



May 2020

Dear Parents

Since we've arrived at the mid-point in another term, I thought we'd have a stock-take of the things we should be proud of as an Academy and community:

- We've seen extraordinary resourcefulness and resilience from so many people across the Academy and our community – all quickly adapting to the implications of lockdown through ensuring students have access to online resources, food vouchers and breakfast parcels; sharing positive messages; staying in touch with each other and the community.
- We've seen our staff show determination to ensure that all of our young people come through these strange times as unscathed as possible – hence all those phone calls and emails of reassurance.
- We've seen an absolute commitment to our young people classed as key worker children or vulnerable as we have remained open throughout the lockdown to support them.
- We've seen our teachers work with huge integrity and characteristic dedication to navigate the difficult processes of arriving at GCSE & Btec grades for a range of subjects for our Year 11 students. This, as you can imagine, is a complex, fraught process but the commitment to doing the right thing on behalf of each one of all of our Year 11 students is demonstrable.

Just to reassure you, we are all still here working hard from home and meeting up every Monday as well as other scheduled team meetings throughout the week.



### Year 9 Choices Letter

After half term we will be preparing and sending out the Year 9 choices letters.

### Secondary Reopening for Year 10

As I said in my letter last week, it would appear, but is not confirmed, that we are very unlikely to see the students of **Years 7, 8 & 9** before the end of the summer term; we will continue to maintain an online educational experience for these students while safeguarding their wellbeing.

The government has advised schools to offer some face to face support for Year 10 students in a phased reopening. We are committed to offering provision as soon as it is safe to do so but need to prepare for this in a measured way. As you know I have been working with the other Chesil headteachers and we feel that it will be most helpful for our area, that we work together so that the wider community has a consistent message. I ask for your continued patience as we consider all of the implications and, of course, I will inform you of our plans as soon as possible. I would like to reassure you that we will continue to provide the best possible education for your children while operating under the current restrictions.

### Half Term

Finally, I would like to wish everyone, staff, students, parents and the wider community of Portland, a happy half term. In order to recharge ready for the second half term, we will not be setting any work on google classroom and there is no expectation to complete homework during this time. I hope everyone in our school community is well and that you have managed to take advantage of the slightly broader opportunities to get outside and take exercise. The current situation has reminded me how schools function as social institutions, and that as well as good learning, our students benefit from the sense of community, with friends and staff looking out for their wellbeing. Stay safe.

*Mrs Bishop*



## Portland Youth Town Council



On Friday 3rd of April, all students from Years 5 - 11 took part in an online election of 15 youth councillors to represent young people on Portland for the very first Youth Town Council. Sue Cocking, the current Portland Mayor, has been instrumental in driving this important initiative forward. You can read the [Dorset Echo story here](#).

## Brilliant Club

Congratulations to **Sol Ashe, Maia Hendrie, Sidney Gray, Hallie Bird, Joe Powney, Saskia McGee, Alex Short, Jacob Dukes, Amy Pommells, Jade Hill, Kira Morrison and Eric Lenz** who completed their university style course through The Brilliant Club. The students submitted their final 3,000 word essay in March. The 12 students performed fantastically well achieving a 2:2 or above. A huge congratulations to all students for handing in their assignments and for doing so well. You have truly represented the Academy in the highest regard. We are very proud of you for the character and commitment you have demonstrated.



**The Portland Resilience Committee** is co-ordinating a local community response on Portland to the COVID-19 pandemic. It comprises representatives of Portland's Dorset Councillors, Portland Town Council, Island Community Action and churches (including the Foodbank) and liaises closely with Dorset Council and other authorities.

**Portland Foodbank**- provides food and other essential supplies for people in need. Open Tuesday & Friday 9.30am - 11.30am at St John's Church Hall, Ventnor Road, Fortuneswell. Food deliveries may also be possible. Please email [portlandfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:portlandfoodbank@gmail.com) call 07913 170495 for more information.

