

CATCH IT! BIN IT! KILL IT!



Dear Students, Parents and Carer

31st January 2021

1. Remote Education Update
2. Remote Learning FAQ's (attached)
3. 'Lets Localise' Update
4. School Notices

Remote Education Update: I want to start this update by saying well done and thank you to our students for your resilience and hard work. You are doing so well under such difficult circumstances and we cannot wait to see you back at school as soon as we can. I am delighted to see so much high-quality work being completed and so many of you join in our Lockdown Literacy and other extra-curricular sessions.

Our tutor sessions and assemblies have gone down really well and have now extended to an activity each morning at 9am. All students are expected to attend as important information will be shared with students in these sessions. If you have any technical difficulties that make this difficult please email ictsupport@spires.anthemtrust.uk

Monday	House Assembly
Tuesday	Tuesday Challenge
Wednesday	Tutor Time
Thursday	Head of Year Assembly
Friday	Tutor Time

1.45pm-2.15pm Lockdown Literacy-Year 7 & 8 students have been joining us each day to read 'After the War by Tom Palmer'. It is appropriate at this time as it links to the current Holocaust Memorial Week. It has been lovely to see so many students joining us. Please encourage your child to come along to this.

As we explained two weeks ago, we have chosen a blended approach to our remote learning, a mix of live and non-live teaching. We have been steadily increasing the number of live segments in lessons. By the end of the week, we plan to reach our final target of half of all lessons per week containing a live segment. Thank you for your continued understanding, patience, and support as we move across to this approach.

The Remote Learning Agreement is attached. It is really important that all students have electronically signed this by going to the academy website, clicking "Students" and then "Student Portal." Once they have logged on to the student portal, they will see a link to an online survey. They can electronically sign the agreement by clicking "Yes" and submit. Please do this asap if it has not already been done.

We appreciate that parents may have questions about our approach, so we have put together a Remote Education Frequently Asked Questions document which is attached with this update.

Lets Localise Laptop Campaign update: We have been really overwhelmed by the generosity of our parents and community and want to thank everyone who has contributed. To date we have received:

Campaign	Donations
Pledge a Laptop #1	10 laptops and mobile broadband dongles from Lady Fatemah Trust
Pledge a Laptop #2	A laptop from Caroline Kohl, a local resident
Pledge a Penny – Laptop Campaign 1	2 laptops purchased with donations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jen Carter• The Read / Bishop family• Alexandra Lewis• Anonymous donations• Bett UK
Pledge a Penny – Laptop Campaign 2	2 laptops purchased with donations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kate Stilborn• Anonymous donations• Bett UK

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Pledge a Penny – Laptop Campaign 3	2 laptops purchased with donations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anonymous donations• Bett UK
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These donations along with 82 laptops sent from the DFE have made all the difference to so many children. Evidence shows that digital exclusion can lead to increased isolation and less access to education and jobs, so these laptops are making a huge difference to children as they are now able to complete online work and stand a chance of keeping up with their peers. Your contribution really will make a huge difference to a child's life chances. Thank you!

We are keeping our campaigns open on Lets Localise as there is still a need in our community. Please share our page: <https://www.letslocalise.co.uk/school/oxford-spires-academy/sch119431/campaigns/>

School Notices

Sixth Form Debating- Any sixth former interested in learning to debate is encouraged to contact Daisy Stilborn in Year 12, who has sent an email to all students. She is going to convene a Teams debate club.

Sixth Form Applications- A short message from Dr Watson.

Following the ParentMail sent to Year 11s on Friday, a final reminder that we would like OSA Sixth Form applications in by the end of January, if applicants are to have their Sixth Form meeting before Easter. Many thanks for all your support - whether your son or daughter is applying to us or elsewhere next year. Coming up in February, we will be organising workshops to help them make College applications if they would like to go there but are still to make those; and I have sent out previously details of the BMW apprenticeship application process, which is open now. Please let me know if they need any further guidance on this or any other application. I remind you that I can arrange a further interview with Mr Bingham if that is helpful too.

As always, a huge thank you for all of your continuing support and your partnership during this really tricky and challenging time. Please do encourage your children to take part in their live segments and morning sessions and do not hesitate to contact us if you require any additional support at home. Continue to take care of yourselves.

Best of wishes.
Marianne Blake