



# **RICHARD LANDER SCHOOL BULLETIN**

## **18TH MARCH 2020**

18/03/2020 11:15 am

Dear Parents / Carers,

### **Coronavirus/ COVID-19 Update: Partial School Closure**

***Please note that this communication replaces the communication sent to parents yesterday.***

Due to the significant number of additional staff absence today and into the longer term, a decision has been made to close the school to Years 8-10 students, from Thursday 19th March, until further notice.

The school will remain open for Years 7 & 11 students plus students in any year group whose parents work in the NHS, who will be offering front line support at this time.

We regret that this decision has to be made but we do not have the teaching or support staff capacity to extend our delivery beyond Years 7 & 11 at this time.

(Please note that levels of staff and student absence are increasing on a daily basis and this communication may well be amended again in the coming days or weeks.)

Thank you for your support at this challenging time.

Steve Mulcahy  
Headteacher

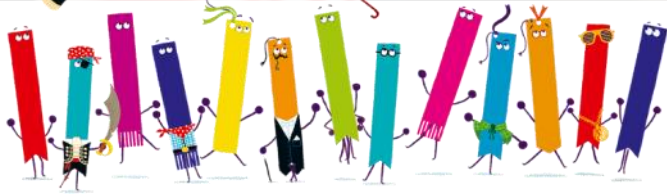
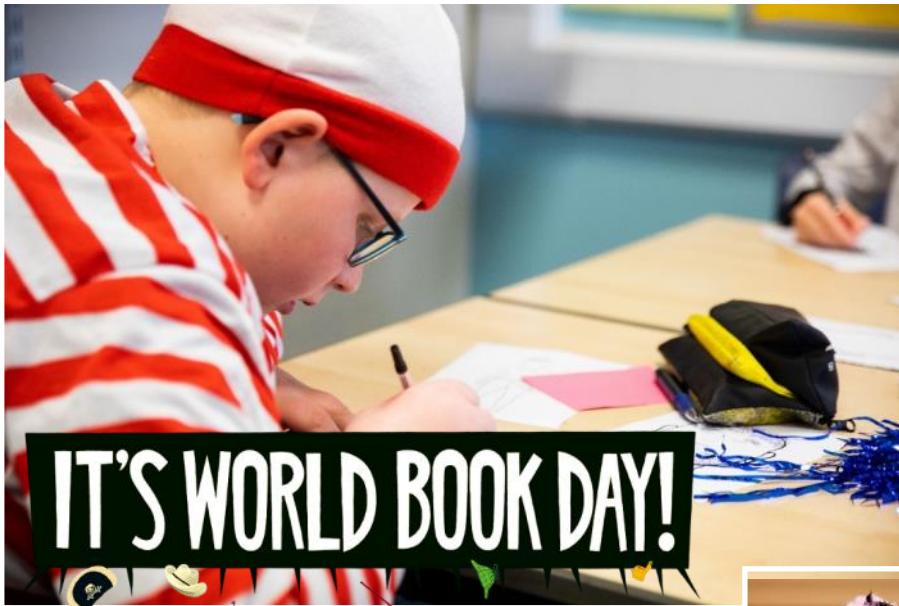
## **Learning from home with RLS**

Your teachers will be uploading resources for each of you classes every day. All resources and tasks will be available on [RLS Moodle](#) You will need to log on and follow *Curriculum area – Class* to find your lessons. In addition there will be some general resources in each curriculum area

Your teachers will be available via their school email addresses to answer your questions and for you to submit assignments. If you have any problems accessing Moodle or opening resources, the IT Support team are here to help. Please email [ITSupport@richardlander.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:ITSupport@richardlander.cornwall.sch.uk)

If you are well, you should continue your education from home as vigilantly as you would in school.

We look forward to your emails, your assignments and seeing you in person after the Coronavirus outbreak has passed.