**Listening Helpline**- Are you finding things difficult? Would you like someone to speak to? The Portland

## Our Wonderful NHS Workers - Thank you!

**Thank you to all of our wonderful key workers keeping the country going!**

Faith and Paige's dad has been working hard to ensure farmers have animal food, hay and resources during difficult times.

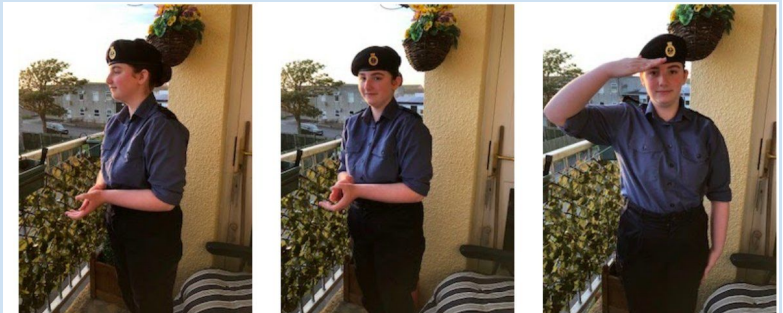
Iris' nannie is an NHS worker and Iris is looking forward to giving her a massive hug

**Thank you to all of our wonderful key workers keeping the country going!**

This is my best friend Kara and her sister Dana. Kara works for a food delivery company providing food to nursing homes and the vulnerable. Dana is a radiographer at Poole hospital. Both are working so hard to keep everyone safe and I am so proud of them both [@karastone1](#)

Mrs Russell's sister and Dylan's aunty, Hayley Green is a nurse at the Portland surgery and out in the community.

## Jennifer Lay proud to clap for the NHS



**Childline**- a free, private and confidential service for children where you can talk about anything. 0800 1111 (9am-midnight) or [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk).

**Money matters**- Martin Lewis provides up to date financial information about COVID-19 on [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com). The information covers mortgages, wages, council tax, utilities and more.

**Citizens Advice Bureau** continues to provide support to people in Dorset who need advice in these difficult times. Free, independent and confidential advice and information whatever your question. We offer a full range of advice including help with:

- Benefits entitlement and claims
- Debt management and budgeting



Listening Helpline is operated by the churches of Portland and is here to listen, and if you wish, pray for you. Please call 07928 829780. Open 4pm-10pm daily.

### Domestic Abuse Helpline

Any help needed with domestic abuse queries for male, female or LGBT, phone in confidence the free answerphone service on 0800 032 5204. In an emergency, please phone 999.

### Helplines for you -

#### Students

- Childline / NSPCC 08001111 This is for 18's and under.
- [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk) - mental health and wellbeing.
- [www.dorsetmind.uk](http://www.dorsetmind.uk) - local support.
- Kooth.com - online support for young people.

#### Parents

- CHAD - 01305 228866
- NSPCC parent helpline - 08088005000

• Employment advice including Statutory Sick Pay and rights when laid off work

• Advice for the self employed.

We are open to help by phone: 0344 411 1444 or online: [www.westdorsetca.org.uk](http://www.westdorsetca.org.uk).

### Supporting your child's wellbeing

You might be noticing signs of increasing anxiety in your child as they are spending more time indoors and outside of their normal routines. These might include:

- Regressing to behaviours they've outgrown, such as thumb-sucking or bed-wetting
- Showing greater fear at being separated from you
- Tantrums
- Trouble sleeping.

If you have any concerns about how your child is coping, or you need any other support from the school, please let us through the relevant contact form via our [website](#).

### Times Tables Rockstars Top students by Year

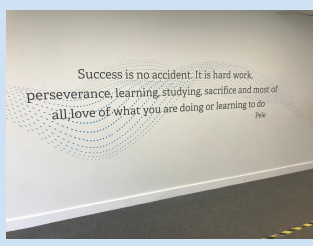
Top 10 students for engagement in Years 7 - 9		
Ruby	Saqlain	7
Oakley	Harvell	7
Jensen	Scott-Wilkins	7
Hayden	Burrows	7
Riley	Pomeroy	8
Faith	Taylor	8
Finlay	Pomeroy	9
Caitlin	Lane	9
Joshua	Pepper	9
Elliott	Rowbotham	9

