

# Atlantic Academy Secondary

## Newsletter



### Developing Character, Confidence and Commitment

December 2020

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of a very busy and successful term, despite these uncertain times, there is so much for us to celebrate and be proud of. We continue to be incredibly impressed with the enthusiasm, hard work and compassion of all the students who work hard to develop our key values of Character (Self worth), Commitment (Engagement) and Confidence (Purpose). Our students really are the heart of the school.



#### Staffing Update:



We have been very fortunate to be able to develop our pastoral team and there have been two internal appointments this term:

- *Mr Randell*: Associate Head of Year 8
- *Miss Rolph*: Associate Head of Year 10

**Congratulations to Miss Cornell, Head of Year 7**, who had her baby during half term and has begun her maternity leave.



As part of the ICA Advent Angels initiative, the amazing staff of Atlantic Academy Portland were **nominated 7 times by the community for their hard work and commitment to our students**. We won and were rewarded with 2 cakes and a box of chocolates.



#### Contact Information

Thank you for continuing to keep up to date with all that goes on at the Academy through our Twitter and Facebook pages. Should you need to contact us for any reason related specifically to your child, please do make the contact form on the website your first port of call. Contact forms go directly and immediately to the staff team that works with your child in their Faculty and Year Group so any issue will be picked up swiftly. We aim to respond to / acknowledge any correspondence within 24 hours in the first instance.

At the end of November, the Northern Powerhouse, in partnership with Bristol University, published the Fairer Schools Index. This Index takes into account a range of key pupil factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, special educational needs, free school meal eligibility, and whether English is not a first language. This enables a direct comparison between how a school is performing based on the Government's current Progress 8 measures and where the school appears in the league table once pupil background is taken into consideration. This year this portal also includes, for the first time, data covering persistent absence and exclusions.

As well as identifying **Atlantic Academy as the top co-educational school in the county**, it also ranks the school **182th out of 3,195 schools nationwide** putting us in the **top 6% of schools nationally!** I am proud of this recognition as it shows how much progress we can make as parents, students and school staff working together. Thank you for your continued support.

After a full and successful Autumn term, we will break up for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 18th when the school will close at 3.05pm. We wish your family a restful and enjoyable festive season and wish you good tidings for the New Year. Please remember that our new term begins for Staff on Monday 4th January and all students on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Merry Christmas! *Mrs Bishop*

#### Key Dates coming up

##### January

**INSET Day:** Monday 4th January

All year groups return: Tuesday 5th January

##### 2021 Spring term:

Monday 4th January to Thursday 1st April

##### February

• 9th Feb - Y9 Virtual Choices Eve

• 24th Feb - Y11 Virtual Progress Eve

##### 2021 February Spring half term:

Monday 15th February – Friday 19th

##### March

• 18th Mar - Y6 Virtual Parents' Eve

• 25th Mar-Y10 Virtual Parents' Eve

• 30th Mar - Y7 Virtual Parents' Eve

#### TERM DATES

##### 2021 Easter holiday:

Monday 5th April to Friday 16th April

##### 2021 Summer term:

Monday 19th April to Friday 23rd July

##### INSET Day:

Monday 19th April

All year groups return: Tuesday 20th April

##### May bank holiday:

Monday 3rd May

##### May half term:

Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

## Extra measures to boost fairness and to support Year 11 students ahead of next summer's GCSE exams and assessments

The Secretary of State for Education announced that students sitting exams and other assessments next year will benefit from a package of exceptional measures to make them as fair as possible and manage the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19).

Building on the 3 week delay to exams to free up extra teaching time announced in October, the new measures include:

- More generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged
- Students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, to focus revision
- Exam aids, for example formula sheets, provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise
- Additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation
- A new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on students across the country.

The government will set out further detail on this process, and on adaptations to exams, in the new year.

