



Highlands School News



18 December 2020



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Today is the end of the first term of this academic year. This term has presented a range of challenges to schools, the likes of which we have not seen before in education. I have written this before, but I will write it again; the response of the school community at Highlands to these challenges has been magnificent. Our teaching and support staff have worked relentlessly to make sure that we can provide the best possible educational provision to our students. Curriculum, pastoral and senior leaders have overseen significant changes to our routines and practices. Our pastoral and admin team have responded to multiple cases of COVID-19 with a stoic commitment to making sure we carry out tracing to keep potential contacts safe. Our site team and canteen staff have worked tirelessly to make sure our site is a safe environment to learn and to eat. Despite the significant work that being COVID-19 ready has created, the Highlands school community has still gone the extra mile, and there is no better example of this than our Christmas hamper appeal. Parents, carers, students and staff donated hundreds of items and, in some cases, cash so that we could provide hampers to those who need them over Christmas. I would like to thank everyone involved in the project, but particularly Mrs Jaynes, Mrs Carr, Ms Brown and Mrs Walters.

I would also like to commend our students. We have asked a lot of them this term in terms of their learning and their behaviour and on both they have really stepped up. As this term draws to a close students should be proud that, compared to the same period over the past four years, we have had the fewest fixed-term exclusions and serious behavior events. Student attendance compares favourably to other schools in Enfield and nationally. Our students log in and complete their work, showing commitment to their learning. We have just celebrated the incredible commitment of over 360 students with awards ranging from platinum to bronze for consistently demonstrating our DARE values. I look forward to celebrating with all of the students who have been awarded gold and platinum awards over breakfast in the new year.

Members of the school community may be aware that the government has made a series of announcements in the past 48 hours around mass COVID-19 testing in secondary schools. We welcome the opportunities presented by testing students in school, however, we were surprised that the government announced this programme in the hours and days before the end of term, especially if the expectation is that testing will start in January. The government has said that they expect only students taking exams in the summer to be in school the week commencing 4th January, so that is what will happen at Highlands.



@Highlands_sch



@highlandssch

Therefore, our arrangements for the first week back are as follows:

Monday 4th January

Remote learning day, all students at home remote learning

Tuesday 5th January - Friday 8th January

Years 11 and 13 on site

Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 at home remote learning

We will send details of our response to the planned testing programme in due course.

Please find details of our remote learning processes below.

CURRICULUM PROVISION FOR STUDENTS WORKING FROM HOME

Our learning branches:

Throughout the pandemic Highlands School students will have utilised a variety of different learning branches. These branches are:

- **Remote learning (for those studying at home)**
- **Supervised learning (for those who are accessing remote learning at school)**
- **Newsletter (for all our community)**
- **Face to face learning (for all year groups)**

Different branches grow and recede at different points. Throughout the lockdown in spring, the vast majority of our students were learning through our remote learning provision. We will be using this branch for your child when they work at home.

Our remote learning principles:

- **Students have access to the same high-quality lesson resources that they would do when in school.**
- **Students are able to engage in a dialogue with their teachers.**
- **There is minimum disruption to a student's timetable (sequence and number of lessons).**
- **Students feel reassured, safe and able to organise their time effectively.**

The remote learning provision we have in place is underpinned by these principles. Your child already has access to our learning portal, Google classroom, and this will be the vehicle through which their learning will be delivered.

Most lessons will be prerecorded and either uploaded onto their relevant Google classroom that morning, or scheduled to be released at the time that lesson would take place. All your child needs to do is follow their timetable and log onto the relevant Google classroom, ideally at the time the lesson would usually take place. Some year 10, 11, 12 or 13 lessons may be delivered live. Information regarding this will be shared on the relevant Google classroom at the point when the lesson is due to take place.

Head of year email:

If for some reason, your child notices that their learning is missing, they should contact their head of year by email immediately to let them know. Please give us feedback, it helps us improve our remote learning provision.

PASTORAL PROVISION

Key principles for pastoral provision:

- The school will be open for students who are in the vulnerable category as defined by the DfE.
- Mentoring and counselling for the most vulnerable students will take place virtually.
- Safeguarding systems will be in place. Please see our COVID-19 safeguarding policy addendum.
- Heads of year will oversee the pastoral needs of their year group during remote learning.

Assemblies

- The weekly assembly will be uploaded to each tutor group's Google classroom and students will be expected to engage with this on Wednesdays.

