



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:
01782 987150

Blackfriars Bulletin

Volume 6 Issue 12



I hope that everyone has enjoyed a good rest over the Easter holidays and managed to get some time outdoors in gardens or locally, the weather has been absolutely beautiful and I have enjoyed hearing about how staff and students have been gardening, exercising in their yards, camping out in their gardens, barbequing and even meditating outside. Mrs Probyn, who used to run relaxation classes in school thoroughly recommends Headspace as an app to aid meditation <https://www.headspace.com/studentplan>.

In these very difficult times it is important that we keep both our minds and our bodies as healthy as possible. This is why the government have reviewed their guidance for people with learning disabilities or autism who can now leave the house for exercise more than once a day and can travel outside of their local area under current lockdown measures. The guidance, which had previously stated that non-essential workers should only leave their homes once a day for exercise or to shop for basic necessities, was amended on Wednesday (15/04/20). Further information can be found at <https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/media-centre/news/2020-04-09-guidance-on-exercise-coronavirus.aspx> or read the Guardian article via a link on the school website.

Scholar of the week

Kieron In O'Cliff for smiling on through, despite missing school

The Government guidance for vulnerable children remains the same in terms of whether they should remain at home or attend school:

Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

In line with this guidance, if parents/ carers believe that their child cannot remain safely at home, we will, alongside you, make a risk assessment for each child or young person. In doing so, we would need to consider a number of different risks to each individual, including:

- the potential health risks to the individual from COVID-19, bearing in mind any underlying health conditions. This must be on an individual basis with advice from an appropriate health professional where required
- the risk to the individual if some or all elements of their EHC plan cannot be delivered at all, and the risk if they cannot be delivered in the normal manner or in the usual setting
- the ability of the individual's parents or home to ensure their health and care needs can be met safely

Safeguarding Contact Information

Staffordshire

First Response :
0800 1313 126
Outside office hours:
0845 6042886

Stoke-on-Trent

Advice and Referral Team:
01782 235100
Outside office hours:
01782 234234

Cheshire East

Referral Team :
0300 123 5012 Option 2
Outside office hours:

Shropshire

Referral Team:
01743 254 259
Initial Contact Team:
0345 678 9021
Outside office hours:
0345 678 9040

Adult Safeguarding referral numbers

Staffordshire: First Response –
0845 604 2719

Stoke on Trent: Adult Social Care –
0800 561 0015

- the potential impact to the individual's wellbeing of changes to routine or the way in which provision is delivered – this is a very important element for our children. We appreciate that many of them miss school and want to return, but what they would be returning to is not 'normal' school – class mates would not be there, teams of staff would need to rotate so they would be with unfamiliar staff some of the time and the usual routines cannot be maintained because there would be such small numbers of children.

But if you have any further queries or want to request that we undertake this process, please do not hesitate to get in touch to discuss further by ringing school – 01782 987151 or emailing admin@blackfriars.shaw-education.org.uk and we can discuss how we move forwards.

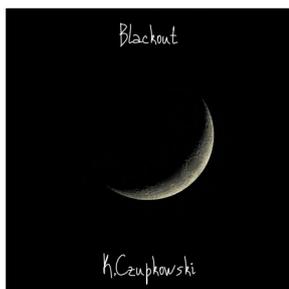
Whilst we have all been working and playing at home, some of our students have been extremely creative and have really started to get to grips with technology. One of our Year 11 students has been working on the skills he started to develop with his guitar teacher who comes into school once a week to tutor him. Kor sent me a recording of his song (You too can listen to it on our website) and I was intrigued. Over email, he told me all about how he got into music:

"My Journey of music....."

I started my music career on the 21st of February 2015. I started learning how to play the piano in primary school (St. Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery). I wasn't fond of the piano, but I still learnt how to play it. Eventually I went to high school (St Thomas More Catholic School, Crewe) and I left my music behind and I thought about what I should do next. Everything was difficult and it was stressful. Because I had learnt how to play the piano, I went to a music class. They were teaching me how to play the piano, I didn't know how to play anymore, so they kicked me out of the music class because they thought I wasn't interested in it. So, let's go to 2016 when I first joined Blackfriars. It's a small school but it is a very lovely place. One of the first subjects I did was music with Mrs. Jones, but she left. A few weeks later, I thought to myself *I want to do music*. Music is another way to release your stress and anger. It's like writing a story but in musical notes. When I met Mrs. Owen, she helped me with my music by helping me set up school concerts and playing guitar with her in performing arts. But then she left as well. But that's how my journey of music started.

I want to study music in Cheshire College south & west because that's what I like to do educationally and in my spare time. I hope I do well there in the next academic year.

So how was "Blackout" made?



James Phillips and I were having a guitar lesson and I told him I wanted to make a song. I showed him what I created and asked for advice. He corrected me, showed me how to play them in a more sophisticated way. Eventually I was learning how to play it and it was difficult, but I still got there. We were choosing what will be done next and worked hard together. James did half of the song and I did half. That's how I knew my song would work. I started the song in January. The song's name came as an idea after the whole coronavirus came because I knew we must all be in lockdown. So, the name *Blackout* is because I am in locked up in my house in the dark, I don't have the right to go outside and everything is a mess right now. There is more to come...." Well done Kor, we look forward to

hearing more of your music in future – hopefully live in the school hall.

Child Death Prevention Newsletter...Important advice for parents during coronavirus
visit the homepage of our website to view the advice



Also to be congratulated is Megan – before Lock-down, Megan took her music and horse riding exams and passed both. When I spoke to Meg, she said that she started doing singing lessons 2 years ago but I was singing before that. Her grade 5 exam was her first graded music exam She is also taking ukulele lessons alongside my singing to help me learn more music related skills (my ukulele is pink and is called Marlene). We have a set of donated Ukuleles from the Newport Ukulele Society and are hoping that after shut down ends, more students will be able to join Meg in playing.

