

# The Link Academy Newsletter

- Summer 2020 -

## Message from the Principal

Hi everyone!

Well, what a strange and challenging time it has been for us all. I fully appreciate that since March this time has been difficult for so many of our families, particularly those that have lost loved ones.

I am really proud of the way that our learners and staff have embraced the challenge of distance learning. We have given out more rewards since March than we have since I arrived to the school 18 months ago.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and carers for the support that they have given during the lockdown. It goes without saying that we can't wait to be back in September and are looking forward to seeing all of our young people again.

If you don't already follow us on social media, please do so over the summer as we are constantly responding to government guidance. We have Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts alongside our website where updates are posted on a regular basis. Our Year 10 learners will soon be in Year 11 and they will receive some direction to summer learning resources to keep their minds active over the break!

Everyone at The Link wishes you all a happy Summer break. STAY SAFE and we will see you all soon!

Kind regards



Mrs Edwards-Morgan  
Principal



## Senior Student Leadership Team:

2020/21

### Presidents:

Aaminah Shabir  
Owenie Yarbasi

### Vice - Presidents:

Mubajjala Fuseini  
Jay Higgins

THE LINK  
ACADEMY  
Netherton



[www.thelinkacademy.org.uk](http://www.thelinkacademy.org.uk)



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## The Link Academy Class of 2020

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Year 11 for just being you! You have been such a fabulous group of funny, compassionate and resilient young adults and it's been a pleasure being your Learning Manager. I'm so sorry you haven't had the opportunity to sign each others leavers books, experience the building anticipation of the last school day and of course, sitting your exams, but this just goes to show just how unique Class of 2020 really are!

I wish you all the best in your next steps. Work hard and shine, be the best people you can possibly be. We'll miss you.

Thank you for some brilliant memories...

Take care, Mrs Duffield



## Learning Managers Message

Hello everyone! This has definitely been a different school year for us all. You have faced so many challenges yet achieved so much. Well done to all of you and congratulations to those of you who have received awards and special recognition whilst working from home. We wish our leavers from Year 11 good luck in their future ventures and look forward to hearing of their successes. We look forward to seeing all our other year groups back in September as well as welcoming our new Year 7. We hope you have a fantastic summer, remembering to stay safe.

Mrs Brown, Mrs Homer, Mrs Slater, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Duffield.



## Keep Calm and Dance On

Article by Mrs Rutter

Good luck to all the GCSE Dance group for the future. Despite the year not finishing as we would have liked, it has been a pleasure to teach you all and I wish you all the success and happiness! Remember - keep on dancing!

## Poem for Year 11

Article by Mrs Haggart

*To our wonderful, hardworking and amazing year 11,  
Whom we have all known and taught since the start of year 7.  
We know this lockdown hit you all very hard,  
No chances for goodbye or even a good luck card!*

*Today you should have been attending your prom,  
But instead covid came along and now it's all gone.  
But today you must still take the time to celebrate,  
And remember everything you did - you have all been great.*

*There are so many wonderful things you all need to remember,  
And know you will always remain in our hearts, especially in September.  
When you start the next stage of your exciting journey,  
And you will receive all your grades that show all your learning.*

*Some of your wonderful memories may soon start to fade,  
But always dig deep and think about your school days!  
The times when you laughed and that moulded the person you are,  
The times where you may have cried but came out much stronger on the other side.*

*Each and everyone of you have a new path to follow,  
But when you turn and look we will always be in your shadow!  
Silently encouraging you all every step of the way,  
We will never stop believing in you, no matter what you say!*

*So goodbye and good luck for now,  
Dig deep, smile and take a bow.  
For you are the Class of 2020,  
And the very best year 11, of this century.*

This term has been a busy term for our Year 11, preparing for the next step in their educational journey. Many of you have continued working during lockdown and although I know you didn't get to say goodbye as you wanted you should all be very proud of yourselves. You will all be missed but I know you will go on to great things!

I look forward to seeing you all on results day. Look out for more information for how this will work!

GCSE, AS, A levels and VQs 2020:  
How it works



### Phase 1: Schools and Colleges

Teachers submitted centre assessed grades and rank orders for you based on your whole student history.



### Phase 2: Exam Board Checks

Exam boards are now checking grades for consistency using a model developed with regulators.



### Phase 3: Results Days

AS and A Levels: 13<sup>th</sup> August  
GCSEs: 20<sup>th</sup> August  
Results released at 8am!



### Transition Support

Article by Mr Chater

In partnership with Phase Trust, Connexions Dudley have developed a Year 11 Summer Transition Programmes to be delivered during July and August using zoom. This is designed for young people who would benefit from additional transition support. For more information visit:

[www.connexionsdudley.org/transition-support](http://www.connexionsdudley.org/transition-support)



It has been Amazing to see some of our learners back in school this week within our learning bubbles and also to see lots of our year 10's during their one-one sessions!

### "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

with Speakers Trust

Article by Mrs Marshall

On Monday 6th July, Year 10 learner Liam Williams took part in the regional digital final of the 'Speakers Trust' competition, which unlock's potential through the power of communication. The competition requires competitors to create a speech on a current issue they are passionate about. Liam created a thought provoking speech on 'male gender issues'. Liam was one of 12 candidates selected to record their speech for presentation at the final. We would like to congratulate Liam for taking part in this prestigious event. Well done Liam!