Year group support

- Heads of year will check in and communicate with their year groups via Google classroom.

School counselling

- The school counsellor will move all counselling appointments to virtual appointments, where possible.

Vulnerable student provision on-site

- A survey will be sent to all parents and carers whose children meet the DfE criteria of vulnerable to find out if they would like to send their child to school from Tuesday 5th January.

Mentoring

- Key workers will offer virtual sessions.

Free school meal students

- We will survey all families eligible for free school meals with an offer of a packed lunch collection. We will write separately to families eligible for free school meals.

Safeguarding

- There will be a safeguarding team available each day.
- Our staysafe@highlearn.uk email address will be checked throughout the day. Students and parents/carers can use this email address for any safeguarding or welfare concerns.

IT PROBLEMS FOR STUDENTS WORKING FROM HOME

Our IT team will be working during office hours and can be contacted on the email address itstudent@highlearn.uk. They can help with login problems that can not be resolved online.

If you wish to discuss any issues relating to the accessibility or affordability of internet access or devices please contact the head of year in the first instance so that we can consider how best to support your child.

I hope that all members of the school community have a restful break and, on behalf of all the staff and the governing body of Highlands School, have a happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Mr V McNerney
Headteacher



DARE AWARDS

To recognise the significant efforts of our student's staff have been issuing students with achievement points for exceptional attitudes to learning and for demonstrating our DARE values. A large number of students with the highest totals in each year group have been identified for their incredible efforts over the past term through a variety of awards. Up to 60 students in each year group have been given awards including bronze, silver, gold and platinum certificates. Students who receive the gold and platinum awards are also entered into the gold and platinum prize draws, which will take place during the breakfast with the headteacher event they will be invited to attend after the Christmas holiday. Please join us in congratulating all of these students.

The following students are the platinum award winners:

YEAR 7

 Eliz Mustapha, 7BNI	 Eva Chrysostomou, 7BNI	 Daniel Lam, 7RNC	 Nicholas Georgiades, 7OSA
 Ender Guccuk, 7BNI	 Sheryce Crow, 7OSA	 Tyrae Best-Daley, 7BJC	 Mikael Chaudhry, 7ONK
 Charlie Pishiris, 7OSA	 Ellia Saat, 7BNI	 Nicole Zeka, 7BNI	
 Matilda Gant, 7ONK	 George Demetri, 7ONK	 Isla Kirkland, 7RNC	

YEAR 8

 Megha Pithia, 8BRD	 Rory White, 8BRD	 Stephania Chrysanthou, 8OSD	 Isaac Mooney, 8WKM
 Lydia Wright, 8OKS	 Harry Angelides, 8OKS	 Gracie Mae Ticehurst, 8OSD	 William Jones, 8BRD
 Arnelijus Mankevicius, 8OKS	 Lola Matthews, 8WMT	 Elena Giudice, 8BNK	 Adam Hasgarally, 8WKM
 Stephanie Anastasiades, 8WMT	 Daisy Webb, 8WMT	 Mercedes Acquaye, 8RKM	



YEAR 9

 Emma Dowle, 9WHE	 James Janczur, 9BPL	 Lorena Kransniqi, 9RNC	 Emelina Kourreta, 9RNC
 Joshua Bagulay, 9RNC	 Estella Yilmaz, 9RGA	 Hana Fahmy, 9WHE	 Daniel Drysdale, 9WLM
 Kalina Nuckowska, 9BPL	 Ezeika Willoughby, 9RGA	 Hasan Kiymaz, 9RNC	 Kaia Jugurnauth, 9WHE
 Tehya Greenaway-Clarke, 9BPL	 Ruby Horn, 9WLM	 Isabelle O'Sullivan, 9RNC	

YEAR 10

 Bianca D'Agostino, 10BJT	 Harrison Swanton, 10RCX	 Alexia Horea, 10BJT	 Kristiana Alexandrou 10BSB
 Rosina D'Agostino, 10BSB	 Jumaanah Hussain, 10BJT	 Zeren Secgin, 10BSB	 Daisy Peterson - Keith, 10BSB
 Shania Kizito, 10BJT	 Rachel Lok, 10WWM	 Simrit Swatch, 10OLR	 Amelie Smith, 10OJM
 Eniola Nicole Anjola Showunmi 10RSB	 Jonah Annett, 10RSB	 Chantelle Qusham, 10BJT	 Lewis Jones, 10OJM

