

# The CTA Lockdown Anthology 2021



A collection of thoughts, comments and work  
by students, staff and parents



# SLT & Year Offices

One thing that the last two years has taught me is the value of people. As a teacher of over 20 years, the reason I have stayed in the profession is the power of the wonderful relationships we build with our children and their families. Educators are in a unique position of being able to influence the entire future working population, and that influence is never underestimated.

Our children, our staff and our families have supported us at every step of the way. There have been times where we have not always got things exactly right, but we have always worked hard to ensure our children are put at the heart of everything we do. The challenges you have all faced have been immense, and the changes we have all had to adapt to, often with little or no notice, have been the most difficult part. The uncertainty has been unsettling for many children and for some of our families, the impact of this has been life changing.

I remember right at the beginning of the first lockdown, when the food shortages and panic buying were well in process, getting really worried over not having the food to feed my children at home! The next day, one of my staff bought in a 5Kg pack of pasta for me – it really was the best gift I have received! Not just the pasta, but the gesture of giving unconditionally to support someone else. That is certainly what I am most proud of here at Chase Terrace Academy. Despite all of the challenges, and the difficulties everyone has faced, the community has offered their kindness and generously given their time to help. Our foodbank has been a lifeline for many in our community, with staff and students giving their time to deliver packages to families who are self-isolating, and to make home visits.

The isolation has been heartbreaking. Watching some of our most vulnerable families being unable to leave their houses due to shielding and some of our children having to become young carers and take on huge responsibilities at home has been tough. We have supported in any way we have been able but the young people in our school have shown incredible strength in meeting the challenges head on.

Whilst we have lost so much - time with loved ones; events and social activities; open evenings and visits into school; concerts; clubs and hobbies – we have also learnt a lot too.

I am so proud of our school and our community. They have, at every exhausting step, taken each step with positivity and humility. There are many children, and staff, that have really lifted my spirits when times have been hard. A look, a smile, just a 'how are you' in the corridor or in a live lesson on MS Teams – you have all made a difficult time bearable. I think we are all stronger for it – even if we don't feel it!

As a result of this time, I am sure that our children will be more resilient, more adaptable to change, and be our innovators of the future.

In the words of one of our fantastic year 7 students just a few days ago 'I love this school'. Thank you all so much for being a part of my journey and thank you for letting me be part of yours.

**Ms N.Mason, Head of School**

COVID-19: When the going gets tough... fabulous school community response to a hugely challenging situation since March 2020... amazing group of people (of all ages) here at CTA.

**Dr S.Jones, Executive Headteacher**

I am immensely proud to be a part of our school community! We tackled the challenges of lockdown together and it was phenomenal for the school to receive so many donations that supported students with their learning. I continue to be forever grateful for our 'Test Centre Superheros' who helped set up and run our lateral flow test centre.

**Mrs S Morgan,  
Business Manager**



None of us could ever have predicted what happened in 2019 and certainly, from my point of view, it made my first year in a new job even more interesting than I had expected. I was amazed then, and continue to be now, at the resilience shown by my colleagues on the leadership team, all of the teaching and support staff and, of course, the students. For everyone to be in school one minute and expected to be learning from home the next was a real challenge and there have been many more along the way, however, everyone has played their part and we have come through it together. I feel very proud to be part of the Chase Terrace community and thank everyone for their ongoing efforts as we all look forward (hopefully!) to better times ahead.

**Mr J.Cain, Deputy Headteacher**

It is hard to pick out one moment that could sum up how proud I was to be a part of the amazing community spirit that we felt in our school and the wider community – I love this poem and I think it sums up our journey...

"Success - To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children. To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others. To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition. To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded. – Emerson"

I think we can say that our team, our family, our school succeeded.

**Mrs S.Baird, Assistant Headteacher**





Chase Terrace Academy in isolation! Put together by our dedicated staff, whilst working from home and in school to support our students and families.

I am sure that for all of the Leadership team COVID and Lockdown has been an emotional roller coaster. Initially the trepidation of what a worldwide pandemic may bring as Government advice was limited and last minute. To seeing CTA staff and students flourish under the new guidance. As a school we have had many reasons to pull together as a community since I have been here – a fire, a rebuild, even World Records being broken. The history of the school is amazing, but these past few months have just re-iterated what an incredible place this is to work and how proud everyone should be of their contribution to maintaining and in fact expanding that community spirit.