We are delighted to be ranked the top School in Dorset for Progress in the November publication of the NPP Fairer [Schools Index Dashboard](#) which also puts us in the top 6% of schools nationally

The Fairer School Index was created in 2019 to ensure that a broad range of contextual measures were included when evaluating secondary school performance. The Index draws on the educational research undertaken by Professor George Leckie, Professor Harvey Goldstein and Dr Lucy Prior at the University of Bristol, and includes a wide range of contextual factors that can affect pupil performance and compares this against the Government's Progress 8 measure, which is the standard performance indicator used by schools and relied upon by Ofsted.

### List of Schools Sorted by Adjusted Position Ranking (2018/2019)

Atlantic Academy Portland: Position: 182 out of 3,195
Ferndown Upper School: Position: 226 out of 3,195
The Purbeck School: Position: 399 out of 3,195
Dorset Studio School: Position: 493 out of 3,195
The Thomas Hardy School: Position: 580 out of 3,195
The Blandford School: Position: 602 out of 3,195
Lytchett Minster School: Position: 728 out of 3,195
The Woodroffe School: Position: 1,052 out of 3,195
The Sir John Colfox Academy: Position: 1,215 out of 3,195
The Swanage School: Position: 1,324 out of 3,195
Queen Elizabeth's School: Position: 1,435 out of 3,195
The Gryphon School: Position: 1,690 out of 3,195
Sturminster Newton High School: Position: 1,844 out of 3,195
All Saints' Church of England School, Weymouth: Position: 1,969 out of 3,195
Budmouth College: Position: 2,261 out of 3,195
Shaftesbury School: Position: 2,404 out of 3,195
Gillingham School: Position: 2,428 out of 3,195
Beaminster School: Position: 2,688 out of 3,195
Wey Valley Academy: Position: 3,037 out of 3,195

### Ofsted inspections

Full, graded Ofsted inspections will not resume until the summer term but they will still have the power to inspect a school if they have serious concerns, including safeguarding and remote education. Test and exam results will not be included in performance tables this year, and instead will be replaced by attendance information, and student destinations and the subjects taken at Key Stage 4 and 5.

### Aspirations Trust values



### Our Core Principles

- **Character** (Self worth)
- **Commitment** (Engagement)
- **Confidence** (Purpose)

...are aligned with the Aspirations Trusts values and ethos. We are developing an educational framework that delivers high aspirations, high levels of academic performance.



## Personal Development themes covered this term

Wk Beginning	Assembly This Term
28th September	Commitment/Engagement
5th October	Confidence/Purpose
12th October	No excuses/No Opt out
19th October	Future Skills
2nd November	Excellence is a Habit/Attendance
9th November	Anti Bullying
16th November	Obstacles and Mindset
23rd November	Road Safety
30th November	Determination and well being
7th December	Stoicism
11th December	KS3 Progress Assemblies
14th December	End of Unit Celebration

## Associate Head of Year

We are thrilled to have appointed



Mr Randell  
Associate Head of Year 8



Miss Rolph  
Associate Head of Year 10

## Healthy Living week

At Atlantic Academy Portland we are passionate about leading a healthy active lifestyle and know how essential this is for our students. Physical activity and good nutrition helps our students to: achieve a healthy body weight; build strong bones, muscles and joints and develop fundamental movement skills. Leading a healthy and active lifestyle can also reduce the risk of serious diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity.



[Check out our Fitness Media Channel here](#)

In case you missed some of the highlights of the week...

Teacher	Link
Mr Wadley	<a href="#">Couch to 5K</a>
Mr Wiles	<a href="#">Vegan Curry</a>
Miss Pelych	Mindfulness
Mr Parkes	Push up challenge

Results are in for the top 6 students in each challenge....

Pull up challenge	Bethany Moatt (8B) Emeila Newton (8G) Chole masters (7G)	Ronnie Belcher (9G) Joel Davey (8O) Tristan Humphrey (9G)
Tricep Dips	Amelie Hiscocks 17 Ellia McCann 15 Eva Legg 5	Joel Davey 73 Ronnie Belcher 50 Tristan Humphrey 32
Push Up Challenge	Ellia McCann 97 Amelie Hiscocks 45 Kaitlyn Rackley 36	Cameron Clarke 169 Jake Bacon 132 Joel Davey 124
Plank Challenge	Taynesha Gill 8G 3:30 Emilia Newton 8G 3:30 Rebecca Armos 9G 2:58	Joel Davey 8O 2:58 Tristan Humphrey 9G 2:15 James Gould 9O 2:14



The National School Games Santa Dash was on Friday 11th December and the whole school took part at various times with the rest of the country ...