YEAR 11

 Sanjana Persand, 11BCS	 Nagham Hassan, 11BCS	 Natasha Nicholas, 11WAI
 Naomi Rawding, 11BCS	 Alara Yarkan, 11BCS	 Rohan Biswas, 11OSM
 Margot Farnes, 11BCS	 Lucy Rawding, 11BCS	
 Cemal Egemen, 11BCS	 Constantina Michael, 11BJB	



YEAR 12

 Abigail Miller, 12RTA	 Mikaela Kostova, 12BAL
 Lani Fereday, 12OSH	
 Layla Yamansef, 12RTA	
 Mia Benbow, 12BAL	

YEAR 12

 Sophie Rogers, 13ODC
 Christina Sharpe, 13OKH
 Moneera Ali, 13ODC
 Mia Garvey, 13RMC





GCSE UPDATE

At this time of year, we would normally run a number of events for year 11. We have adapted the plans for these events to ensure they can run in a covid safe manner. Please add the following dates to your diaries:



Results event (students only) - Monday 11th Jan 2021, period 5



Information evening (pre-recorded event) - Published for your viewing from Tuesday 12th Jan 2021



Virtual parents evening (live event) - Wednesday 13th Jan 2021



SLT sixth form pathways clinic (live event) - Monday 18th January 2021



Intervention (students only, face to face) - Begins Monday 18th January 2021



RESULTS EVENT

On Monday 11th January there will be a results event where students will collect their pre-public exam results. Year 11 students will experience a 'mock results day' and will receive their results during period 5. At this time, students will be informed if they are required to attend intervention moving forward. Year 10 will also receive their results on this day.

INFORMATION EVENING

We will be publishing a presentation to ensure that parents/ students are fully informed about plans for GCSE students in the run up to their summer exams. This will be shared with you by email and also available on your child's Google Classroom. The presentation will cover; revision tips, emotional wellbeing, the intervention process and spring pre-public exams. Please ensure you take the time to listen to the presentation ahead of parents evening.

VIRTUAL PARENTS EVENING

It is vital that we continue to run important events such as parents evening in a covid-secure manner. We have invested in software which will allow us to run a virtual parents evening providing parents/carers with the chance to book appointments with their child's subject teachers on **Wednesday 13th January, between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm**. More information will be shared with you about this in January.

SLT SIXTH FORM PATHWAYS CLINIC

There will be a sixth form pathways clinic on **Monday 18th January** which will run from **4:00 pm to 5:45 pm**. This will be an opportunity for parents/carers and students to discuss sixth form options and receive support with the application process. Members of SLT will meet with parents/carers remotely. Appointment times and more information will be shared with you in January. The application deadline for the sixth form is the 31st January.

INTERVENTION

We will be running targeted intervention sessions during period 6 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Intervention will take place during period 5 on Wednesdays. We ask that parents do not book private tutors during these periods and refrain from booking medical appointments that could clash with intervention. Students required to attend intervention sessions will be informed in January.

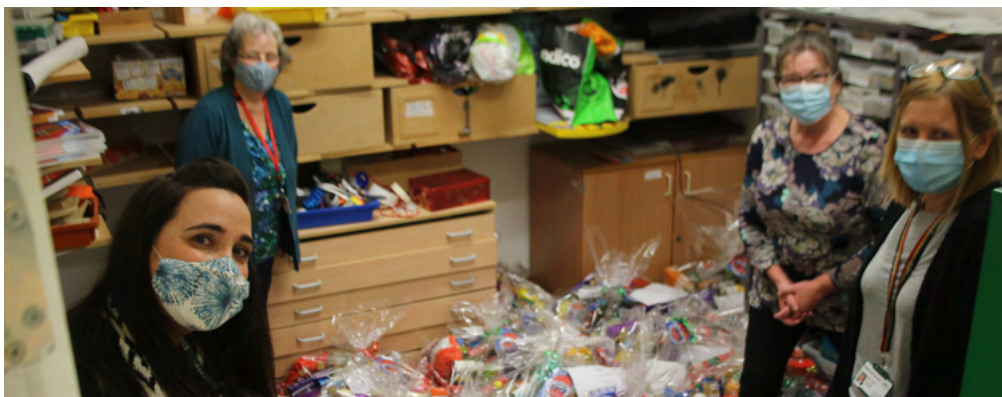


CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

A month ago we launched the Christmas hamper appeal and we asked for donations to support families that have had a particularly tough time this year. The response has been incredible!

