Head of Sixth Form’s Welcome

We have released a statement about the tragic death of George Floyd. The statement is available to read here. In more normal circumstances we would have the opportunity to talk about this with students in person. If any student would like to talk about this with us please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Sixth Form team.

I have written to families explaining the next steps in our re-opening plans. The letter is available here. Please familiarise yourselves with the details. A parent handbook will be shared this week with more information. We are really looking forward to welcoming our Year 12 students back on site.

With best wishes

Ms Alibhai
Vice Principal and Head of Sixth Form

Opportunities Still On Offer…

During lockdown, and even with lockdown easing, we know that there are activities you could have been doing and lectures you might have attended which are all now cancelled. However, we are also aware that there are opportunities to continue learning about so many things, some of which you can access for free now only because of Lockdown: Super-curricular courses with organisations like FutureLearn; work experience with FTSE 100 companies through organisations like Young Professionals; prep for uni entrance exams; university webinars and taster courses and, in addition, courses/workshops that are just interesting and stimulating for you though unrelated to academic interests or future ambitions. These are posted on Edmodo either on the main page, or in the special interest small groups Ms Joy has set up, or put into the Folders which you need to access for yourselves via the main page.

I know that there are times you must feel I do nothing but post messages on Edmodo, nevertheless, can I strongly encourage you to at least skim read the posts and also check the Folders (possibly even just once a week) to ensure that you don’t miss out on one of the numerous fantastic opportunities out there.

Ms Joy
Sixth Form Study Centre Supervisor and Information, Advice and Guidance Advisor
Sixth Form Shout-Outs

We asked staff to share some of the great BRIDGES habits shown by our students this week. This is what they have said:

**Zain Raza (12 Newcastle):** For his super insightful writeup about his work with PwC which was sent without prompting or reminding. Thank you Zain. Ms. Joy thinks you’re terrific!

**Jainna Bhalla (12 Newcastle):** She has secured a place on the Keystone University Programme this summer. A number of Project Oxbridge students from across the network applied and she has been the only one to secure a place, so she has done very well. It should be a great opportunity – we hope she enjoys it!

**Iman Latif (12 Manchester):** For being accepted onto the Sutton Trust summer school at the Royal Veterinary College

**Marwa Gheedan (12 LSE):** For being accepted onto the Sutton Trust summer school at the University of St Andrews. This year Sutton Trust received over 13,500 applications for less than 3,000 places on our UK Summer Schools. Marwa did extremely well to be selected onto such a competitive placement at a well-regarded university. We hope you enjoy your experience and look forward to hearing all about it! Well done!

**Matthew Afsar (12 Kingston):** For excellent engagement with Geography remote learning.

**Femi Adesuyi (12 Kingston):** For excellent engagement with half-term IL on UCAS planning and preparation.

**Avinash Desai (12 UEL):** For excellent all-round engagement with remote learning and maintaining high spirits

**Ishaaq Ali** - For his hard work in Geography and keeping up with all the learning including sending green pen action during half-term.

Safeguarding

The welfare and safety of our students is our priority. We do everything possible to ensure our students’ safety, both within the school community and outside of school, including working with relevant agencies to address any issues related to child protection.

Students are informed of who they should go to should they have a concern about their own safety or the safety of others.

At INA, all staff have regular safeguarding training to ensure that they are able to meet their statutory responsibilities. We also have a number of staff who are designated to respond to any child protection concerns and to liaise with social services (please view the safeguarding page on our website here.)

**DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL)**

Leanne Abbott-Jones - Vice Principal

You can find the INA Safeguarding policy, Child Protection policy and other related policies and procedures on the Academy’s website. Email: safeguarding@isaacnewtonacademy.org
Dear sixth formers,

We hope you and your families remain safe and well.

It’s now been over two months since school closure and while we could dwell on what we’ve been deprived of during this time, it’s better that we take stock of what we have – hopefully our health and the support of family, friends and of course teachers. Though it’s certainly been difficult, this period has encouraged us to: develop techniques for mental resilience; self-motivate and self-regulate; connect safely with others; realise the importance of physical exercise, to name a few. Often, it’s when we are pushed out of our comfort zone that we tend to learn and grow the most and discover strengths we didn’t know we had. So, as lockdown measures begin to ease, we trust that you can reflect on some positive aspects of lockdown, but more importantly, that you can start to feel optimistic about the future once again!

For Year 13, as we enter our final half-term of this academic year, we edge closer to a time when we will bid you a fond farewell. In the meantime, we aim to continue with our weekly well-being calls for now; however, once these cease we urge you to stay active on Edmodo and reach out if you need us – you’ll always be valued members of the INA community! As to our special virtual BRIDGES celebration, we are looking forward to hosting this event in a couple of weeks to recognise and celebrate your successes over the past two years – specific details will follow shortly.

For Year 12, we hope you had a restful half-term break and are buoyed by the imminent re-opening of school. As from the 15th June, we’ll be starting with two weeks of academic mentoring and you’ll be receiving further communication about the details separately. This will be an opportunity for us to re-connect and for you to reflect on your progress with remote learning and discuss your priorities going forward. In readiness for this it’s essential that the following IL tasks are up-to-date:

- Spring ‘Progression from KS5’ form submitted via Google Forms
- Draft of sections 1 & 2 of UCAS Personal Statement completed on Unifrog

We know the vast majority of you remain on-track, having engaged well with remote learning and other tasks. In doing so you’ve set yourselves up nicely to be able to ‘hit the ground running’ once ‘normal’ proceedings resume. For others, you must re-commit to your studies, now that a return to school is in sight.

Some final thoughts:
The Coronavirus may be with us for some time and as yet we can only speculate as to its long-term effects on the educational outcomes of students from all sections of society. It’s fair to say that it has certainly created a divide in the educational experiences of some students from state schools, although we are confident that at INA we have minimised this impact. That said, it would be naïve to sweep this issue under the carpet; instead we must counter it with renewed energy and ambition! We urge you all to keep sight of your long-term goals and perhaps take some inspiration from those who have suffered hardship and triumphed – Youtuber Ibz Mo is a case in point: 
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-48839292

…and here are some top tips he recommends for studying remotely:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z77svk7

Best wishes from the Sixth Form Team!
From 18 to 22 May, I took part in a Virtual Insight Week programme run by PwC. The beginning of the week involved me being introduced to the different areas the company specialises in, from audit to risk assurance to technology. A mixture of live and recorded sessions helped me to get acquainted with the company, their identity and their ethos, and the different aspects of work they specialise in with their clients. Ambassadors from each branch of the firm gave us an insight into their work and shared their personal stories with PwC.

Later in the week, I got to spend time completing tasks in the different areas that the company specialises in. For example, I gained some practice working as an auditor, conducting stock counts for various fictional companies. I was given a virtual handbook which contained many activities and exercises for me to complete, all of which would give me an idea of the work undertaken at PwC.

The week finished with a series of live sessions where ambassadors advertised opportunities available to students at PwC. The best thing about the programme was how interactive and inclusive it was. I gained a good perspective of the different areas of work that PwC are involved in with their clients; what it is like to carry out work with the company; and finally the many opportunities that PwC offers to students.

Zain (Year 12)