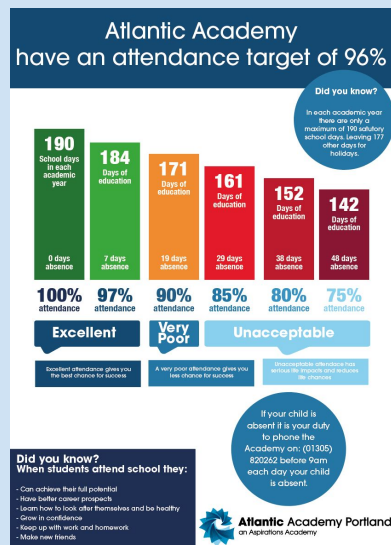


**PARENTS, will your children be SAFE ONLINE AT CHRISTMAS with their new devices?**

Facebook Live dropins Wednesdays in December at 7pm

facebook.com/LGfLDigiSafe

DigiSafe keeping children safe LGfL



**Attendance this Half Term:** Secondary attendance this half term was:

**95%**

**Attendance champions:** 7O, 7B, 9B and 11B all had above 95% attendance

**Importance of attendance:** Good attendance at school is important for academic progress, social interaction with peers and the opportunity to participate in clubs and try new activities. If students miss going to school, they miss out.

### Parents Evening App

The academy has introduced a new, intuitive and easy to use online appointment booking system. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments. We are confident this will be an improvement to the previous system, enable us to meet during these difficult times and welcome any feedback.

Due to the current restrictions, parents' evenings will run as a **video conference** through the **School Cloud website** to ensure you can have 1:1 discussion with your child's subject teachers.

The purpose of the evening is to provide you with the opportunity to meet virtually, face to face, and talk with class teachers - to discuss your child's general well being, progress and plans to support them. You will be sent details on how to login in and can make appointments 2 weeks before the event - please see the table opposite.

### Parents' Evening Dates

Date	Can Book From
19 Jan - Y8 Virtual Parents' Eve	5th Jan 2020
24th Feb - Y11 Virtual Progress Eve	8th Feb 2021
25th Mar- Y10 Virtual Parents' Eve	11th Mar 2021
30th Mar - Y7 Virtual Parents' Eve	15th Mar 2021

### Key Stage 3 - Year 7/8/9 Unit 1 Positive Points

Year	Blue	Green	Orange	Year Total
7	5738	6555	5681	17974
8	6039	4039	3551	13869
9	2864	4132	4187	11183
KS3 Total	14641	11090	13419	43026

### Key Stage 4 - Year 10 & 11 Unit 1 Positive Points

Year	Blue	Green	Orange	Year Total
10	2175	2025	2186	6413
11	1805	1553	1631	4989
KS4 Total	3980	3578	3817	5053

### Overall Faculty Points

Year	Blue	Green	Orange	Year Total
Overall Total	18621	18304	17236	54161

### Top 10 students for Positive Points

Isabel Chaplin	646	Connor May	306
James Gould	584	Zac Greaney	301
Chloe Masters	347	Bo Johnson	301
Casey Foot	327	Tyler Pickersgill	301
James Bendall	324	Clara Ellis	290

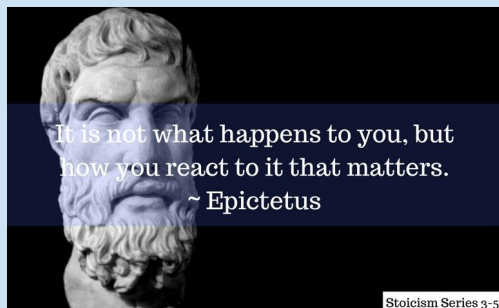
**Well Done, Blue faculty!!!**

### Key Stage 3 - Year 7/8/9

Students in KS3 have responded really responsibly to the new Government guidelines regarding the wearing of masks and their mature behaviour has made us proud.