Thank you so much for your support, generosity and kindness. The Highlands community has been so generous we were able to produce high quality hampers for families who attend Highlands School, Merryhills Primary School and Grange Park Primary School.

We would also like to thank Mrs Jaynes for coordinating this appeal and the many staff that helped with collections, making the hampers and deliveries.





MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM HIGHLANDS SCHOOL

As the final term of 2020 draws to a close, we would like to thank staff, students, parents and carers for their support during this unprecedented time. We want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We continue to closely monitor guidance provided to schools during the COVID-19 pandemic and will update you of any changes, should there be any. Updates will also be published on the website and on our social media channels should you wish to check for any new information.

We look forward to welcoming students back to Highlands School from January 5th 2021.



"Dear year 8 students,



Thank you for being so brilliant this term. You have done amazingly well in very difficult circumstances. We wish you and your families a very restful and joyous Christmas break and are looking forward to welcoming you all back in January (in person)."

Mrs Junker, Mrs O'Sullivan, Mr Joseph (year 8 team)



"Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a healthy new year!

Enjoy this precious time with your family,"

Mrs Selim



"Well done to all of year 7 students who have been brilliant at adapting under the COVID-19 restrictions during their first term. I look forward to seeing you all again after Christmas!"

Mrs Halstead, Head of year 7



"Have a restful, safe and festive holiday. I look forward to seeing students in 2021!"

Mr Avann

"Wishing everyone a healthy and happy holiday season!"

Ms Charles, School Counsellor



"Wishing all our students a safe and restful holiday. While this may not be the holiday we have enjoyed in previous years, we can spend the time looking back and remembering how lucky we have been to have celebrated happily in the many years before. We will do it again."



Ms Polak

Ms Stockton, in the English department, has been running an online creative writing club which has been well received.

Matilda Gant (7ONK) has been most prolific, writing in many forms including poetry, prose and script this term.

Daniel Cox Jaramillo is our best seller for his wonderful, imagery filled poem entitled "Down by the lake".

Most improved over the term is Kenzie Wejszko (7ONK) for his beautiful war poem that he wrote towards the end of term.

Down by the lake...

*Down by the lake, where grass and duckweeds grow,
and foxes stalk the underbrush, hiding down below,
Down by the lake, where young and old once played,
now lonely and abandoned, the memories start to fade,
Down by the lake, where no-one dares to go,
but cats and dogs, now merely strays, watching the
owners they once used to know,
Down by the lake, where silence finally falls,
once private many years ago,
now anyone may sit and see the trees tall,
Down by the lake, over the waters there is an island,
the bridge rotted away, geese nests up on the highland,
a desolate place where no-one dares to go, unreachable,
so far but so close,
Down by the lake, when the sun begins to rise,
and the geese soar through the air as the wind sadly
sighs,
Down by the lake, past the great oak tree,
Early in the morning, you might see my dog and me.*

War poem

*He wanted to win to show his vigour
But that was not possible no more
As his body hit the ground
His body bound to do no more;
He showed his support and devotion
To one's certain England
He knew he had to say goodbye To end this dreadful
war
As they trekked up the mountain,
To a total free land
Hundreds of vegetation around
The man sighed and said with a low voice "Lass uns in
Frieden leben"*

Well done for a great term of creativity. The creative writing Google classroom is open to all year 7 and 8 students. Have a great Christmas break!

Mr Duce

NOTICES

STAY SAFE

We are always here to support our students whenever they need it. If students feel like they need any kind of support, please speak to a member of staff on the school premises so we can help.

Alternatively, when off school premises or if you would like to speak to someone anonymously, you can also call or chat online with trained professionals at Childline.