Every member of staff has had to change aspects of how they work in and out of the school. They all appear to have learned new skills and expanded their knowledge. The delivery of lessons has certainly altered and despite the fact that for many it was a “home delivery” service it was also very much a team event, pulling together in a really positive manner.

The Key Worker school ensured that many of our parents were able to continue their vital work. The delivery of food to the local community has been a phenomenal undertaking and has continued, since the return into school, with so many students and families contributing items as well as participating in putting the packages together and delivering these to those in need. Local businesses and the Church community ensuring we had computers to distribute so that all students could access their learning – was a particularly compassionate response.

There have been times when we have all been asked to contemplate taking part in events or tasks outside of our comfort zone, but I doubt anyone has refused. I do feel that has been down to a real strength of leadership from Ms Mason – she has used, humour, grace, compassion and just plain hard graft and at no time has she asked anyone to do anything that she has not taken a lead in. Everyone has a part to play within a team, but every team needs to be given direction and to feel secure in that leadership. We have been fortunate to have someone who was the right person, in the right place at the right time.

**Miss J.Hayburn, Assistant Headteacher (SEN/Inclusion)**



Working in HR during the pandemic has given me the opportunity to work on a number of projects, which I may not have had the chance to do otherwise. Hopefully I've added some value and have helped to shape how we support staff in the most challenging of times. The brick wellbeing project stands out for me, especially to see the small seed of an idea result in a fantastic memorial wall, which now sits proudly in the memorial garden for years to come and celebrates the resilience and achievements of our school and community. I've thoroughly enjoyed being able to play a small part in helping us 'get through it together'.

**Mrs H.Phillips, HR Assistant**

### **Year 7 Office**

Transition from primary to secondary school is always quite a scary and daunting time for students, however add this along with all of the difficulties that are associated with COVID, this makes the process even more difficult. As a year group you didn't have the chance to 'visit' CTA before joining us, you didn't get the chance to meet your form tutors or form members in person, and didn't get the chance to participate in our usual transition days where you could sample some of the lessons we offer - however you have ALL coped with this change of schools superbly and Mrs Pickin and I are extremely proud of the way in which you have all settled here at CTA over such a challenging time.

By now you will all be experts at online learning and logging in to lessons through Microsoft Teams, especially after a second national lockdown. Let's hope that moving forward into Y8, school returns back to the real 'normal' so you can experience this for yourself, and we can continue to learn, build lasting friendships and having experienced such a difficult time together - support each other as a year TEAM. Well done Y7.

**Mr Bullock and Mrs Pickin**

### **Year 8 Office**

The last year I have to say has been the strangest and hardest of my teaching career, but has also been the proudest. I spent the first lockdown having to shield with my son and felt like I was letting my students down not being in school. Modern technology allowed me to stay in touch with you though (even if that didn't please you in some cases) and help parents and students in my year group. This year group has made me incredibly proud. You have coped with moving to high school and two lockdowns and I feel you will be the most resilient students moving forward. You really have shown how amazing children can be. It was a pleasure to be your head of year during such a difficult unprecedented time. I know that Mrs Gardner and Miss Bate are also immensely proud of you and have enjoyed working with you over this last year. So keep being amazing and reaching for the stars and I hope and pray that year 9 will be more settled for you and you will flourish and thrive. Well done year 8.

**Mrs Powell, Mrs Gardner and Miss Bate**

## Year 9 Office

The early stages of the pandemic brought to mind a quote from Tolkien's Lord of the Rings.

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

So what were we going to do with the time that was given to us? How would the world respond to greatest challenge in almost a century? News media would have us believe we live in a world of selfishness and mean spirited individuals where the values which once defined the nation were long gone, replaced by reality TV, social media and the quest for 'likes' and money above all else. It didn't start well, with empty supermarket shelves and the stockpiling of loo roll dominating headlines. However, it all started to change, the sense of shared experience brought communities, countries and continents together in a way that has never been seen before. Chase Terrace was no exception. The collaboration of staff, students, parents and the wider community working to keep young people in education, the community safe and the vulnerable fed was truly remarkable.

