student and their families the very best of wishes. I hope that you are keeping safe and well in these difficult and unprecedented times. I don't know about you, but the time just seems to be going really quickly for our family. Now we are approaching a half term break, with a week to relax.

We have been under the social restrictions in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic for some time and students have not been in school since March 20th. That is an extensive time to be away from school and from the normal learning situation that occurs every day. I know that many students are struggling with a number of things: concentration, motivation, devices not working, sharing devices with other siblings, challenging subject material, and now that the hot weather has returned they probably want to be sunbathing!

I sent the Year 10 group a video message this week on Frog, reassuring them that adults are also finding this situation difficult. My message to them was that we want them to continue to do their best, apply themselves and use every learning opportunity that they are given, because everything that they complete adds value to their preparations for the GCSE exams next year.

You will have received the letter on Monday from Mr House, and seen in the national news, that Year 10 students will not be sitting the RS exam that was planned for this summer. The Government has decided that Year 10 students will receive predicted grades for RS. As with Year 11, these are what grade teachers predict that the student is likely to achieve – this reinforces that every task, assessment and activity are important, as all of the work that is done could be taken into account when teachers make their predictions. This makes the current effort, and the effort that is made in the future, all the more pertinent.

Since our youngsters were in Year 7, I have emphasised the significance of hard work and effort. My philosophy is you make your own luck in life by trying hard, applying yourself and always striving to improve on the progress that you have made.

Year 10 students may be returning to school in June. In the meantime, students should continue with their online lessons to the best of their ability and also complete Tassomai and Hegarty Maths. I was disappointed to see a drop off in the Year 10 completion of the platform learning – this is as important as the rest of the learning programme as it adds to the revision of two core subjects.

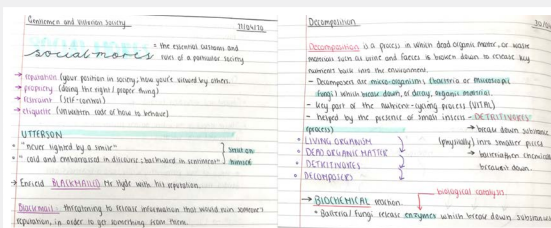
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## AN UPDATE FROM OUR YEAR TEAMS...

On a separate note, I am really pleased with some artwork that has been sent in by our Year 10 students. A fabulous piece by Konrad (10VWL) was shared recently by Mr House and features on the front page of the newsletter. The drawing by Khalila (10ZHY), which is also featured, is equally impressive and definitely something that I wanted to share with you. Daniel (10ABD) has also kindly shared artwork that he has been producing recently. This is another fantastic example of the talents that many of our students have. Well done to Konrad, Khalila and Daniel, for sending these in and agreeing to share them.



Finally, I wanted to share a piece of work by Eve (10MCW). Her work shows notes, revision material and other supporting information to help her reinforce her online studies in recent weeks. The first piece of work (left) is her notes from *Jekyll and Hyde* for English, which the year group have been learning about. The second piece is her work on *Decomposition* (right) as part of her biology studies. I am very proud of her efforts with this beautifully presented work, which demonstrates the maturity, resilience and application that our Year 10 students have

shown over the recent difficult weeks to continue their progress and maintain some form of normality with their learning. The fruits of this effort will be seen next year in the GCSE exams and other assessments, of that I am convinced.

On behalf Ms Angell and all of the Year 10 tutors, we hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable half term. Stay safe and best wishes.

**Mr Clarke, Head of Year 10, and Miss Angell, Deputy Head of Year 10**

### Year 11



It feels very strange to write a newsletter without having seen Year 11 students over the past couple of months, but there is certainly lots to catch up on.

Our main focus has been on the Year 11 home learning curriculum. Having initially provided packs of work when schools were forced to close, we then launched our online home learning platform at the end of April. I am really proud that we have been able to provide

students with some structure to their day and to give them opportunities to continue to learn and grow as young people.

We understand that not all elements of the provision provided will be to the taste of each student, however our curriculum has a balanced feel, with something to meet the needs of all students, whether that be the English and Maths morning lessons, post-16 destinations material, online courses or career development activities.

Having had positive feedback about our Year 11 platform from students and families over the last month, we have decided to keep it in place past the half term break and will provide learning activities until June 12th at the earliest, such is our commitment to continuing to support students and families during these times.