www.childline.org.uk

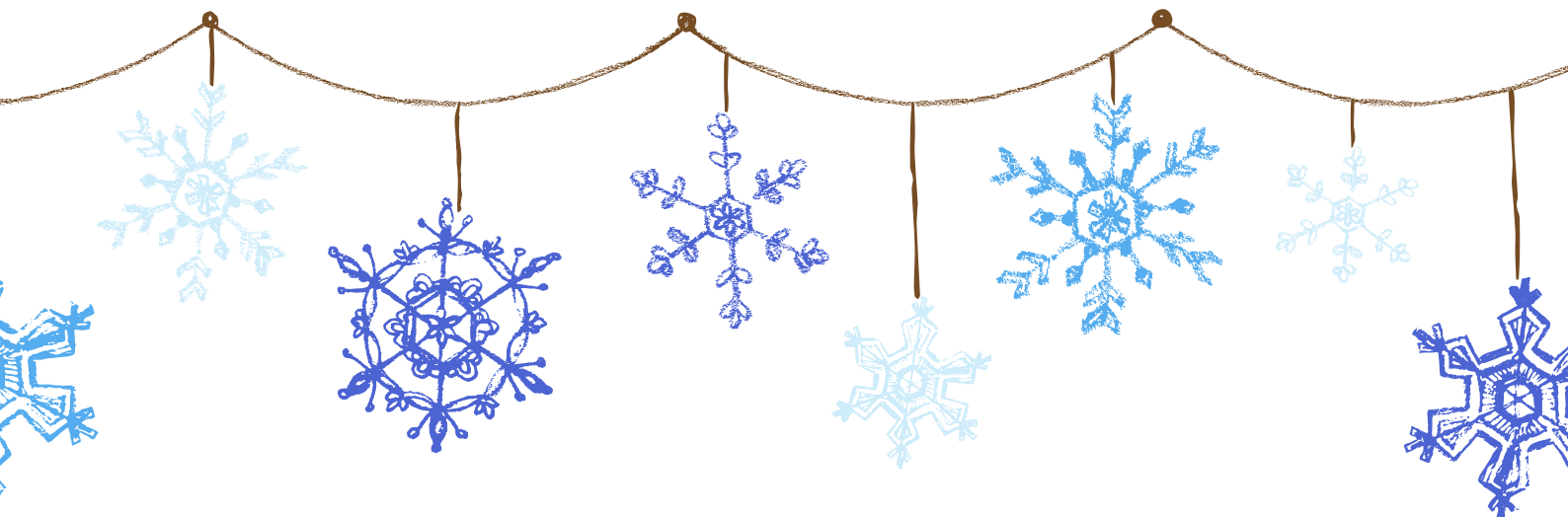


LAMDA ACTING

LAMDA acting examination preparation is an optional part of the extended drama curriculum at Highlands School. Spaces are available for new starters in January. Classes are 60 minutes and run after school on Wednesdays in small, socially distanced groups. No previous experience is necessary. Limited places are available so early booking is advised. Please contact the drama department for further details.

YEAR 7 FLU VACCINES

The year 7 flu vaccines have been postponed. The new date will be announced as soon as possible.





FOR YEAR 10 - YEAR 13 STUDENTS

Medicine in Action returns with a special half-day online programme for aspiring medics on January 26th. From brain surgery to life in A&E and more, uncover the science and technology driving medicine, discuss the societal implications and find out what life is really like as a medic at Medicine in Action. As usual, there will be plenty of opportunities to interact, with questions, polls, quizzes and more. Book your ticket by clicking [HERE](#).

Tickets to join us online are priced at £8 plus VAT each (each student will require a ticket). The programme can be viewed at school or at home, broadcast in a class/hall or accessed on individual computers, and if timetabling is a real struggle the recording can be viewed for up to a week after the event





Visit the [National Careers Service](#) to explore and choose from over 800 career profiles to discover what each job involves. Choose from hundreds of online courses from top universities and specialist organisations. Choose by subject [HERE](#).

National Theatre

National Theatre Young Technicians Programme

Are you interested in lighting, sound, video and stage? Are you aged between 14 and 18? Then these technical theatre online workshops could be for you!

National Theatre Young Technicians will run for ten sessions on Tuesday evenings between 12 January 2021 and 23 March 2021.

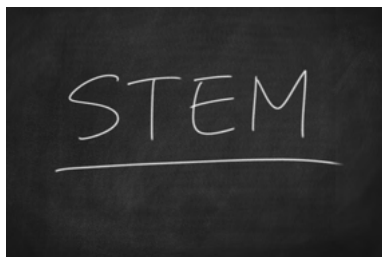
The programme offers an exciting opportunity to develop your skills and learn all about a variety of backstage and off-stage roles from top industry professionals. You must be available for all the course dates and times.

Sign up here before it's too late [National Theatre Young Technicians \(office.com\)](#).

NHS Bursary

Did you know that if you apply to study certain health-based courses at uni, you are eligible to receive an annual £5000 Training Grant which doesn't have to be repaid? Eligible courses range from dental hygiene, midwifery, nursing, occupational therapy, Physiotherapy, radiography and many more.

An additional £1000 is available to students on these courses. More info [HERE](#).