So what did we do with the time that was given to us? Well, on a personal level, I spent fantastic quality time with my family, fell in love with gardening and learned so many new IT skills I can't count them all. On a professional level I was amazed at the hard work and dedication of the year 9 students and their parents, supporting each other in the hardest of times, demonstrating generosity, resilience, and humour along with countless acts of selfless kindness. When I reflect on the last 18 months it with a great sense of pride in the way that the school community responded to extremely challenging and times and hope that those people who still have a garage full of toilet rolls will think twice next time there is a national emergency.

**Mr Grund and Mrs Hewitt**

## Year 10 Office

*We go again*

*Every struggle that the pandemic has brought us.*

*Each day that we've woken thinking we have had enough isolation.*

*Each bad news story that has touched so many lives. Sometimes our own, more often those of others.*

*Every set back in our learning or work.*

*Each mistake, misstep or mishap as we try to regain a sense of normality.*

*Every FOMO moment.*

*We rise and we go again.*

Year 10, you have shown a resilience and strength to deal with these unique times. No one will think back on the last year and remember it with only fondness. You have carried yourselves onwards and it does you great credit. Where ever you are on your journey, whatever set-backs you find, we go again.

Mrs Weaving and I are immensely proud of you all and look forward to celebrating your successes with you in the future.

**Mrs Weaving and Mr Meek**

## Year 11 Office

Lockdown Leavers 2021... Now you are gone.

September 2016, fresh faced eager to please faces staring up, whilst we knew that you would not be staring up at us for long, who could have ever imagined what year 10 and 11 would bring and how much we would miss seeing you on a daily basis.

*You've all had it tough, online lessons and tasks  
Remote teaching and 2 lockdowns to fight,  
Assessments all done, onwards and upwards you go  
Your fantastic, bright futures in sight*

*So although we're Terrace, through and through,  
Our year group at our core,  
We must admit that all of you are  
A year group that we adore.*

Goodbye, good luck and we are, always have been and always will be so proud of you all.

**Mrs Scholes, Mrs Graham, Mrs Goodall, Miss Cornfield**

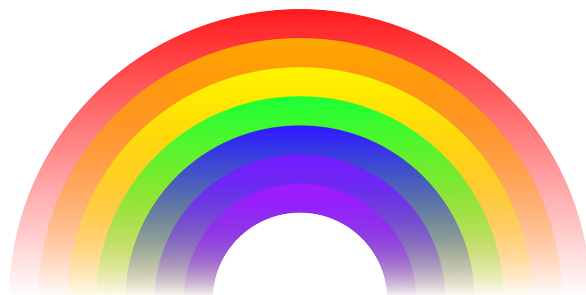
## Sixth Form

In March of 2020 our year 13 students had the most abrupt and strange end to their sixth form studies and I wasn't even here to say goodbye myself as I had been told I had to isolate. As I had been their head of year for most of their time in school I found this particularly difficult and felt very sorry for this group of outstanding young people.

As we returned to school in September 2020, all of our sixth form students were introduced to a whole new set of practices in school and ways of behaving – I can say that without reservation these young people raised themselves to the challenge of life under COVID and never disappointed with their positive attitudes and resilience. They never moaned or grumbled about a single thing that was asked of them through all of the upheaval – I feel genuinely lucky to work with such a fine group of young people. We have now said goodbye to another group of year 13 students under less than normal circumstances – no prom, a muted leavers assembly and most importantly no opportunity to take formal A level exams, but again they got on with it and I am sure that they will all have the bright futures that they deserve.

Thank you to all sixth form students – you have been brilliant.

**Mr Giles – Head of Sixth Form**





# Community

## Communities Rallied to Support Chase Terrace Academy



### Foodbank

Staff at Chase Terrace Academy started a foodbank and made an appeal for food donations and essential toiletries that could then be distributed to those most in need. Achievement for All students and students from our sixth form then packed and created parcels throughout the week ready to be delivered.

The school's staff have been a great source of support during these uncertain times and have gone the extra mile to help. From Ms Wilson delivering a food parcel when we were self isolating at the beginning of the first lockdown, the much needed support with remote learning we received from numerous staff members and more than anything the constant support for our local community as a whole, in the form of uplifting videos on the school website, the staff working right through the half terms so keyworkers children could still attend. We really appreciate it all, thank you.





## Building a Brighter Future for a Better Tomorrow

We launched our community lockdown project in partnership with Taylor Wimpey, West Midlands, inviting everyone in the school community to help us mark the Covid-19 pandemic by painting a brick. We had an amazing response from our wonderful students, families, staff and community and were inspired by your creative talents!