**O**n Thursday 5th March, all Year 7 took part in World Book Day. Students were invited to come into school dressed as a character from a story book and Year 9 subject leaders had been working for weeks on innovative lesson plans to provide workshops which celebrated reading, creative writing and imagination development for their younger colleagues. Students were invited to recreate fairy-tales to include the character they were dressed as, to use prompt cards to create their own play, to develop their own murder mystery, to draw and then describe a character or to play the newly invented 'Books Against Humanity' to match a scenario to an outcome to create an unusual story.

At lunchtime a treasure hunt challenged Year 7s to match a favourite book with a member of staff. The addition of a baby photograph added both an extra clue and extra amusement!

The day finished with a whole year group assembly with a film which had been made over the course of the day by a Year 9 media team, with Mr Williams and Miss Wright. The media team also awarded Easter eggs for their favourite costumes under the categories of best homemade, best historical, best make up, best fantasy character, most imaginative, funniest and best duo.





## RLS Science Week 2020

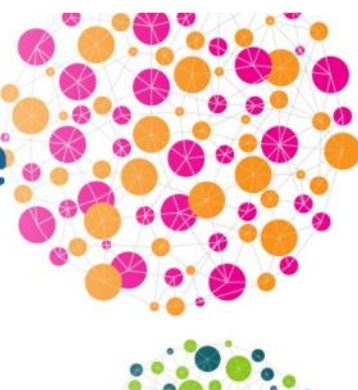
**R**ichard Lander School students have enjoyed an action packed week of extra curricular science activities to celebrate British Science Week. Organised by Miss Cornish and Miss Hall, these opportunities have included Y8 students taking part in a Sea Cadet Marine workshop where they learnt about forces related to ships. Students had to design and build a boat to hold marbles. The winners of group 1 were 'International Sink Station' holding 277 marbles, and group 2 saw 'The Slightly Wasteful' boat holding 290!

<https://www.sea-cadets.org/>

Other Year 8 students were treated to a virtual reality exoplanet exploration. Our PGCE student, Mr Coleman, borrowed equipment from University of Exeter - Astronomy Outreach to allow our students to take a trip to another solar system. Thank you for the loan -



6-15 March  
**British  
Science  
Week  
2020**





the students really enjoyed the adventure!

[emps.exeter.ac.uk/physics-astronomy/research/astrophysics/outreach/about/](https://emps.exeter.ac.uk/physics-astronomy/research/astrophysics/outreach/about/)

Later in the week, we had Abby and Cheryl in from Cornwall Wildlife Trust to talk to Year 7 about megafauna and marine life around the Cornish coastline. Students identified different porpoises, dolphins and whales, learned about seals and looked at a giant fin whale vertebrae. Many students left considering whether they would like to pursue a career in marine biology.

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

On Thursday, Eco-Schools students had a really interesting talk from Surfers Against Sewage. With one marine mammal or sea bird dying every 30 seconds due to plastic pollution, it is vital that we take better care of our oceans. Richard Lander School has now joined the Plastic Free Schools campaign and we will be organising beach cleans once the Coronavirus outbreak is contained. At the SAS talk, we handed over a pile of paddling pools and other inflatables which were collected, by Mrs Downing, during the 'inflatable amnesty' before Christmas. These will be sent to Wyatt and Jack - a British company who use unwanted inflatables to create beautiful bags!

Visit their website here:

[www.wyattandjack.com/](http://www.wyattandjack.com/)

Our visitors from SAS remarked how 'switched on' our students are - we quite agree! Students were delighted to be given a really special gift at the end of the talk. Thank you Surfers Against Sewage for an inspiring, and eye opening morning.