In addition, Mr Feenan and the sixth form team have been continuing to seek out materials to best prepare students for the next stage of their education. All of the materials and links to relevant sites can be found on Frog, in the 'Post 16 Prep' section of Year 11 home learning. If students are planning to continue their studies with us at Greenshaw, they should be accessing the materials on the 'A Level Transition Portal'. This would also be of benefit to anyone studying A Levels at other schools and colleges. Those studying in the South Thames Colleges Group should follow the link to their college, where they will find relevant work designed to lay the foundations for their course. If a college hasn't provided a link to set work for a specific course, a variety of other resources can be found in the 'Vocational' section on Frog, though students may wish to contact their post-16 provider directly for further information. All of these areas are regularly added to and improved, so please continue to check them on a daily basis.

Finally, I know there is understandably still a lot of anguish around GCSE results and so our advice remains to read the Department for Education's online guidance, whilst we will update you as soon as possible should we receive further information. If you have any questions, you are of course welcome to get in touch and we will do what we can to answer your queries.

Take care and stay safe.

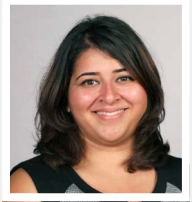
**Mr Johnson – Head of Year 11, Mr Feenan – Year 11 Progress and Mr Parker – Deputy Head of Year 11**





## AN UPDATE FROM OUR YEAR TEAMS...

### Year 12



It has most certainly been a different start to the summer term for us all and I hope that you and your extended families are all keeping safe and well.

The beginning of this term has seen our students settle into a new way of learning from home and for which I am so proud to say has seen extremely high levels of engagement by our Year 12 students. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of them in engaging with their home learning across a wide range of subjects and also to congratulate them on their ongoing efforts. The consistent investment in their studies now will help greatly when we do return to school. Maintaining a routine is important, not least during the current situation, and this will make the transition back to school easier when the time comes. This includes students maintaining a regular sleep and exercise routine, taking regular breaks between study and having separate times for study and relaxation. To support your child in engaging with their home learning, you can see what they have been set and have completed by logging into FROG and going to the Home Learning button in the menu bar. This will bring up your child's assignments and you will be able to see any work handed in.

During the summer term, we usually focus on supporting students with research and planning for university and apprenticeships. I feel strongly that this year should be no different and have put in place a Route to Success programme which students will be able to access from home. It is my aim that all Year 12 students, whether they may be interested in university, apprenticeships or employment after their time at Greenshaw, will be able to make informed choices and have all the ingredients for a strong personal statement. I will write out to you in the coming days with more detail on this.

Although we are not physically all together in the school building, please remember that the sixth form team and I are contactable via email should your child need any support. Our contact details can be found on the school website [here](#). We will always do our best to offer any solutions in order to help. Please do continue to inform us of any sickness or other circumstances your child may be experiencing, in particular if it is preventing them from accessing their home learning, as this will allow us to better support them.

**Mrs Ayres, Acting Head of Sixth Form**

### Year 13

I hope you are all continuing to keep well and are finding yourselves in more established routines now. It has been wonderful to hear of some of the opportunities that some Year 13 students have been taking up from increasing their work experience where this has been possible, joining various clubs and associations and volunteering. This will all be hugely beneficial in terms of developing skills and building positive relationships for the future.

Many of you continue to be understandably anxious about A Level grades this summer and I want to again reassure you that we are currently in the process of collating these, following a stringent and fair process before forwarding these to the Department for Education. A reminder that results day will be Thursday 13th August. Please look out for further details from me of how these will be delivered this summer given the current pandemic situation. Between now and results day and without the academic pressures, it is a perfect opportunity for students to focus on their personal development. I recommend you make use of the resources on Frog and UniFrog which you will continue to have access too until the end of the year. In addition, I hope you have found the EtonX modules on CV writing and creative problem solving useful. These are certificated modules and completing them demonstrates a student's initiative and an interest in personal development, both attributes that universities and employers like to see. I would also encourage students to select and complete MOOCs. For those planning on enrolling on a university course this autumn, course leaders would always welcome enquiries about first year content which students could begin to read up on at their leisure.

To further support our Year 13 students, I am pleased to also be able to make available a holistic skills and wellbeing course developed for 16 to 25 year olds by Pantheon, an external organisation. Pantheon's sessions include a focus on an individual's goals, wellbeing to support these and networking skills, amongst other key personal development areas. I plan for these sessions to begin shortly after half term and will write to you once I have finalised all the details.

Finally, a reminder that although we may not be in the school building, we are all still contactable via email and contact from families and students is always welcome. Our contact details can be found on the school website [here](#).

**Mrs Ayres, Acting Head of Sixth Form**





## THE FUN FRIDAY CHALLENGE



The Fun Friday Challenge is a competition across the Greenshaw Learning Trust and varies from week to week, including creative challenges, problem solving activities, sports tasks, etc. The challenge is open to all years and teachers have also been sending in their attempts!