They have been preparing for their PPE's, working hard in lessons and wholeheartedly immersing themselves in our healthy living week; developing **character** and showing **commitment** to their learning, their health and the team around them.

**Mrs Bullin & Mrs Lown & Mr Randall**



### Key Stage 4 - Year 10 & 11

It has been a very different, and challenging in many ways, start to the new academic year but it has been wonderful to see how well KS4 students have adapted to our new routines at the Academy.

They have been working hard in all subjects in a very important year for both Year 11 and Year 10 students- they are now able to access, once again, more of their practical based subjects and it has been a delight to hear how they have been getting on in these areas.



Unit 2 will see Year 11 having their first 'virtual parents evening', the programme of post-16 events and assemblies will continue and all KS4 students will continue to be immersed in their learning and to be positive role models for the younger students at the Academy. We are sure they will see the reward of all their study pay off with the results of the Unit 1 PPE's.

**Mrs Bourke & Mr McConnell & Miss Rolph**

**Over 100 Principal's Commendations:  
50 Positive Points - being sent out this week!**



### Year 11 Careers assemblies

Throughout November, Year 11s participated in career assemblies in which we had visits from Budmouth College, Kingston Maurward and Weymouth College. During each assembly, Year 11 asked questions about pathways, post 16, and listened to each establishment and what they had to offer post 16. Feedback from the students highlighted that they found this time incredibly useful in helping them to prepare for their next steps. The visitors praised how well mannered and inquisitive our Year 11 cohort are.



### Year 11 Mock interview and application day

On Tuesday 8th December, Year 11 students participated in a fantastic mock interview day. We hosted employers from our local community. This included Magna Housing Association, The National Sailing Academy, Dorset LEP, HM Prison service, MPlay recruitment, and accountancy firms.

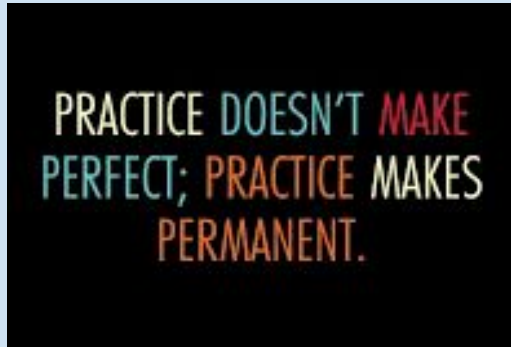
Each student had 10 minutes to be interviewed and were asked real interview questions such as "Describe a time when you showed leadership". After the interviews, students received feedback from the employer on how they did. The day was an absolute success. The employers from our community were overwhelmed at how brilliant our Year 11 cohort and commented on how well our students answered questions, asked questions, and talked about their future with such passion and commitment. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, with lots of character, confidence and commitment demonstrated. I was incredibly proud! - **Miss Board**





## Student Voice - Personal Development

Thought for the week: 'Does practise make you perfect?'



You said.....

- I think that practise does make you perfect because if you make a mistake you can learn from it.
- I believe it's impossible to be perfect as people are perfect in their own ways. Everyone is at different levels in life and that's what gives them their characteristics.
- I think practise makes perfect, because you can learn something but to be good at something you have to repeat it over and over to get to the best you can be.
- It doesn't make you perfect but it makes you better.
- Practise does make you perfect to a certain extent because once you have achieved perfection there is another level of perfect to try and achieve after that.
- I agree due to the fact that you will never get better unless you try and practise.
- Everyone has their own definition of perfect, like setting a personal target and then reaching it. Practise does however get you to where you want to be.
- Yes it does, because if you keep trying you will achieve your goals and dreams.
- I think practise does make perfect, if you keep trying then you will get there in the end and if you give up then you won't.

Secondary Tutor Competition: "In 30 words or less describe a habit that you have that has made you excellent at something."



