



Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

Issue 255 – 17th July 2020

A Huge Thank You to Hope Nottingham

When we look back on the last few months, there are many people to whom we have reason to be grateful. I think our staff have responded magnificently to the many and varied challenges they have faced, our students have shown maturity and resilience and our parents and families have been unstinting in their support. The importance of community has never been so clear.

Without doubt, among the most important partners has been Hope Nottingham. In the first few weeks after the vast majority of students had been asked to stay at home, we had the urgent task of ensuring that everyone who needed support with the basic necessities of life could access it. You will recall that at this time even getting to a supermarket was difficult and it was likely that shelves would be empty when you got there. Although there was a voucher scheme promised for those families whose children were entitled to free school meals, it was very slow in arriving and in the meantime we had to find urgent solutions.



This is where Hope stepped in. For those who had not been aware of their work, they are a very well-established Christian charity, working with local churches and community groups to serve those in need in neighbourhoods all around Nottingham. Hope House in Beeston has become a one-stop community support centre, working in partnership with many local agencies, to provide a place of trust and transformation for local people. Hope also supports many neighbourhood Foodbanks across the city, helping people out of crisis and directing people to life-changing support. They were therefore ideally placed to reach people in need in our local community.

At very short notice, they were able to start delivering food and basic necessities to families. The deliveries went well beyond what would be needed to give one child their school meal entitlement, providing support for the whole family. They were delivered to the door, allowing people to remain in their homes, reducing the risk of infection, whilst at the same time relieving the anxiety of knowing where the next meal was coming from.

When the voucher system finally kicked in, we continued to offer food deliveries to any families who wanted them, thanks to the partnership with Hope, and we have continued to do so throughout the crisis. We know what a lifeline this has been to so many people, and it would not have been possible without their amazing work.

On behalf of everyone in our Trust, we would like to say thank you to everyone involved with Hope Nottingham for their unstinting work to support our families. One way we want to do this is by raising funds to support their ongoing work and so we have focused on some of the things that have been the themes of lockdown for many of our staff and students. You may have seen lots of the photographs that have appeared regularly in our Newsletter from the Bramcote College photography students, or heard the wonderful performances of the Alderman White Stay at Home Choir.

We have put together a special collection of Lockdown Images and recorded a unique performance by the Stay at Home Choir by students and staff across the Trust, and we would like to invite you to enjoy them and make a small donation on our website: whptrust.org/hope

Every penny raised will go to support the vital work of Hope Nottingham with vulnerable families, and will be a testament to the lasting partnership we have formed.

Paul Heery
Chief Executive Officer

Alderman White Virtual Graduation Awards

As the school year draws to a close, we would normally be gathering in the hall to celebrate our students' many successes. Such large events are of course not possible for the time being so we shall use part of our tutor-time next week to reflect on the year and to share our many achievements despite or indeed, in some cases, as a result of the pandemic. All students will receive a virtual graduation certificate in recognition of the year's many challenges and the ways they have coped with lockdown. We are all very proud of the way in which our students have dealt with the crisis and the resilience and adaptability they have shown. It is also easy to forget that we had one and a half terms of 'normal' school during which the usual programme of activities, events and trips took place. As we look back at this most challenging of years and prepare for a return to school in September it is good to re-focus and remember some of the earlier highlights of the year as well as some of the remarkable achievements which have occurred during lockdown. Students have been busy completing virtual graduation-forms and it very humbling to read about all their activities during this period, from learning new skills to helping neighbours and raising extraordinary sums of money for charity. These awards are our way of saying thank you to our school community for showing such courage and determination during these most challenging of times.

Mr K Stephan

Alderman White Class of 2020

Please enjoy the Alderman White staff video to celebrate our Year 11 leavers.

If it's too cringeworthy or 'cheesy' for you...our work is done!

Available on the Alderman White Youtube channel:

[youtube.com/watch?v=2wYvpmB5XtY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wYvpmB5XtY)

You are all heroes. Goodbye and good luck!

Ms G Friend



Lockdown Gallery

A sneak preview of the Lockdown Gallery students, staff and friends across the Trust have put together to raise funds for Hope Nottingham. 169 amazing images recording how we've filled our time during lockdown (including a fab late submission from Mr Morton, who appears to have climbed high enough to be above a rainbow!)



#StayAtHome Cabaret - AW's first virtual production launches tonight!

If the audience cannot come to the Cabaret, then we'll bring the Cabaret to the audience! Absolutely nothing could stop a cast of over 40 students from Alderman White from producing their summer show! For over two months, the cast have been rehearsing at home, recording sketches, songs and dances in the true spirit of 'the show must go on'. Despite all the technical issues from people suddenly disappearing as their internet connection dropped, to unplanned sound-effects and younger siblings making an unscripted entrance, we have a really great show, bristling with talent, underpinned by Geoff Liptrot's sparkling, highly topical sketches and Mr Wedgeworth's superb musical arrangements and brilliant editing.

Please tune in to the live broadcast tonight on the AW YouTube channel at 8pm - I think you will be amazed! The second half will be screened tomorrow night at the same time.

aldermanwhite.school/youtube

8pm, Friday 17th and Saturday 18th July.

Mr K Stephan

Alderman White Theatre Company presents...

#STAYATHOME 

CABARET

A 2-part music and comedy special set to be the virtual hit of the summer!

PREMIERED ON
YOUTUBE

IN TWO 1-HOUR SERVINGS

PART 1 **FRI 17TH JULY, 8PM**

PART 2 **SAT 18TH JULY, 8PM**

aldermanwhite.school/youtube

Staying Connected

Thank you to all of the Year 7 and 8 Bramcote College students who have kept in touch via email and SharePoint over the closure period. It has been a pleasure to read your work, share your ideas and hear about the books you have been reading. This week, year 8 have looked at Micro-Poetry which, like the original Tweet, was 140 characters long. Here are two examples that stand out and made us smile...and nod in agreement!

*My lovely long garden
with sunshine dappled everywhere,
there are colourful butterflies and pretty flowers
dotted here and there.*

By Grace in Year 8, BC

*Sitting at home doing nothing
As we watch the world go by
The days are going past so quick
How is it already July?*

By Anna in Year 8, BC

Thank you to all the Year 9 and 10 students who have sent in fantastic work or just kept in touch using Teams. Year 9 this week have shared their lockdown challenges and how they overcame them. Many wrote about disturbed sleep, anxious feelings and missing friends. On a positive note, they overcame these challenges by exercising, reading, listening to music and keeping in touch with friends via social media. We looked at the poem 'Don't Quit' by the populist poet Edgar Guest, made famous by the BBC and read by Idris Elba at the height of the pandemic. The last stanza still inspires after a hundred years because it is true.

*Success is failure turned inside out –
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
You can never tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit –
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.*

Now, more than ever, the spoken and written word is our most important tool in staying connected, keeping healthy and being kind. Thank you again to our students.

Team English at Bramcote College