

Our sports hall temporarily become our asymptomatic Covid-19 Lateral Flow Device testing centre as we welcomed all students back from the



January/February lockdown on Monday 8th March. A really big thank you and well done to all our students who showed great maturity and responsibility on their return to school. We were also delighted to be filmed live by Sky News, showcasing our calm and organised testing centre and interviewing Mrs Grewal-Joy and Mr Elliott (test centre coordinator)



Sixth form student volunteer prepares his testing station

Community Learning









Welcome to the Spring Term

The beginning of the Spring term was a difficult one as the nation entered its third lockdown and our students were unable to return to school after the Christmas break. School was only open to the most vulnerable children and children of key workers. All our students were taught live lessons through Microsoft Teams, following their normal school timetable, with the day starting at

8.35am and Form Time, where key messages were shared in the daily student bulletin. We are very proud of the hard work that our teachers put into delivering live lessons as well as the way our students adapted to this way of learning.

During a live lesson, students are able to listen to their teacher, use the 'raise their hand' function to ask questions, and complete and upload work to ClassCharts.

We would also like to thank all the parents who sent us some very positive feedback - it meant a lot to our staff to hear it!

"

I know it must have been a really busy and very tough week in school! I feel for you all but I have to say that you have all done an amazing job. Please pass on our thanks to everyone – feedback from all the parents I have spoken to (and the comments I have seen on Facebook groups) has been full of praise for Meadowhead and everyone involved at the school"

Parent of Y7 and Y10 students

Listening to the lessons this morning (as I type this whilst my daughter is in "virtual Chemistry"), it's really obvious that a huge amount of work has gone into the presentations from a teaching preparation as well as the obvious IT perspective. To do this at such short notice would be difficult under any circumstances but it's easy to forget that teachers have their own lives and families too and are affected by the Pandemic as much as anyone else."

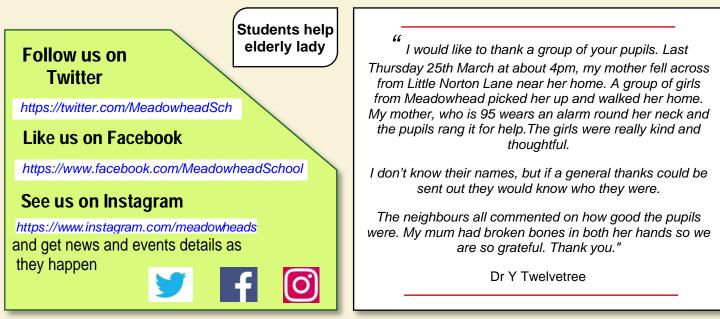
Parent of Y10 student

Form Time

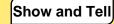
Form Time continued through this term – both at home and in school from March.

During the lockdown period, Form Time focussed on activities such as challenges, puzzles and discussions that encouraged social interaction while at home. There was also an emphasis on physical and mental health through a dedicated Friday morning slot.

Students heard from guest speakers such as Ashley Porter-Exley (a winner of BBC Young Apprentice), from the South Yorkshire Knives Take Lives campaign and recent graduates from the HEPPSY+ project. Students also discussed and learnt more about Safer Internet Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Book Day and LGBTQ+ History Month.







Dougie in Y7 sent in a picture of him playing his electric guitar.

Form Tutors were also creative in the way they introduced Form Time to their students during the lockdown - for example, Mrs Cheatle's form said 'hello' in a different language each morning, and students were encouraged to upload 'Show and Tell' pictures.



Charlotte in Y7 showed a picture of her baby budgie





Shown in form time to help understand the consequences of carrying a knife, this video (by Cuckoo Films) was filmed in locations around Sheffield and also featured Jonny Allison, former Meadowhead student who is studying Drama at the East Acting School in London. I just wanted to quickly express our appreciation and gratitude for all the hard work and effort of the staff in delivering the remote lessons. As a teacher myself, I know it has been challenging to adapt to online teaching and I have to say I have been really impressed with Meadowhead's efficiency, creativity and, to be honest, just the effort and enthusiasm of the staff.

've been playing electric guitar at home

I have only caught moments of lessons here and there but the school seems to be doing a great job and that is a view I have heard from other parents too."

Parent of Y10 and Y7 students.

Sixth Form Tutor Time - Virtual Guest Speakers

This term, Year 13 students have benefited from a range of guest speakers who delivered virtual presentations through Microsoft Teams.