STEM Sessions puts a spotlight on STEM careers in the UK.

Listen to a STEM Ambassador, who are real people that work in STEM and also volunteer in schools to inspire and inform young people. You'll get to find out more about their job, how they got there and how young people today can get there too!

You can listen to Series 1 [HERE](#) as well Spotify, Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts.



The super seven suggestions for things you can do this Christmas holiday

Christmas is bound to feel very different this year, with most of the country facing tougher restrictions in December, finding activities might be a challenge.

Creating a 'holiday vibe'

First, do try to create a holiday vibe at home that has a slightly different routine from what you've established over the past few months. You will need areas in the house that are quiet so you can get on, but there should be a lighter feeling elsewhere in the house. You don't need to change much in terms of getting up and bedtimes (in fact, it's good to keep these fairly consistent with term time), but what you're all doing between those times should feel different - less sitting down and studying and more fun activities. Of course, some should be doing some revision over the winter break but there should be more non-study time too.



1. Get active:

With families more likely to be spending time at home this year, it's important to make sure you remain active by regularly exercising and spending time outdoors. This needn't be a chore and, depending on government restrictions, can include walking around your local parks or neighbourhood, hand delivering Christmas cards or visiting nearby shops.

If it's not possible to get outside every day, try to find ways to be active indoors – there's lots of online videos and fun Christmas themed workouts to inspire you. Open curtains and windows wide to get as much light and fresh air as you can. In order to get a good night's sleep, the body needs to be physically tired as well as mentally, so it's vital to try and do something physical every day.



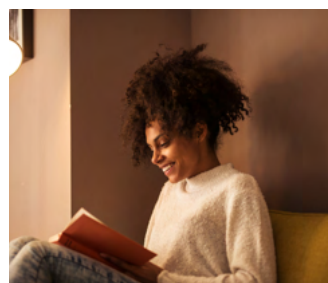
2. Start a business:

If you have the enthusiasm and ability, the Christmas holidays can be the perfect opportunity to start a new business venture. This needn't be costly and If things go really well, you may even have the beginnings of a career working for yourself. Ideas might include: Creating festive wreaths, making jewellery, Christmas hampers, designing Christmas cards, online tutoring, selling items you now longer use, offering dog walking services, creating personalized gifts, becoming a social media influencer.



3. Be creative in the kitchen:

From mince pies to gingerbread men, there are plenty of reasons to spend time in the kitchen this Christmas. If you are an experienced cook, you could prepare a festive meal, such as Christmas breakfast or Boxing Day lunch. If this seems too adventurous, how about getting decorating Christmas cookies or preparing a special treat, such as Christmas pudding. Watch Jamie Oliver for some simple ideas [HERE](#).



4. Read for pleasure

Think of a theme and set a challenge to read one or more books over the holiday time. Examples include: biographies of celebrities you admire; a historical novel set in a period of history that interests you; books on self-development; books about places of local interest; books around things you've enjoy (such as how a film/series was filmed, how to improve at gaming; how to apply make-up). For those that don't like to read, listening to an audio-book or podcast could offer an alternative. There are lots of free online deals at the moment. Click [HERE](#) for audio books online.



5. Have a virtual experience:

With so many businesses going 'online' this year, why not take a round-the-world trip by visiting two or three virtual museums. Choose museums in places you'd like to visit, or work around things you enjoy - such as natural history, space, modern art, sculpture or a specific artist. You could watch a play at the theatre or attend a live gig. [National Theatre Virtual tours of world class museums Virtual concerts](#). You may also be interested in doing some virtual work experience this holiday. To learn more about virtual work experience opportunities, click [HERE](#).



6. Volunteer

The spirit of giving this festive season and showing kindness to strangers is even more significant than ever this year. This might include volunteering at a shelter, writing Christmas cards to local care homes or donating old clothes, gifts and games to those in need. Helping charitable causes is one of the top ways to increase happiness. Find local age appropriate volunteering opportunities [HERE](#).



7. Connect with friends

It's likely that you'll miss time spent with friends this Christmas, so stay connected by researching things you might be able to do online together. Virtual escape rooms are a popular choice with groups who love a challenge and may provide you with something different (and safe) to do this Christmas.

I hope that, despite the unusual circumstances, you enjoy the holidays and create some wonderful memories. I am looking forward to supporting you with your career planning next year. Keep aiming high and reach your goals, persistence makes all the difference. **Mrs Laurenzi**