[www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-schools/](http://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-schools/)  
[www.sas.org.uk/](http://www.sas.org.uk/)

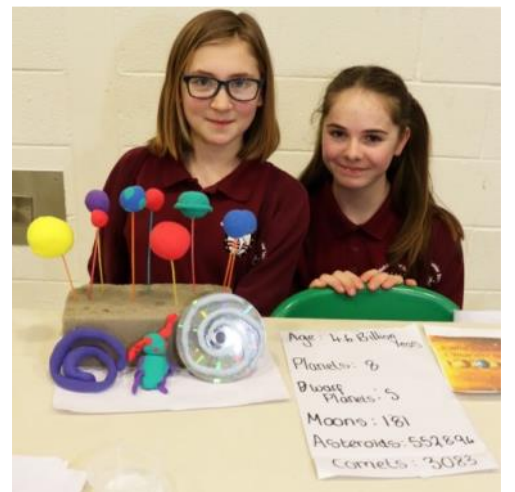
RLS Science Week culminated in the RLS Science Fair. More on that next..





# Science FAIR

The grand finale of RLS Science Week was the Science Fair with the sports hall filled with groups of students and trade stands with activities and displays to demonstrate scientific phenomena. From fossil excavation to hydraulics, static electricity to lava lamps, the solar system, potato clocks, the science behind human memory, an 'invisible' test tube, a 'volcanic' explosion, black holes, a prosthetic limb, an app which uses GPS to find a safe space, balloons powering cars and rockets, reactions inflating rubber gloves, sweets demonstrating how different liquids are absorb and how colours disperse..the variety of scientific topics covered was huge and each and every stand was extremely well researched and presented.



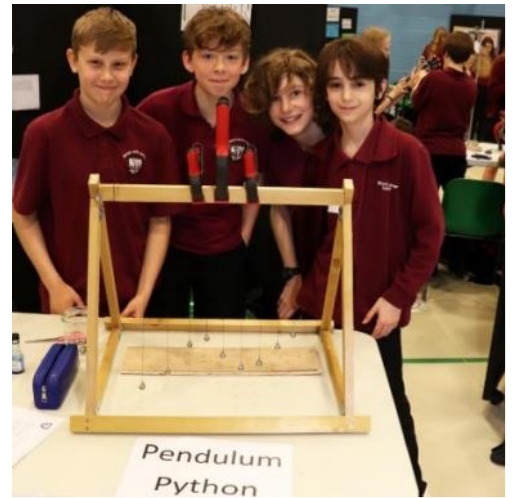


The RLS Science Fair is now in its fourth year and it has grown from a single classroom to the largest indoor space in the school! A really lovely edition this year was inviting guests from our feeder primary schools. These younger students really impressed us with their scientific knowledge and enthusiasm for the tasks offered.

The Science Fair has a competitive element and our judges had the difficult job of choosing 3 overall winners and also 3 awards for best effort and explanations.

The awards for best effort and explanations went to: **Tech Kidz** (Riley, Joe, Toby & Jayden), **The Refractor Reactor** (Warrick, Ben & Henry), **Growing Gummy Bears** (Holly, Megan, Polly & Zach) & **Harry**. The awards for RLS Science Fair 2020 went to: 1st - **The Handy Crafters** - Kara-Jorja, Tegen-Alysha & Rewan. 2nd - **Ready Steady Grow** - Lucy, Beth & Katie. 3rd - **Pendulum Python** - Oscar, Archie, Xav & Emilio.

There are more photos on our social media accounts and we are making a video as some of these displays really need be seen in motion!





**BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY  
YEAR 7 MEET THE EMPLOYER**



**O**n Friday 6th March, Year 7 students were given a taste of working life. Students had the opportunity to either go into work with their parents, to see what their working day was like, or if this wasn't possible, they were treated to in school workshops. In school activities included 'speed dating' with local employers, which gave students the chance to ask questions and learn about careers they might not have previously considered. Our guests for the 'speed dating' were Lizzie Melvin – Photographer, Sarah-Jane Pedley – NHS, Zoe Nelson – NHS, Susie Redondo, Peter George – Construction Industry Training Board, Asley Haynes – Barclays Bank and Sara Munns – Area Manager for Cornwall Music Trust— and these generous people provided a fantastic variety of work places for our students to scrutinise.



After this, student enjoyed a really interesting presentation from Gemma Toy from Crew2U – Gemma's business provides a complete stage management and technical support solution to major events. Gemma has worked with many celebrities and impressed our students with her 'you can do it' outlook and exciting stories about her working life.