We had some press coverage and on 22 January, we received a visit from Angie Price, Sales and Marketing Director at Taylor Wimpey, West Midlands with The Express & Star sending their photographer along to capture some of the key worker students painting their bricks.



## iPad and laptop donations

We were extremely grateful for the continued generosity of our community throughout lockdown. We were very fortunate to take delivery of 10 iPads and 21 laptops kindly donated by St John's Community church and community organisation, 'Burntwood Be A Friend'. These valuable resources made a real difference in helping us to support our students and families with home learning.

# Students & Staff

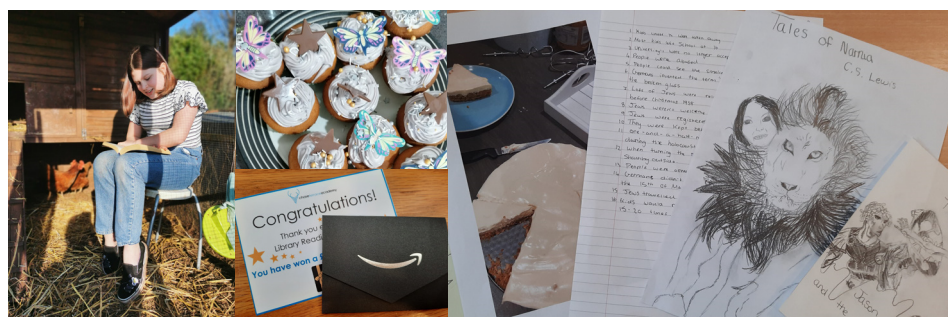


## Team Work Makes the Dream Work

School life was a bit of roller coaster, but Chase Terrace Academy staff worked hard to make sure that students stayed on track. Staff adapted to the challenges and we saw a range of remote learning taking place on a daily basis in homes and classrooms.

Where students are self-isolating at home, staff used Microsoft Teams to deliver remotely at the time of their lesson or pre-recording lessons for them to tackle as and when they could. In some cases, there was a mixture of students isolating and some in school and, again, staff found a solution and delivered both live in class and remotely at the same time. Our staff even went as far as to remote into school when they were forced to self-isolate at home. We could not be prouder of the determination, enthusiasm and passion with which our staff tackle their job every day but their efforts during this time have gone over and above.

What difficult times... how positive and enthusiastic every staff member has been in the transition from classroom to remote learning. The support has been amazing and I'm thrilled my son is at this school in such testing times! Well done everyone!



## Reading Challenge

During lockdown, students had the opportunity to enter a reading challenge to win one of three £10 Amazon gift vouchers. The challenges included listening to an audio book, reading aloud with somebody, reading in an unusual place, reading a magazine as well as many other challenges.

Miss Pickerill and the English team have sent many emails and postcards of encouragement and they have helped massively with motivation! Thank you.

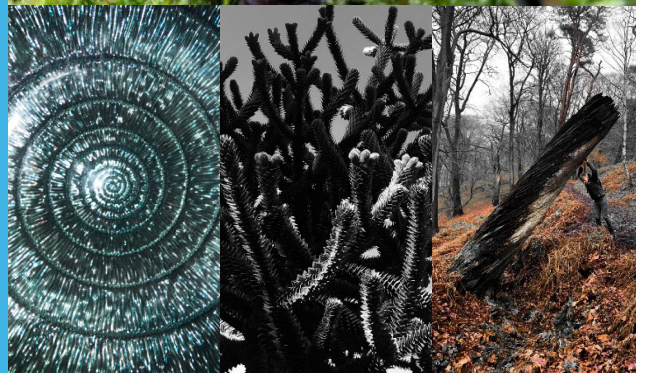


## Photography Challenge

During lockdown the Art department launched an exciting photography competition for the Year 8 students. The engagement and submissions from the students was fantastic. There were some great prizes up for grabs and loads of praise postcards were sent home.



This has been a great way for the students to be creative and document their time during lockdown. It has been an excellent opportunity for the students to learn about key aspects of photography techniques and inform them about the outstanding A Level photography course we have here at Chase Terrace Academy.



The letter my daughter received recently which recognised her hard work and effort put a smile on her face. The accompanying hot chocolate sachet was very well received too! Thank you.