Top 10 students for engagement in Year 10	
Aaron	Griffin
Marylou	Orchard
George	Wilding
Hallie	Bird
Jacob	Dukes
Eric	Lenz
Ben	Rodmell
Skye	Pearce
Samuel	Downton
Chris	Jones

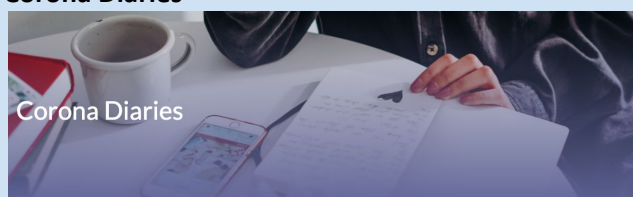
### Positive Points

Tutor Group Positive points		Top 10 Students	
7B	11137	Armos, Rebecca	888
7G	10676	Belcher, Ronnie	611
7O	8788	Holt, Harley	590
8G	8197	Hiscocks, Amelie	552
8B	6173	Harvell, Oakley	550
8O	6054	Powney, Benjamin	513
9O	5286	Evans, Sophie	512
11O	5137	Wraight, Jonathan	511
10O	4700	Newton, Emilia	509
9G	4495	Houston, Aria	501
10B	4495		
9B	4125		
10G	3805		
11B	3152		
11G	2826		

Here are some photos of the Academy in case you are missing us and as a reminder of our fantastic facilities that will be here ready for your return!



## Corona Diaries



Atlantic Academy is working in partnership with the Dorset Heritage Centre. A county-wide diary project is being launched to make sure that our experiences during the lockdown are captured for posterity.

Dorset diarists from different ages and backgrounds are going to contribute a 'Corona Diary' to the county's archive collections and this is your chance to be part of that.

Your lockdown diaries can be in any format:

- handwritten
- typed
- audio-visual recordings
- art works
- photographs

Contributors should complete a diary entry every day. Please contact Mr Dawson if you want to start this project or if have already been writing a diary.

[adawson@atlantic-aspiraitons.org](mailto:adawson@atlantic-aspiraitons.org)

## Testimonials

Mr Dawson has been finding out what some of our parents think of Atlantic Academy. It has been wonderful to hear all the positive comments and how much support we have from our parents and community. If you would like to help us get the message out to the wider community and are happy to give us a short statement with your name and photo that we can publish on our website/ social media sites, please contact

Mr Dawson at [adawson@atlantic-aspiraitons.org](mailto:adawson@atlantic-aspiraitons.org)

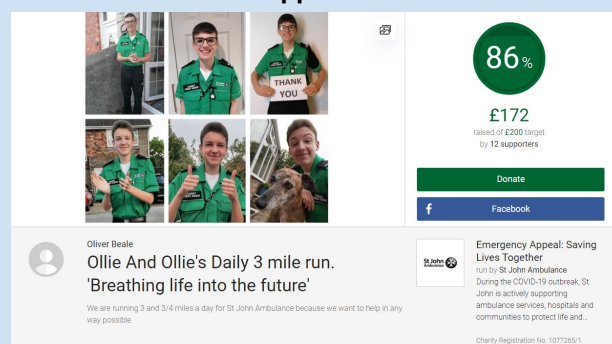
## Reward for total commitment



Although we have been immensely proud of all of our students and the way they have transitioned to home learning, there have been a couple of students who have been truly outstanding in their application, commitment and hard work. One of these secondary students is Rebecca Amos. Here she is receiving her

WHSmith book tokens after working really creatively throughout the Easter break.

## Over £500 raised to support St John Ambulance



**Ollie Cook and Ollie Beale** are both St. John Ambulance cadets. They are also Cadet First Aiders and representatives of Dorset District Youth Forum. They are both incredibly passionate about the St John Ambulance charity and are aspiring paramedics. Beginning from the 30th of April, they ran almost 4 miles everyday to raise money for the St John Ambulance charity, thereby working side by side with our awesome NHS during these difficult times. They both wanted to make an impact as just a little bit of money can make the difference between a life saved and a life lost. Over the course of their fundraising they ran the equivalent of the London Marathon every week all with the aim of giving St John Ambulance the support it fully deserves! Their efforts have resulted in over £500 going to the charity - truly inspiring.