We hope to bring you news on the adventures our students had in their parents' work places in the next bulletin.





## CANCELLATIONS AND POSTPONEMENTS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

Not surprisingly, our busy school calendar is now looking rather empty. Here is a list of confirmed disruptions but this is by no means exclusive.

- Sports fixtures cancelled until further notice unless you have been specifically told different.
- The Ten Tors programme will be cancelled as this is an event which involves many hundreds of people and also requires shared student accommodation in tents.
- Y10 work experience and curriculum enrichment week are cancelled. We cannot justify sending children to the workplace when the government are advising workplaces, wherever possible, to have their employees working from home
- Foreign trips (including trips to Barcelona, Munich & Uganda) will be cancelled. The Year 7 trip to the Ardeche in July is still under review. We will communicate with parents in due course regarding reimbursement of monies paid for trips. (More information will be forwarded to parents whose children were due to go on the 2020 Uganda trip, following a parents meeting this week.)
- Year 11 Ball will not happen in June. Staff are considering alternatives.
- All school assemblies will be cancelled until further notice, to avoid having large assembled groups in school where we can avoid it.
- All in-school exams will be cancelled as they also put a large number of students into close

proximity. Some subjects may choose to issue exams in class time, but we will not be assembling students into large groupings for exams purposes.

- All parents' evenings will be cancelled until further notice.
- A decision will be taken in due course regarding other extra-curricular events such as the Duke of Edinburgh programme.
- Cornwall Music Festival has been cancelled. Message from Miss Jones - *On behalf of Mr Gibbons, Miss Foxon and myself, can I just take this opportunity to congratulate all the students who have participated in Music ECAs and extra rehearsals to prepare for the music festival. The musical quality has been of the highest calibre and we will find the right time for you to perform your music that you have been working so hard to polish in your respective ensembles. Well done everybody, your teamwork is inspirational.*

But..

- School transport will remain unaffected as this is managed by the Local Authority.
- **As things currently stand, GCSE/BTEC examinations will go ahead as planned.**

If you have a query or concern about any of the above matters, please address this with the school directly. Please be assured that in making any decision, the safeguarding and welfare of children is our most important priority. The measures detailed above are to ensure we can provide an effective education for your child as well as keeping them safe.

## JO McANDREWS TALK ON SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Last Tuesday, we were delighted to be able to host a talk by inspiring psychotherapist Jo McAndrews on how best to support our children in light of the daily, and often devastating, reports on climate change from around the world.

Jo spoke of the different parts of our brain and how stress can cause an individual to 'flip their lid' resulting in disconnections meaning that one can no longer think straight. Jo offered advice on how much to share with children depending on their age groups and how best to listen and help children to build resilience

**Supporting Children in the Face of Climate Change**

A talk from the inspiring psychotherapist Jo McAndrews about how to support our children in the face of climate change. How much or how little should we talk with our children about this challenging issue? How can we involve children to feel more empowered? Jo will explain how to build resilience in children and give you the confidence and skills to support children around this difficult subject. This talk is for anyone who is interested in supporting children eg parents, carers, friends, teachers, TA's, grandparents, family members, youth workers.

**Please note this is a talk for adults not children.**

**10 March  
7.00 - 9.30  
Richard Lander School,  
Truro  
FREE EVENT  
Tickets on Eventbrite**






# Are you worried about a child or young person?

If you think a child or young person might be suffering neglect or abuse contact the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU)

**If you see something, say something**

 **0300 1231 116**

 **multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk**

Whilst you may be concerned about involving our services, we do more than check up on children and young people's welfare.

If a family is struggling, we can organise early help and support for them, before any problems become harder to solve.

#### **What information do I need to give?**

The more detail you are able to provide, the better we will be able to help.

If you have noticed that something wrong, other people might have too. A teacher, health visitor or other person that knows the family might have already alerted us, and your knowledge might fill in some missing information that can help.