Here are some examples of the responses:

- I like baking and I have practiced it a lot recently. The preparation routines I have developed have made me better at it.
- A habit I have developed is perseverance. It has made me excellent at having the mindset to carry on trying when things get tough.
- I have a passion for reading at the moment. I am reading a book called, 'Danger Gang', by Tom Fletcher and I have already read some of the other titles he has written. My passion for reading is a strong habit, which I consider as part of my learning.
- I joined a rugby club and now I am better at being a team player.
- I have a habit of trying my best to succeed.
- Singing has improved my guitar playing as when I sing it adds another melody to my music.
- Checking in on my brother and sister to make sure they are okay.
- I got to know how to solve a Rubik's Cube because I fidget all the time. I got a Rubik's Cube for my birthday and learnt how to solve it.
- I'm very conscientious which makes me achieve my goals at school and get lots of positives.
- I have the habit of paying attention in class so that I know exactly what I have to do in that lesson.

## Student Voice - Personal Development

Thought for the week: 'Is respect earned or learned?'



You said:

- Both, I think you have to both learn to respect others, and by

Secondary Tutor Competition: "In 30 words or less describe why we should respect the service men and women who have given their lives during conflicts."



- As they gave their lives for our freedom and our rights.
- They fought for us. They lost their lives to keep us safe. Their

doing that you earn respect from others .

- I think you have to earn the respect others, as you have to treat people how you would like to be treated
- We earn the respect of others by behaving in a civilised manner.
- Respect is earned. Yes, you have to learn to respect others and accept respect from others.
- I think it is learned because you do not just get it randomly.
- Respect should be earned as you can't respect someone simply because they tell you they should be respected. They need to show they are worthy for your respect.
- I think respect is earned not learned because if you show respect to someone they'll show you respect back.
- I believe you have to earn the respect from others because if you don't give respect to them they won't give respect to you.
- Respect is a learned behaviour, but in order for it to be applied, it needs to be earned.
- Learned, because you have to learn to be kind and respect people.
- I think people have to learn to respect others because even if you don't like someone you still have to respect them just like you do with everyone else.
- Both, because yes we do have to learn how to respect others, but at the same time some people who might not get along well with a certain person have to gain their respect.
- Earned, because if you are rude to someone you have to earn someone's respect back.
- I think people need to respect others before others respect them. Nobody wants to respect somebody who has no respect for others.
- I think respect is learned because you must respect everyone, even if you don't like them or are not friends with them.
- I think both because if you don't respect others then they won't respect you. If you respect people then they will respect you and you'll be happy.
- I think respect is earned because you earn trust. It's easier to earn someone's respect if they trust you.



lives were ended so we could have the lives we have now. They are real life heroes.

- Why are we here now? Because of those people who fought for us and never looked back. People were scared and frightened but still carried on to save us.
- They have sacrificed their lives for complete strangers. If it wasn't for them, life would be very different and we owe everything to them.
- We should respect their service because these men and women have given up their lives so we can continue to live happily and be safe in the world that we live in.
- We respect them as they're the ones that willingly risked their lives for us, they didn't deserve to die but they did, knowing that they are heroes. Lest we forget.
- These people risked their lives for our future not just in past wars but in recent ones too. They continue to spend months or many even years in tough conditions, with not a lot of connections with their families.
- They have made our lives the way they are today; great freedom.
- They fought for us when Britain most needed help, All of the people/animals that died in ALL wars should be remembered.
- We are unaware of what went through a person's mind when World War Two was announced but if you have the courage and bravery to defend a country and put your life on the line for millions of people and their freedom, you deserve the most respect any person can give to all of those who lost their lives honoring our kingdom.
- We should respect them because they lost their lives for us. Imagine losing your life for someone else, ending your life for someone else, now that takes a lot to do.