Each challenge is launched on our [website](#) and social media platforms at around midday on Friday, with just under a week for students to submit their best efforts before the 10.00am Thursday deadline.

Unless otherwise stated, all entries should be sent to [funfridaychallenge@greenshaw.co.uk](mailto:funfridaychallenge@greenshaw.co.uk) and each Friday the Greenshaw Learning Trust then shares a selection of its favourite responses for that week from the thousands of students and staff across the trust.

We are convinced it is crucially important to keep connected to our wider school community while we are all at home and support in keeping the mind stimulated beyond the confinements of the curriculum.

### Do you have what it takes?

*Just some of the entries we have had in recent challenges... make sure you join in the next one!*



## HEALTHY MIND, BODY AND SOUL

To help us navigate our way through this difficult time, we have tried to give some recommendations for how to try and keep a healthy mind, body and soul.

Each week we aim to provide guidance on a specific way we can look after ourselves and others, such as top tips on exercising, how to maintain a balanced diet, the importance of learning, etc.

Keep a look out for further information each Monday on the school website ([here](#)) and our social media platforms.





## SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Whilst Greenshaw High School has been closed, the staff and students have been supporting the local community in a number of different ways.

We have been supporting Sutton Community Kitchen, a local community group which has mobilised during the Covid-19 crisis to support the emergency services. They have been fundraising within the local community, collecting donations of food and money and asked to use the kitchen at Greenshaw High School to prepare hot meals for delivery where needed.

In the beginning, deliveries were made to St Helier Hospital and local police, fire and ambulance teams. This has now been extended to support Cobham and Sutton Council workers, Purley Hospital, Sutton Night Watch and other groups and individuals within the local community.

The volunteers from Sutton Community Kitchen have been supported from the outset by Mr Radu, Mr D'Abreu and Mr Bourshtetty. Several members of the school kitchen team have joined the volunteers to support their cause, enabling

them to focus on fundraising and delivering the meals to where they are needed.

Many of our students have also made an effort to reach out to others, especially the elderly and vulnerable. They sent thank you letters and posters to the staff and residents of a local care home, Orchard House. The manager wrote to the school extending her thanks:

“Thank you for thinking of us at this time and for showing us, so thoughtfully, that we are appreciated. We have fantastic staff who are dedicated to caring for our residents at all times, and especially in this crisis. We have had our fair share of challenges and some very sad moments during this time, as I expect many care homes are experiencing. We are encouraged and touched to know that you are all with us whilst we try to manage this pandemic and the effects on staff, residents, families and communities. Please give our love and hugs (if that’s allowed) to all your students and staff – thank you.”

We are very proud to be able to offer some support to our community in such difficult times.



## COMMEMORATING VE DAY



The history department was honoured to be asked to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2020.

We wanted to show how history is accessible to everyone: ordinary people can become historians by asking questions about important events and then recording their findings. However, with social distancing this was a little more challenging than usual!

We wish to thank Mrs Davis and Miss Tenwick for their wonderful interview, that enabled us to peer into the events of VE day 1945 first-hand. We would also like to thank all the staff and students who shared their memories of their own relatives, which is so important for those students who don't have their own connection to World War II. Hopefully our stories were a way for them to connect to the ordinary heroes of the past and remember them.





## REMOTE LEARNING AT GREENSHAW

### Year 7-9

Students are engaging well with the demands of the remote learning curriculum, with an average of 80% of students completing the lessons each day and keeping up to date with their platform learning too. We recognise the challenges of learning from home, so to have this level of engagement to date is terrific and testament to the support of our families. For Years 7 to 8, a religious studies lesson will be added to the curriculum after half term.

The lessons are the product of a collaboration of teachers across the Greenshaw Learning Trust, and as a consequence some of the topics are not always the ones that we would regularly expect to teach. Each lesson starts with a *Do Now* quiz, followed by a video explaining new ideas and concepts. The lesson ends with an exit ticket, which is designed to check whether the core ideas from the lesson have been understood or not.

As I'm sure you can appreciate, the demands of offering a remote curriculum at scale are considerable, particularly with two year groups sitting exams next year and an imminent return to school for the current Year 10. This means that we cannot really offer individual feedback or provide meaningful commentary on progress. After half term, however, we will be able to give you more regular updates on work completion rates.

One of the most important elements of the daily schedule is the reading and writing activity students complete each afternoon. Reading as much as possible is one of the best ways to keep learning and developing literacy and vocabulary skills. The written task is a good opportunity to be more creative, consolidate existing skills and play around with different styles and genres. We will be regularly sharing examples of great work after half term.