**Guard your privacy and do not give out personal information.**



Remember there are dangers that you need to be alert to when you are using the internet.

Be aware that there are dangerous aspects of the internet, like;

- Grooming
- Trolls
- Cyber bullying
- People who want to exploit and use you.

If you have any worries about online activity, please contact your tutor.

## Duke of Edinburgh Award



Congratulations to Year 9 student Elliot Rowbotham for gaining his Bronze Award in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. The award carries with it considerable status and has been completed by young people all over our country since it was first launched in 1956. The bronze award is the first stage in a three fold process which culminates in a gold award. Each level of the scheme is extremely demanding and entails young people completing tasks linked to volunteering and service to others, a physical challenge, the development of practical, social and personal skills, and, finally, the completion of an expedition or adventurous journey. Elliot deserves considerable praise for his achievement.

## Art Work

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been doing some fantastic work on their Art Challenge mats!



## Well being and our Challenge Mat

Atlantic Academy looks after the emotional well being of its secondary students, in parallel with their academic needs, by providing fun and engaging challenges throughout their daily timetable. Getting the balance right between intellectual and emotional health is an important life skill and our new timetables have prioritised this balance for our students.

## Personal Development and Well Being

Each week our tutor time programme has supported all of our secondary students in taking a little bit of time to reflect on how they are developing as people during these challenging times.

Self awareness is a key ingredient in good emotional and mental health. By encouraging all of our students to regularly reflect on their successes, and the things they have found challenging,





## Rotary Club



The Academy would like to thank Portland's Rotary Club for all of the enormous support that its members gave to Tom Davey on his recent leadership course. Tom fed back to the Rotary Club last month and outlined the significant impact that going on the outward bound course had on him. Tom's high quality online presentation will be used to inspire future young leaders to take up similar challenges.

## Free School Meals

During these uncertain times, we understand that people may need a little more help than normal. If you think that you might be eligible for free school meals, follow the link below - it only takes a few minutes. As it is instant, you will be able to qualify for a £15/week per child food voucher every week during lockdown as well as a fortnightly breakfast delivery. <https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-trainingschools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.asp>



## Quiz time every Friday @ 5pm

Don't forget to join us on Friday at 5pm for our weekly quiz. Simply log on to <http://myquiz.org> and enter the code to join in the fun!

Thank you to the 51 families who joined us for this week's quiz - our best turn out so far! Well done to the top 10.



## Healthy Living Ambassadors

Atlantic Academy Portland  
proudly part of  
**ASPIRATIONS**  
Inspiring our students to have confidence, character and commitment

Are you interested in?

- Art & Design
- Physical activity
- Healthy eating
- Mental wellbeing

If so then apply to be one of our first healthy living ambassadors.

How to apply

Record a short video or Google Doc with the following points:

- What subject area you are interested in
- One idea you have to promote healthy living.

Send applications to: Mr Randell

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural

Character Confidence Commitment

**ASPIRATIONS**

The Healthy Living Ambassador scheme promotes general well being and healthy living and is part of a national programme to support young people being able to get the most out of life and help their peers to do likewise. Interested students are encouraged to apply to Mr Randell.



## FSM Fortnightly Breakfast Delivery

Message from one of our parents regarding our breakfast deliveries and vouchers: "I just wanted to say thank you guys for the help with vouchers and the breakfast bits." Thank you to @magic\_breakfast for the support with this much needed service!



## Well Being - Keeping in touch call



Each week a member of the Academy's staff will be calling home to check in with our students during these difficult times. If you are experiencing concerns or issues, this might be a time when you can speak to a trusted adult and seek some additional support. We are all in this together.



This should have come through your door during the FSM deliveries from some of our Primary students:



Sharing **positivity** with our local **community**



**Atlantic Academy Portland**  
an Aspirations Academy

