

# A VIEW OF THE CLOSE

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021



## DOVER COLLEGE #ONLINE

### FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

@dovercollegehm

So many of us spent much of last year looking ahead to 2021 with great hope. Whilst the new year has presented us with some additional challenges, we can see brighter times ahead. Charles Mackesy's beautiful illustration and words (below) are a lovely reminder of that for us all.

I remain very grateful to you for your ongoing support, particularly over the recent period as Government policy on schools has shifted rapidly - in some cases overnight! We will continue to adapt as necessary, always putting the best interests of the pupils at the heart of the decisions we are making.

I am extremely proud of the way in which pupils have responded to the move to home learning. I have dropped in on some of the online classes this week and have been delighted to see the same engagement, enthusiasm and progress as I would have had they been in a physical classroom. A silver lining from this period is that our children are developing new skills and ways of working to complement existing ones, which will serve them well both in education and in the future world of work.

I was encouraged to hear the Prime Minister state that the return of schools would be the first measure as the lockdown is eased. I very much look forward to the time when we can welcome all pupils back to the College in person.

Until that time comes, please stay safe.

*Sina Fisar*

Our microsite, [Dover College Online](#), was put in place in readiness for a period of home learning like this.

I urge pupils of all ages to visit the **#BeyondTheCurriculum** section of the site, which includes a range of **Academic Enrichment** (organised by class for Prep School and by subject for Senior School) and **Co-Curricular Activity** ideas.

We are extremely mindful of the impact on young people of this period of uncertainty and isolation from their peers. The **Co-Curricular** ideas section in particular includes some new and different skills and activities which are fun, engaging and may provide some catharsis for the children over the coming weeks. For example:

- Learning sign language
- Taking up knitting or embroidery
- Researching family history
- Starting or supporting a project to improve the environment
- Developing leadership skills



### THE RACE TO AMSTERDAM

Last term, **Leamington House** won The Race to Paris. With all Houses and the staff team now having made it to the French capital, the next leg will see them race to Amsterdam (about 430 KM away, as the crow flies).

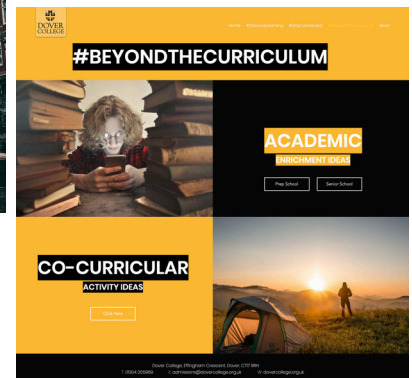
Mr Payne, Director of Sport, has encouraged all pupils to participate by recording the distances they cover exercising on foot – either walking or running.

Google Classrooms have been set up for each House, which pupils can join and then upload their distances to (either publicly or as a private message to Mr Payne). The Class codes are:

Duckworth House: hdmowu  
Leamington House: nokx7n  
School House: s45t3vz  
St Martin's House: v72veoc

Priory pupils can contribute to their assigned future house.

This is a great initiative to motivate all pupils to stay active and to contribute to the House Competition.



### HOUSE MUSIC 2020



Although last term many of our usual musical activities could not run, or had to be substantially altered, our Houses were still able to produce some fantastic entries for our **Virtual House Music Competition**.

The "show" will be released on our [YouTube channel](#) tomorrow night.

A huge **thank you** to all those involved, particularly the performers, and to Mr Young for judging the entries.

### JAMBOARD!



Prep 4 have embraced new learning tools this week, using **Google Jamboard** to work collaboratively. Here they have contributed some lovely similes to describe Augustus Gloop from Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

### HELP US ALL TO KEEP SAFE

We ask for your support as we continue to encourage social distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene and the use of face coverings. As per Government guidance, the measures differ slightly between the Prep School and Senior School.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME AND ARRANGE A TEST IF THEY EXHIBIT ANY OF THE **THREE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS** SPECIFIED BY THE NHS.

