



Headteacher Daily Update – Friday 5th February 2021

Good morning,

I hope you are well.

Sir Captain Tom Moore - Inspirational

There have been many tributes to the wonderful Sir Captain Tom Moore, this week, an inspiration to us all and I am sure, like me, you were saddened to hear of his death on Tuesday. He is just one of the many thousands of people who have lost their lives to COVID-19 over the last 12 months and our thoughts go out to everyone who has been affected by this terrible virus. On Wednesday evening the nation clapped for Captain Tom and all the health workers for whom he raised money.

Earlier last year, many of us watched in awe as Captain Tom set himself the target of raising £1000 for the NHS. He aimed to raise the money by completing 100 laps of his garden. Three weeks later, Tom had raised over £30 million and tributes flooded in from around the world. The Burma campaign veteran celebrated his 100th Birthday last June. We saw amazing scenes as an RAF Spitfire and Hurricane performed a flypast over Captain Tom's house in a moving tribute to his service and his selfless determination to help others in their time of need.

The whole story serves as a beacon of hope and symbolises something special about our capacity for compassion and determination to succeed against the odds. It seems appropriate to reflect on some of his words during an interview last year. Captain Tom said, *"we will get through this and we will come out stronger and more united"*. We often talk about inspirational people, I'm sure many of you will agree, Captain Tom stood for everything that is good in the world. As many commentators have said, his was a life well-lived.

Changing Mindsets - Learning from Failure

We hope to welcome students back to the building as soon as we possibly can. Depending on the national picture this could be as soon as Monday 8th March for some students. We appreciate that home learning is often challenging but we have to be realistic and accept that this may be the reality for many more weeks.

Despite the challenges, home learning develops vital skills such as independence, resilience, self-confidence and time management. Some students are naturally more adapt to working independently than others and one of the major obstacles preventing students from becoming more independent is a fear of failure. To encourage a more independent approach, we need to see failure as an opportunity to learn, rather than something to be avoided at all costs. It's worth reminding ourselves that:

- Albert Einstein, one of the greatest thinkers of our time, didn't speak until he was four-years old. He also failed his entrance exam to the Swiss Federal Polytechnic school located in Zurich at sixteen-years old.
- James Dyson - While developing his iconic vacuum cleaner, Dyson went through 5,126 failed prototypes – and his savings – and had to be partly supported by his wife's salary as an art teacher. When he finally launched his 'G-Force' cleaner in 1983, no UK manufacturer or distributor would take it. Despite becoming a huge success in Japan – and being patented in the US – Dyson couldn't sell his invention to the major manufacturers... so he set up his own manufacturing business instead. He now has an estimated net worth of \$5 billion.
- Thomas Edison failed time and time again in his attempts to make the first light bulb. Each failed experiment taught him something that contributed to his final success.
- J K Rowling's manuscript for the first Harry Potter book was turned down by twelve publishers before finally being accepted by Bloomsbury. She is now a multi-million pound best-selling author.

Headteacher: Mr S. Marshall B.A. Hons., N.P.Q.H.

Huddersfield Road, Mossley, Via Ashton-Under-Lyne, Tameside OL5 9DP

Tel: (01457) 832491/833031

E.mail: admin@mossleyhollins.com Web: www.mossleyhollins.com



One of our core values is hard work and every student should be proud of their work, especially when they have tried their best, learnt a new skill and worked independently. So many students are working hard and making the most of what remote education offers – keep it up! You will reap the rewards.

Reminders from Previous messages:

Year 10 Pre Public Examinations

The Year 10 PPE which were originally planned for mid-March will now be postponed until the summer term. The new dates will be confirmed when we know the outcome of the consultation for awarding final grades to the Class of 2021.

Forthcoming Parent Evenings

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 10 parents will receive details of a remote consultation evening in the next few weeks. The dates are as follows:

- Year 7 – 25th March
- Year 10 – 22nd April
- Year 8 – 29th April

Punctuality

Whilst we continue to be really pleased overall with the attendance at lessons, we are beginning to see some issues with students arriving late for their remote lessons. You will recall that I wrote last week about our expectations in developing good learning habits. Our Nuhope system is designed to develop good learning habits, building on our core values of Manners, Hardwork and Honesty. We expect students to arrive to lessons on time to demonstrate their good manners. If students arrive late to lessons this impacts on the learning of everyone in the class as the teacher has to use time away from other students to repeat the parts of the lesson the student has missed due to their lateness. We do appreciate that there may be occasions where lateness is unavoidable due to technical issues and we will do everything we can support families where this is the case. I have asked staff to finish lessons a little early to allow students to stretch their legs and prepare for the next lesson. We would appreciate your support in ensuring that your child(ren) arrives to their remote lessons on time. Where we see emerging issues with repeated lateness to lessons we will be getting in touch with families.

BT Wifi Voucher Codes

In order to ensure that all students can access their remote learning, schools can apply for a limited number of free Wi-Fi voucher codes from BT. These codes are available for schools to issue to students who don't currently have adequate access to internet connectivity at home. If you do need support with getting internet connectivity, please get in touch with us via admin@mossleyhollins.com.

Active Tameside - Critical / Key Worker Holiday Care

Along with other schools in the local authority, our school building will be closed to all students over the February half-term holidays. If you are a critical worker and require holiday provision for your child and want more information on how to access an Active Tameside place please contact:

Helen.Wilson@activetameside.com

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For information on all Holiday Activities within the Borough please contact: **Families Information Service on 0161 342 5434.**

Children's Mental Health Week

This week marks the start of Children's Mental Health Week. Please watch [HRH The Duchess of Cambridge's video message](#). The Duchess of Cambridge is heavily involved with work to improve young people's mental health.

You can also find lots of useful resources and information at the following website:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Children and young people can access free confidential support anytime from Government-backed voluntary and community sector organisations by:

- texting SHOUT to 85258
- calling Childline on 0800 1111
- calling the Mix on 0808 808 4994

Children and young people can also find online information on COVID-19 and mental health on the Young Minds website.

For support with an eating disorder, children and young people can ring Beat's Youthline on 0808 801 0711.

The **Think Ninja** (freely available and adapted for COVID-19) app educates 10-18 year olds about mental health, emotional wellbeing and provide skills young people can use to build resilience and stay well.

Above all, please remember we are here every day to help you and your child. Do not hesitate to contact school should you need any support, advice or guidance.

ICT Support

We have worked with a large number of families to ensure students have the necessary ICT hardware to access live lessons. If you have not yet been in touch with school and are worried that you do not access to appropriate technology to join lessons, please email school urgently admin@mossleyhollins.com

Support available – who to contact

If you do need support at home, or you are struggling with accessing your learning please contact your head of year in the first instance:

Year 11 Mr Beaumont j.beaumont@mossleyhollins.com
Year 10 Mrs Burns l.burns@mossleyhollins.com
Year 9 Ms McLaughlin c.mclaughlin@mossleyhollins.com
Year 8 Mr Taylor c.taylor@mossleyhollins.com
Year 7 Ms Allwood s.allwood@mossleyhollins.com

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If your child has special educational needs and need support for them, please contact our SENDCO Ms Sherlock (a.sherlock@mossleyhollins.com).

For any safeguarding concerns, please contact Mrs Brennan (r.brennan@mossleyhollins.com)

For general help or enquiries, including support for free school meals, please contact us via admin@mossleyhollins.com.

Have a wonderful weekend and stay safe,

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Headteacher (Acting)
Mossley Hollins High School

Headteacher: **Mr S. Marshall** B.A. Hons., N.P.Q.H.

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