

# CONNECTING WITH ERDINGTON

## HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE

During this difficult and testing time we remain determined to continue to enable all EA students to have access to their curriculum and to maintain certain opportunities for learning and exploration.

Watching the news regularly, it amazes me how much the subjects in my faculty of Design and Performance are more relevant than ever during this pandemic; artwork inspired by the NHS heroes, manufacturing industries diversifying to create PPE, food donations and cooking recipes using what's left in your fridge, collaborative music and singing across the globe and the increased number of people walking and exercising. Humans can be incredibly creative in the face of a crisis.

Staff have continued to set appropriate, accessible activities for students to complete utilising our online platform SMHW. In the month of March alone almost 2,000 pieces of work were set for students. Staff have been extremely creative in their approach and are receiving fantastic work back from the students. A student, in Year 9, is very good at emailing her teachers her completed work and staying really organised with the different tasks set. This will put her in a good position when everyone returns to school. Tutors are also acquiring exemplar work for display and to share experiences with their groups once we return to school.

Some of the many mentionable examples I would like to highlight and thank are:

- Miss Roberts has been tirelessly working to ensure the site is accessible to all stakeholders, monitors usage and has created various documents and helpful video tuition web links to guide staff with SMHW plans moving forward.
- Drama have been setting creative challenges for classes with a competitive streak to motivate the students further.
- Ms Davis has ensured that our HPA students continue to receive an additional layer of challenge and support within their learning and has arranged for 1:1 remote mentoring through the Coach Bright Scheme.
- The English team have encouraged students to enter Orwell's Prize, an external writing competition to keep the creativity flowing.
- The Pastoral Team have also established a series of House competitions to challenge students further, whilst encouraging some fun and excitement.
- The staff that have contacted me to ask if they can volunteer for the NHS, charities or religious groups and all the staff coming in and going above the expected to keep the student's engagement and wellbeing a priority in these exceptional and challenging times.
- Finally, the Science Department who donated over 200 aprons, 500 Gloves and 17 pairs of Goggles to two of our local care homes who have found it increasingly difficult to access PPE equipment.

It is always a real honour to be part of Erdington Academy.

**MR S MALLET, HEAD OF ACADEMY**