- Sheffield Hallam University gave us a fantastic talk about applying for Student Finance.
- The careers department organised online practice interviews for every student through CapGemini
- The University of Sheffield gave a really useful talk about making university decisions and accepting
 offers
- The School of Sexuality Education spoke to the students about positive relationships
- Ashleigh Porter-Exley, winner of The Young Apprentice, gave an inspiring talk about resilience and overcoming barriers.

In the next few weeks we are also looking forward to hearing from Meadowhead Sixth Form alumni who will be speaking to the students about transitioning to independent living.

Y9 Virtual Options Evening

We held our information evening for students and parents virtually in January, with a live presentation and links to videos from teachers explaining what it means to take their subject at KS4 as a GCSE or BTEC.

Thank you to all parents/carers who joined in to watch and who supported their son/daughter in making an informed choice at this important stage in their school life.

Students were all given an interview in the weeks following this (via Teams) with a senior member of staff in order to discuss their choices.

On behalf of my family I'd like to offer my sincere thanks for the amazing job you and your team have done over recent months. I have two sons at the school (Y9 and Y7) and both have coped very well academically throughout lockdown thanks to the efforts of you and your colleagues. I have friends who are teachers o I know it has been a very challenging time for the profession. I suspect you will encounter negativity from some parents about the new rules regarding masks so I wanted to register our support and appreciation for the work you and your colleagues are doing."

Y7/Y9 Parent



Fundraising

Just before Christmas we held our end of term non-school uniform day, raising £125 for Humanitas, the

charity chosen by Y7, and over £1300 for the Snowflake appeal at the Sheffield Children's Hospital.



We supported two local charities that do important work on domestic and gender-based violence with a non-school uniform day at the end of the Spring term:

Sheffield Women's Aid (which offers a safe, supportive space for women and their children to live after leaving abusive relationships) and ASHIANA (which aims to support and empower those from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) communities whose lives have been affected by violence and abuse).





Sixth formers wear green in solidarity with women's rights

On the last day of term, sixth formers donned lovely green outfits to raise awareness by holding a raffle. Green is one of the official colours worn on International Women's Day and by Suffragettes - it symbolizes hope.





On the return to school (week beginning 8th March), 4737 Lateral Flow Tests were carried out over 9 days, by a team of 34 support staff/School Pastors and sixth form volunteers. Well done everyone!

We were delighted to see our students back in school and following their first asymptomatic test, students spent an extended period with their form tutors as part of the welcome back programme.

Students who were already in school as children of key workers were used to being tested regularly and helped make a short film to reassure others.

"It was pretty simple, it's not scary. When I put it up my nose it tickled and made my eyes water a bit" Sam Y7



Picture here are some of our sixth formers who volunteered to be part of the team carrying out tests and who did an amazing job (*Left*) It's about time I thanked the whole school team for all you are doing to support and educate the children. My daughter seems to be doing well and is getting on with her studies. Thanks so much to you Mrs Smith for everything you have done to support me and my daughter. Me as much as her if not more. It's very much appreciated. Thanks to all again."

Y8 Parent

Student Parliament

Thank you to student parliament members whose contributions have been invaluable during this term. In January, the parliament met virtually and gave teachers really useful feedback about how to further improve learning at home through Microsoft Teams. More recently, the parliament has met in person where discussion focussed on the return to school and the new arrangements such as testing and the wearing of masks.

Safer Internet Day

9th February

A reminder that we are part of the National Online Safety platform and all parents can sign up for free to access all content.



Find the link for full details on our website under the Parents Tab 'e-safety', or click the logo above to go to the platform. It's clear that a lot of thought has gone into planning for reopening, and I wanted to share my appreciation for the time and commitment this must have required from the leadership team and all staff.

I am very proud that my children attend this school."

Georgie (Y11 and Y12 Parent)

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Virtual STEM Club

Students in Y7 – Y10 have had a great time during the first two weeks of Virtual STEM Club making optical illusions and growing crystals. If any of our students wishes to join please contact Mr O'Brien.



Get Up to Speed

As part of World of Work Week, our

Science department signed up for the 'Get Up To Speed with STEM Virtual Experience'. This was a chance to see and hear from some of the UK's most exciting Science, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing (STEM) businesses, inventors, apprentices, graduates and education providers in an event like no other.

Students were inspired by great careers ideas and advice from those who really know!

Topics included company tours, real-life career stories, 'meet the expert' sessions, company information, challenges and much more. There was a different spotlight on areas of industry each day to give some fantastic insights and advice.