Look out for more details in the autumn term if you would like to be involved in next years competition.



### Virtual Sports Day

Article by Mrs Curlett

The Link Learners took on a new challenge '2020 virtual Sports week' Well done to all learners that took part; it was really nice to see a range of learners being excellent team players. Clent had the most learners taking part and were the overall winners! Well done CLENT!



### COMMITMENTS FORM TUTOR AWARD'S



**Congratulations** to the learners below who have been nominated by their form tutor and learning manager for their positive involvement with the Commitments programme – **Well Done!**

**These learners will receive a certificate:**

Luke Fieldhouse  
Nikhil Bhat



**These learners will receive an Amazon e-voucher:**

**Phoebe Congrave, Otis Smith, Hafsah Ali, Makayla Malcolm, Katie Hobman, Lauren Hill, Courtney Williams, Savannah Kendrick**

### Commitments

Article by Mrs Marshall

In January this year Dudley Academy Trust launched an exciting opportunity for learners called 'Commitments'. Learners independently select and complete task's from the 'Commitment wheel'. Tasks are designed to develop and support learners; communication skills, confidence, team working and to inspire learners to commit to a range of opportunities that will provide them with a diverse range of experiences. Commitments range from; attending extra-curricular activities, representing our academy, encouraging learners to visit the theatre and cultural events as well as a range of activities to encourage leadership skills.

Congratulations to the learners who have been nominated by their form tutors and learning managers for their positive engagement with 'Commitments' this year.

In September 'Commitments' will be re-launched with lots of incentives and exciting opportunities.





## Involving Parents in our School Life

Article by Mrs Worsey

It has been a very different summer term this year working with parents remotely but in time I'm sure we will be able to have face to face contact again.

Family Get Cooking sessions, Triple P Groups, one to one work and our Parents Group have all been temporarily suspended. I hope I've managed to help in some way towards getting through the last few months and have enclosed some activities you may want to access over the summer with your family. Stay safe and well!

## Summer Holiday Activities & Events 2020

### Drive-In Cinema -

Coming to the big screen when a drive-in cinema rolls in to Himley Hall and Park next month. The park will be the setting for families in cars for four screenings over August 8 and 9.

Tickets are available via the Himley Hall website at [www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk](http://www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk)

### Play Week returns in a virtual format online -

The annual family-friendly Play Week is back again this year but in a different format due to the coronavirus pandemic. Facebook will host this year's event from Monday August 3 to Friday August 7 with opportunities for families to take part at home. There will be fun activities, demonstrations and competitions with prizes to win throughout the week.

To join in the fun visit the council's Facebook events sections @dudleyborough and @adventureplay. Find lots of activities on Dudley Council's Facebook events section.

### The Dudley Community Information Directory -

<https://dudleyci.co.uk/>

(Explore Your Dudley) Lots of activities, services and events across Dudley Borough.

### Day Out With The Kids -

[www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk](http://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk)

The UK's biggest website for family attractions and things to do with kids, helping you find great days out since 2006.

Covid-19 Update – Many attractions are still closed, while others may have opened with social distancing in place. See the list of attractions that have re-opened on website.

## Dudley Adult and Community Learning – Free Online Courses

New online provision available from 03 August 2020 visit: [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk).

For enrolment from 03 August contact Glen Ostins on 07824598894 or Kim Thompson-Jones on 07812264951

### Family Learning - Family Cycling -

Have you got cyclists in the family? Get the adults and children together to explore the benefits of offered by cycling. Discover how to make your cycle rides more interactive and fun.

### A Taste of Wellbeing -

A bite size course of health and wellbeing topics designed to improve your own health and wellbeing.

### Creative Well Being Journal -

The aim of this course is to follow the tutorials to create your own Creative Well Being Journal.

**An Introduction to Resilience -** The more resilient someone is, the better they are at getting through tough times and recovering from experiences of adversity and trauma. The aim of this short course

is to help you to learn new techniques to build your resilience to overcome setbacks.

### Emotional Wellbeing -

Introductory Online Workshop If you would like to know more, we'll show you how to recognise your emotions and what to do to empower yourself to feel better and be more motivated. Please note this workshop is for educational purposes only and does not replace the care of your GP.

### Other Courses -

Digital Skills Introduction to MS Word, Digital Skills Excel Spreadsheets, Safer on Line, Introduction to Safeguarding, Safeguarding- follow on course and Art based courses are available.

## Positive Parenting Programme

Strengthening parenting skills and supporting the parent/child relationship.

Helping Parents Manage Relationship Conflict (supporting healthy relationships and managing disagreements) is a new guide with many practical tips on how to minimise conflict and resolve it constructively. This is available at:

[www.triplep-parenting.uk.net](http://www.triplep-parenting.uk.net)

## NSPCC – FREE Positive Parenting Guide

Balancing the demands of parenting isn't always easy and all parents come under pressure or stress at times. This FREE guide shares practical advice and tips for positive parenting techniques that work well for children from babies to teenagers. Download:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1195/positive-parenting.pdf>

*For information on any of the above please contact Paulette Worsey, Parent Link Worker by email: [pworsey@thelinkacademy.org.uk](mailto:pworsey@thelinkacademy.org.uk)*

# Autumn Term Dates

**Term starts:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

**Half term:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020



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