

Friday 24th April 2020,

Dear Year 11 student,

The four LaSWAP headteachers had an online meeting this morning and you, our students in Year 11, were very much in our thoughts. The exams at the end of Key Stage 4 have been such an important feature of your lives; you have been constantly reminded of their importance and you have been working towards them since Year 9. With them dramatically removed you might have initially experienced a sense of relief, but this will probably be accompanied by a sense of loss and uncertainty.

We hope that you are coping well in these difficult times and that you are able to make a positive contribution to your families and community. If you are finding it tough your schools are here to support you, so please reach out to us.

With your exams no longer taking place, we appreciate that you may be finding it hard to engage in and continue your learning. However, it is really important that you keep your mind stimulated and look towards the future. It was with this in mind that we wrote to you before the Easter break with an outline of our plans for the summer term.

In the first half of the summer we'd really like to encourage you to engage in some learning for its own sake. We have called this *Broaden Your Mind*. Your school will provide some further ideas but on the back of this letter are some great opportunities available for you to broaden your learning and inspire you for the future. We hope that you will find two or three projects that excite your intellect and engage you over the next four weeks and possibly longer. You may have also come up with ideas of your own, but we definitely recommend that you read at least one of the books on the list too.

Your school will continue to keep in touch with you individually and along with checking on your wellbeing and that of your family, staff will be encouraging you to choose and engage with *Broadening Your Mind* projects. We will write to you again about the plans for the second half of the summer term. We don't know whether schools will reopen in this time, so we are keeping our plans open for how we best work with you in that time to prepare you for your next steps and sixth form.

We send our very best wishes to you and your families and we look forward to the time that we will be able to see you in person again.

Best wishes,

Sophie Fegan
Sam White
Nicholas John
Sarah Creasey

Headteachers of **La Sainte Union**, **William Ellis**, **Acland Burghley** and **Parliament Hill**

LaSWAP YEAR 11 - BROADEN YOUR MIND PROJECTS

For the first half of the summer term we would like you to enjoy the intellectual stimulation of some broader learning. Choose two or three projects to really get your teeth into. This page contains some ideas, your school will send you some more.

TAKE A COURSE IN ANIMATION

There are two free online courses with STORE, through Camden.

1. **Material Animation:** run by architect and designer Danielle Purkiss. Students will learn how to design and make animations using the software Adobe Creative Suite.
2. **Critical Design:** run by designers Namuun Zimmermann from Studio Sain and Rike Glaser from CIRG. Students will be introduced to a series of critical design exercises using digital communication to capture and challenge how we use everyday products in times of isolation.

You must sign up for these courses in advance, email: school@storeprojects.org

FIND OUT ABOUT UNIVERSITY

The Brilliant Club has a range of sessions to view on university information, advice and guidance to help you learn more about university and the application process. They also have made available:

- Sessions on developing University Skills
- Masterclasses on a range of topics e.g. virology, history, science and psychology and
- Workbooks for independent learning in Arts, Humanities, Science and Maths

<https://thebrilliantclub.org/the-brilliant-club-for-pupils/info-for-pupils/>

GREAT EXHIBITION AT HOME

How can engineering help protect the planet?

Join students across the country taking part in engineering challenges. You finish by making a 1-minute video where you present your Great Exhibition at Home. This is a 7-week project.

www.bigideas/join1851

NO BARRIERS AT HOME

No Barriers at Home is a fun interactive project that brings people together, even when we can't be together. Based on 12 inspiring stories from European football, students complete activities and upload their work and have a chance to be featured on the website.

www.bigideas.org/nobarriersathome

COMPLETE A UNIVERSITY SHORT COURSE

FutureLearn has a great range of courses for students in Year 11 upwards. They are provided by universities across the globe and titles range from Computer Programming to Global Ethics. These are currently free.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/collections/futurelearn-schools>

EtonX

To stand out from the crowd you need to be a great communicator, a great collaborator, adaptable, resilient and creative.

Eton X delivers courses to develop this skills and attributes. Year 11 students in LaSWAP schools have been signed up for free access to the Creative Problem-Solving course during school closure. Your school will send you the details.

BOOKS TO READ - FICTION

- *Half of a Yellow Sun* Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche
- *Oryx and Crake* Margaret Atwood
- *In Cold Blood* Truman Capote
- *Heart of Darkness* Joseph Conrad
- *Tsotli* Athol Fugard
- *I Claudius* Robert Graves
- *A Kestrel for a Knave* Barry Hines
- *The Haunting of Hill House* Shirley Jackson
- *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* Shirley Jackson
- *The Turn of the Screw* Henry James
- *The Namesake* Jhumpa Lahiri
- *Atonement* Ian McEwan
- *All Quiet on the Western Front* Erich Maria Remarque
- *A Wild Sargasso Sea* Jean Rhys
- *The Darkroom* Rachel Seiffert
- *Gulliver's Travels* Jonathan Swift
- *Tom Sawyer* Mark Twain
- *The Age of Innocence* Edith Wharton

BOOKS TO READ – NON-FICTION

- *Confronting the Classics: Traditions, Adventures and Innovations* Mary Beard
- *What Happened* Hillary Clinton
- *The Heat of the Moment: Life and Death Decision-Making from a Firefighter* Sabrina Cohen-Hatton
- *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* Frederick Douglass
- *Sophie's World* Jostein Gaarder
- *The Story of Art* E.H. Gombrich
- *Realities Behind Diplomacy* Paul Kennedy
- *Born to Run* Christopher McDougall
- *The Road to Wigan Pier* George Orwell
- *Homage to Catalonia* George Orwell
- *Bad Science: Quacks, Hacks and Big Pharma Flacks* Ben Goldacre

OTHER SCIENTIFIC PURSUITS

Learn the names of the stars in one portion of the sky. Plant seeds in different growing conditions and record their development.

OTHER CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Develop a portfolio of your work. Write stories, poetry, compose songs, raps or a piece of music, draw, paint, take photographs.