Remote Science Experiments



Dougie Walkden

Eddie Laycock

Beth Cameron





Eddie Laycock





Harriet Dickson



Y7s enjoyed learning about Chromatography - the processes for separating dissolved solids - and as part of their remote learning science lesson they had a go at a practical experiment at home, using biros/felt tips, water and kitchen paper.



Lydia Hole





I have been speaking to parents from other Sheffield Schools, and you are the only one to keep the children in a daily routine. Thank you all so much for all of your hard work and dedication to the children"

Meadowhead Parent

"

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Women in STEM - alumni

We were proud to see two of our former students showcased as part of International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11th February 2021. You can find out what inspired Catherine and Sophie to start their pathway to science on the *Twinkl Education Blog*. **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)



From Winter to Spring Photography Challenge

Our Y10s capture the change in season for Active8 Magazine

When Active8 heard there was a talented bunch of photographic students here at Meadowhead, they decided to set our students a challenge. The students, aged 14 and 15, were asked to take a look outdoors and capture images showing the Active8 local area turning from winter to spring.

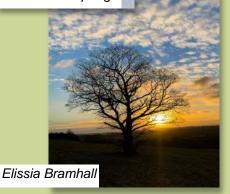
Mike at Heron Publishing said 'I will be looking for the beautiful, the creative, the unusual and the eye-catching.'

Our students rose to the challenge and produced some fantastic images, which have been shared as a double page spread in the latest edition of Active8 magazine, April. (*View online here*)



Signs of Spring - exhibition in the Rosling











Lottie McParland







We were delighted to welcome our little bear into school this term! After a poll on MeadowheadADT Instagram it was decided that the bear will be called <u>Kuma</u> (Japanese for 'bear'). Kuma is one of 100 little bears that will be part of the sculpture trail raising money for Sheffield Children's Hospital. 60 big bear sculptures will also form part of the trail this July.



Well done to **Eve Sambrook 10K** for this winning bear sculpture design.

Thank you and well done to all students who sent in designs for this competition, with the theme of 'Wild and Botanical'. There were so many creative and imaginative designs and it made our job of selecting the winner very difficult! All students who submitted a design were awarded an R2.





Kuma visited the library and reception before getting his base coat on. He is now ready to be painted with Eve's design!



Easter Eggs for Young Carers

A huge thank you to our Meadowhead Community Learning Trust Partners who generously donated Easter eggs for our young carers at the end of term.





Join the Meadowhead Community Learning Trust on Facebook

The Meadowhead Community Learning Trust was established in 2009.

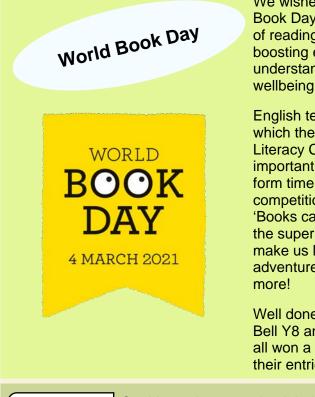
Over the past 11 years, the Trust has gone from strength to strength, growing its membership from just 5 to over 30 business and education partners, who work collaboratively each year on innovative projects to enrich and improve the education experiences of all its 4000 learners aged 3-19.



Best Wishes for a Happy Retirement Glynis!

We were pleased to present Glynis with some gifts at the end of term, in recognition of her many years (39!) of hard work for the school as a cleaner. Enjoy your retirement!





We wished everyone a Happy World Book Day as we highlighted the joy of reading and its importance in boosting educational performance, understanding other cultures and for wellbeing.

English teachers shared the books which they enjoyed, Ms Lewin, our Literacy Co-ordinator, had some important words for our students in form time and Mrs Webb ran a competition to complete the phrase 'Books can.....' as we celebrated the superpowers books have to make us laugh or cry, take us on an adventure, make us think and much more!

Well done to Mia Harrex Y9, Eliza Bell Y8 and Grace Ridlley Y7 who all won a newly published book for their entries.



Bookbuzz

Our Y7 students received their free Bookbuzz book just before the Easter holidays - we are sure they will enjoy reading them, and we will also be holding a 'book swap' in the summer term if they want to try another one.



BiG Challenge Awards 2021

We are highly proud, thrilled and delighted to announce that Meadowhead School had two teams who each won a runner up prize in this year's Big Challenge Awards. Each team member was awarded £100 Amazon voucher in the live online BiG Challenge 2021 Awards event on 24th March.

All of our entrants this year have represented Meadowhead School at its highest level and all students who took part should be really proud of their achievements. Not only did we win the Media & Marketing Competition (Delightful Dog Accessories), but out of all the schools that entered in Sheffield, we were awarded two of the final 3 runner up prizes.