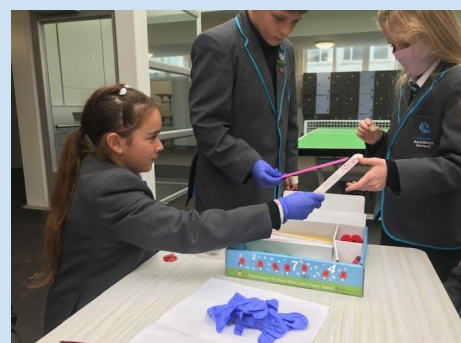


### Portland Youth Town Council

Since returning to school in September the newly created and fully democratic Youth Town Council has met twice. With support from Sue Cocking, Pete Roper and Anna Takashima from the adult town council, the youth representatives have elected their own chair and clerk and begun a series of young people focused initiatives. At the top of their list is some work to stop vandalism taking place in some of the public parks on Portland, as well as looking at ideas to create more facilities for young people on Portland. If you have any thoughts or ideas that you would like the Youth Town Council to consider, please email them into Mr Dawson using the contact form of the Academy's website.

### Remembrance Day - 11th November 2020

Through the build up to the 11th of November our students had an opportunity to contribute to the Royal British Legion and purchase 'covid-safe' poppy related items.





This both raised awareness of the important work that the legion do and gave our students the chance to contribute to their endeavours. In addition, the 11th hour of the 11th day in November was marked with huge respect by all the Academy with a two minute silence.



Students also did some reflective work about the invaluable work that our service women and men do, and some of their thoughts can be seen in the newsletter above.

## Have your say on Climate Emergency Plan

Dorset Council are asking children, young people and partners to have a say on their Climate Emergency Plan. Dorset Council has drawn-up the plan which sets out how we can deliver services and work with our partners and communities to achieve net-zero carbon emissions in Dorset over the next 20-30 years.

We want children and young people to tell us how important tackling climate change is and so we have created a survey especially for them here: [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-questions](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-questions) We'd also like young people and partners to tell us what you think of our climate emergency plans in more detail at: [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-survey](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-survey)

This work is incredibly important. Just sitting by and letting others address this crisis is not an option. We need to work together to overcome this monumental challenge. What we all do – or don't do – to address this Climate and Ecological Emergency will impact our children, grandchildren and every other generation for centuries to come. More information is available [here](#)



## REMINDER: Classroom codes for online learning

We believe that it is imperative that our students are equipped to continue their learning with us uninterrupted, whether they are in school or are, for whatever reason, unable to attend school. To support this, each subject has its own google classroom for each year group, or in some cases each class. Assignments/Booklets will be uploaded covering the work that is being done in class. While we place a great emphasis on powerful subject knowledge as a key driver for success, the work will also support the building of key 21st century skills such as independence, creative thinking and digital literacy.

Please see all of the codes by clicking [here](#).

All students have had an opportunity to log into their online classrooms in lessons to check that they can access all their virtual classrooms in case they need to isolate. We appreciate that students may get through the online provision quicker at home than during a lesson as they will not have the opportunities for the rich dialogue and deeper level questioning that a classroom teacher provides.

HM Government

NHS

TIER 2  
HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

<b>MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY</b>  No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.	<b>BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS</b>  Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.	<b>RETAIL</b>  Open.	<b>WORK AND BUSINESS</b>  Everyone who can work from home should do so.
<b>EDUCATION</b>  Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Children, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.	<b>INDOOR LEISURE</b>  Open.	<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>  Open.	<b>PERSONAL CARE</b>  Open.
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>  Permitted with household or support bubble.	<b>WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS</b>  15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>  Open.	<b>PLACES OF WORSHIP</b>  Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.
<b>TRAVELLING</b>  Reduce the number of journeys you make and walk or cycle if possible. Avoid bus times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Avoid entering a Tier 3 area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply.	<b>EXERCISE</b>  Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-16s and disabled people can continue.	<b>RESIDENTIAL CARE</b>  COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, waiting pools, and window visits. Chaperone-led visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).	<b>LARGE EVENTS</b>  Sport, live performances and business meetings limited to 50% capacity or 2000 people outdoors (whichever is lower) and 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower).

**Find out what support you can get**  
 For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.  
[gov.uk/coronavirus](http://gov.uk/coronavirus)

**If you have any coronavirus symptoms:**  
 A high temperature + A new continuous cough  
 A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.  
 Get a test and stay at home

For more information and detailed guidance visit:  
[gov.uk/coronavirus](http://gov.uk/coronavirus)

# Character Confidence Commitment