### Year 10

The Year 10 curriculum looks a little different to the other year groups, reflecting the importance of this period for students due to sit their exams next summer. Lessons follow a similar format to Years 7 to 9, though the video content is produced by our teachers to match the specific needs of our GCSE syllabi.

Levels of work completion are the highest for Year 10. Nearly 90% of students are completing the extended task each day, with similar figures for the Friday weekly assessments. This is really pleasing and demonstrates how seriously students are taking their studies. It is important this effort is consolidated in the *Daily Review* session, when students should be checking teacher feedback and filling any gaps in their learning.

The remote curriculum will continue after half term, whether students return to school or not, so that no one is disadvantaged and that we can maintain a system that has been working well. There will be a shift towards developing independent study skills, helping students to make better notes during lessons and learning a wider range of methods to consolidate that learning at home. This will ensure students are well prepared to meet the challenges of Year 11.

### Year 12

The vast majority of Year 12 students have been working extremely hard on the work set by them by their class teacher. Each week they complete their own short assessment, with their teacher giving them class or individual feedback. This approach will continue after half term, with the possibility for students of some kind of face contact with their teacher so that they know exactly what to work on over the coming months in readiness for September.

## LIFE AT SCHOOL UNDER LOCKDOWN



In addition to all the excellent home learning that has been taking place, we have a number of students that have been in school who are either some of our most vulnerable students or are the children of critical workers. They have been following the same timetable of home learning as the students at home, with a few additional activities in the afternoon, such as creating some pretty fabric hearts (pictured above) and other creative work.

What some of the students say about life at school in recent weeks:

*"Obviously, it would be hard to sit at a computer all day, so we've been competing in different activities. We are limited to certain places, but we have badminton and table tennis set up in the main hall and volleyball has also been popular. Another place we can go is the quad (a small green space outside the hall), where we can play catch or kick a ball about. Before half term we were allowed in the sports hall which had basketball hoops, and that was fun to play. These activities have provided us with a great way to burn our excess energy and keep us fit and healthy."*

*"We made a flower bed behind the astro turf to make that area more colourful."*

*"We watched videos of step by step origami and made animals. We did this at our tables in the SRC. We also played table tennis, volleyball and badminton in the main hall."*

*"Some of us have been participating in sewing with Mr Broniecki. We made bags and hats."*







# GREENSHAW NEWS

## KEY DATES

Summer half term	25th - 29th May
End of summer term	21st July

## STAFF CONTACTS

You can contact members of staff at Greenshaw High School via the school office at [info@greenshaw.co.uk](mailto:info@greenshaw.co.uk).  
 There is also a comprehensive list of staff email addresses on the our website here:  
<https://www.greenshaw.co.uk/page/?title=Staff+contactsandpid=106>

## JOIN US ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK!



You can find us on Twitter *@greenshawhigh*



Or find us on Facebook *@GreenshawHigh*

## AND DON'T FORGET THE GREENSHAW APP:

You can download it from the app store on your phone or tablet.

**If you or anyone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, help is available.**

**THE SUTTON PLAN**

**You are not alone.**

**NotAloneInSutton.org.uk**


Call free **0808 168 9291**\*


**\*Victim Support**  
(Mon - Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm)







## USEFUL INFORMATION


 Are you OK Greenshaw?




Do things feel like they're getting a bit much?  
Search 'Kooth'

Talking to a mental health expert anonymously online can help. Support is a click away. 

 Are you OK Greenshaw?



Do things feel like they're getting a bit much?  
Search 'Kooth'

Talking to a mental health expert anonymously online can help. Support is a click away. 

**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS KOOTH**

**HELPING TEENAGERS MANAGE THEIR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS IN THE CURRENT SITUATION**  
*Online Parent Workshop*

Are you struggling with ways to talk to your teenager?  
Are you struggling to understand your teenager's thoughts and feelings during this difficult time?  
Would you like some tips and strategies to help you support your teenager?

**IF YES, PLEASE JOIN US!**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 10am & 4pm  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 12:30pm & 4pm  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 12:30pm & 4pm  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 10am & 12:30pm  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 10am & 4pm

Email [SuttonCWP@swlstg.nhs.uk](mailto:SuttonCWP@swlstg.nhs.uk) for a link to the workshop



**Sutton Children's Wellbeing Service**   
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

**What should I do to prevent catching and spreading the virus?**



Wash hands frequently with soap and water or use a sanitiser gel



Catch coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues



Throw away used tissues (then wash hands)



If you don't have a tissue use your sleeve



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands



Avoid close contact with people who are unwell