Special congratulations to our winning team members who showed confidence, knowledge and above all else, entrepreneurship to claim these coveted prizes.



BiG Challenge Runners Up



Delightful Dog Accessories - Lucy & Ruby Y9



Pixscribble - Matilda Y10 & Daisy Y13

BiG Congratulations go to our other teams from Meadowhead who made it through to the final judging panel shortlist:

Masks & More: Summer Mason / Justyna Debrowska & Harriet Dickson - Y7

Bubbles: Eliza Bell & Phoebe Turner Y8

Customised Goodies: Elisha Whittaker / Charlotte Burke / Brogan Wilson / Francesca Gallagher / Georgiana Walker Y7

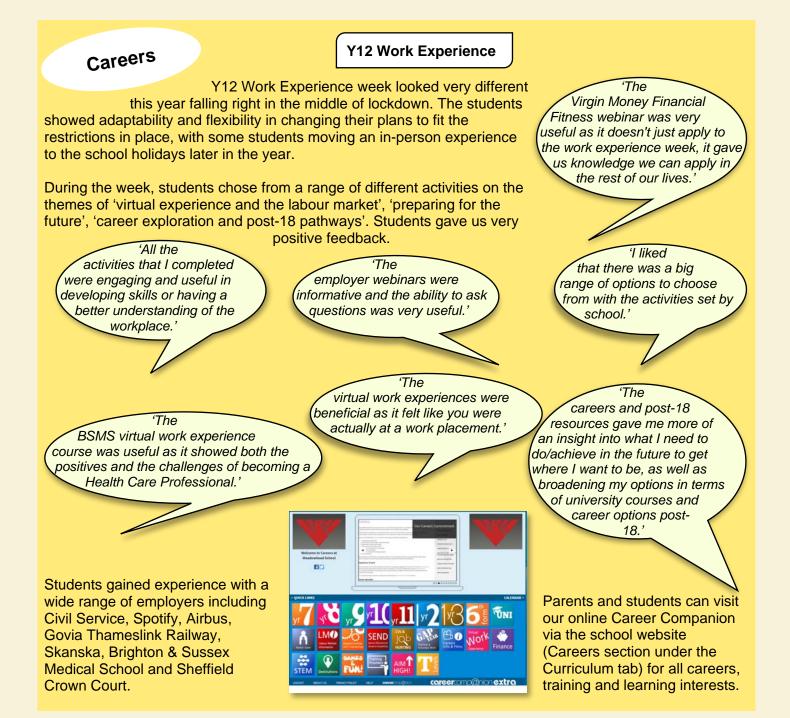
Full details can be found on the Big Challenge website http://bigchallenge.biz/pages/bc2021-winners

A brilliant year for Meadowhead - very well done everyone!



You can watch a recording of the live ceremony on YouTube: https://youtu.be/s40jjJd-ZIc





World of Work Week

A great big thank you to all the employers, entrepreneurs and

alumni, who gave their time to support World of Work Week, ensuring every student from Y7-13 has benefited from an employer encounter during the week. Students watched a wide range of video presentations during tutor time, learning about careers such as Physiotherapy, an MP's Case Manager, Film Director, HR Manager, Public Relations and University Outreach Worker.

All the videos are still available to watch on the Careers section of our website - World of Work Week 2021











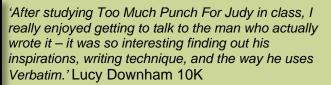


D OF WORK

Drama - Too Much Punch for Judy

Mark Wheeller is one of the most performed playwrights in Britain! And Y10 BTEC Acting students have been studying his play 'Too Much Punch for Judy'. In February, they had the opportunity to share some of their Verbatim scenes in an online session with Mark and ask questions about the play and his work in the industry.

'I enjoyed the session and found it really interesting. Being able to actually ask questions to Mark Wheeller himself gave me a better view and understanding of Too Much Punch for Judy and writing plays in general.' Alice Bull 10G



Mrs Masson-Wilson and Ms Pollard are very proud of how the students involved presented themselves in such a positive way through the online session and asked such insightful questions. Well done to all involved!

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We sent our our first Parent Bulletin in January via email to all our parents/carers. This will be a regular short bulletin sent out at the beginning of each term, with current messages and forthcoming events and dates

" I just wanted to say a big Thank You to you and all your staff for everything that you have put in place for the return back to school. I found the online meeting very reassuring and any concerns that we may have had have been put to rest."

Sarah (Y10 and Y12 Parent)

Everyone a Writer

Too Much Punch For Judy

This term all of our Key Stage 3 students started work on their submissions to the Everyone A Writer competition. This is a yearly event, where creative entries from Meadowhead students and local primary schools are celebrated in an anthology, with

prizes in each year group for the winners.

This year's theme is 'The Year the World Stopped', and students have written pieces around the topic of the

The Year the

Stopped

Coronavirus outbreak, life in lockdown, their experiences of home schooling and even key political events such as the Black Lives Matter rallies that took place during this unprecedented year in our history.

Key Stage 4 and 5 students (and staff!) are encouraged to enter - poetry, prose and even artwork related to the theme is accepted. Entries can be handed in to your English teacher. The launch event will take place in the summer term.



Meadowhead School: 🔧

Everyone a Writer *****





Mark Wheeller

Drama

Y7 Creativity



Lucy Simpson

"the world offers itself to your imagination"- ideas about the natural world from Wild Geese by Mary Oliver





Isla McPherson



Popular ideas to explore were

and photographs.

"Another London day"- the idea of boredom from the poem Island Man by Grace Nichols

Pupils in Y7 showcased their considerable creative talents in their last English lesson of the term. They were invited to submit a creative response to a range of

prompts from the poems studied in our People and Places anthologies. We had a huge range of fantastic projects; cakes, make up, songs, poems, collages, paintings

- "My city is a dark murmur outside the window tonight"- the idea of Sheffield from the poem Sheffield by Warda Yassin
- "But still, like air, I'll rise."- exploring the idea of joy/surviving/triumph From Still I rise by Maya Angelou
- "April/Comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers."exploring ideas about spring from Spring by Edna St Vincent Millay
- Nothing gold can stay."- the idea of loss From nothing Gold can stay by Robert Frost

Taiya Billam-Wright



The top of the woods

I sit in the top of the wood, my eyes closed. I hear the soft noises of the woodlands The birds twitter cheerfully, high up in the trees.

The deer wander around the cut grass meadow behind me.

As I sit there, I feel calm and embraced in nature's hand

I am one with nature.

George D



Another London day"- I tried to recreate a makeup look for boredom







Sports



Mr Whitaker did a fantastic job of keeping students motivated to keep fit over the January/February lockdown!

'I would just like to thank all students who joined into my live Instagram workouts. The sports leaders joined in every single week and lead by example with their efforts. There was a total of 7 different home workouts that we did over the lockdown period. They are still on the Meadowhead PE Instagram page now! Thanks again for your efforts and I hope I played a part in motivating you to get in that all important exercise over the tough periods.' Mr Whitaker

Sheffield Federation for School Sport Awards

Congratulations to two of our students who have both received awards from the Sheffield Federation for School Sport.

Ally in Y10 received hers for her constant dedication to her training, representing school and also helping to coach the others who attend the trampolining club. (Right)





Molly in Y9 has been awarded the prestigious Frank Schofield Award for helping to steer the girls Cricket team to the

Yorkshire finals that were held at Headingley stadium. Her leadership combined with her sportsmanship was outstanding.

CONGRATULATIONS!





Thank you to our former students, including Carys and Joe below, who kindly sent in messages of support during Lockdown via our Instagram page - MeadowheadPe



Carys Hall is now a professional rugby player for Sale Sharks. Carys still holds a number of records for the 100m, 200m and Long Jump from our sports days!

Joe Ironside

Ex student at Meadowhead School Professional footballer for Cambridge United

Joe was in the same classes as Mr Whitaker at Meadowhead and he sent us a video message wishing everyone the best "keep going - I know times are hard but we're going to get through this (and don't forget to tune in to Mr Whitaker's PE classes!)"



We held our first ever Meadowhead Bake Off on meadowheadADT Instagram Live on Monday 1st February it was a huge success and well done to everyone who joined in! Thank you to Miss Booth for being in front of the camera and inspiring lots of you to have a go! We had four bake off live sessions and we really enjoyed seeing the photos of your tasty bakes!



"I just wanted to let you know how much my son is enjoying the food tech lessons and the Instagram cooking. Both recipes for the Instagram sessions have been delicious and so easy to follow along with you. Thanks for doing such a great job. Best wishes "Y7 Parent 'I enjoyed the bake off so much I loved preparing the ingredients and making a space in my timetable to do some baking, I loved everything we baked because it was really nice and we also made a variety of foods.' (Lucy Maltby Y8)



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