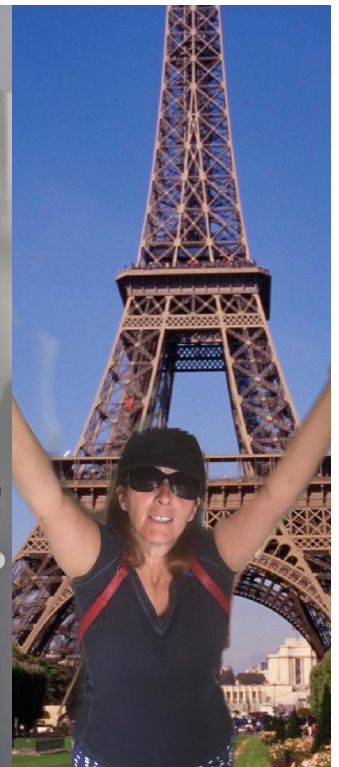
## Captain Tom

Key Worker students in school created this piece of artwork for Captain Tom Moore to celebrate his 100th birthday. We sent happy birthday wishes to him from all at Chase Terrace - a true inspiration to us all!




## Climbing Challenge

Our PE team decided to take part in 'The Climbing Challenge' to help raise money for NHS Charities Together - supporting NHS staff and volunteers caring for Covid-19 patients.




Thank you Mrs Cowley! You have been absolutely amazing keeping English going and personally checking in and offering so much help to my daughter and all her other students . Thank you


I would like to thank all my daughters teachers, they have continued to support her in all lessons as if school were open as normal. I applaud you all providing lessons in such difficult times.

 chase terrace academy

## Lockdown 2020-21


Lockdown made me realise so many things that before I hadn't been able to consider, how detrimental negative thoughts are, <sup>to my physical and mental health</sup> how lucky I really am, how hard I push myself to perfection. How much I missed normality, how I need to adapt to change. One thing I've learnt to the point where it's embedded into my brain is that

You are  Godd enough  
and so is everything you do.

 chase terrace academy

## Lockdown 2020-21

I finished watching the Simpsons after 32 serys! I started watching family guy. I got a hot tub last Year! Me and my sister have spent all of time together in the hot tub! I met up with my great of friends round Chase Water! I also got a puppy called Bailey! My cat became 3 legged! I became good at abby's on roblox and called my friend every Night! I had a lot of time with my family and some of my friends! I made all of new friends! I read all of books and got to level 6.0



Mrs Drayton and Mrs Baird for supporting my daughter. For not making her feel like a failure, and for putting a plan in action to move forward. It is very much appreciated.





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## Lockdown 2020-21

Although a worrying time, it was also a time to learn about the things I cherish.

I lost loved ones - family members and my dog but also gained time in the sun with my most precious of people.



Mrs K. Lewis.



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## Lockdown 2020-21

- Having my 20 something children at home and playing board games as a family
- In the first lockdown we really enjoyed the warm weather in the garden.
- All my family - five of us - worked throughout so it was strange to hear about those who were stuck at home with nothing to do. We still have a long 'to do' list.



Mrs Groom thinks like a proton and is always positive; absolutely perfecting the science of remote learning. Her classes, always unmuted, interact with intelligent and respectful discussion. You can feel the warmth of her character and the sharpness of her knowledge during every thoughtful, informative and engaging session. Science is a highlight for both Archie and Annabel. Thank you Mrs Groom for keeping the shine in my children's eyes bright.

## Poetry Competition

Year 7 pupils studied poetry from their homes during lockdown. Many forms, devices and themes were covered and online lessons were recorded for pupils to access for support and engagement.

A poetry competition was also set up by Mr Bradnick where pupils could submit their own poetry in the hope of being rewarded with 'The Best Poem' certificate in the final week of term. There were some magnificent entries. You can read the winning poem here - well done Jack!

### Lockdown

2020, the most bizarre of all years,  
It will filled with concern, unknowing  
and many tears,  
We all yearned for normality, the  
feeling of routine,  
And yet we couldn't make any sense  
of this, what did it all mean?  
I guess from my perspective, a 12  
year old lad,  
It meant more time for family and for  
that I'm extremely glad,  
We often forget the true meaning of  
life and the love we should have for  
each other,  
I know now more than ever how much  
I need my mum, dad and brother,  
So out of all this heartache and  
confusion we all lie in,  
I can only be thankful for the lessons  
this has taught me and for my new  
found knowledge to begin!

## Amazing Artwork

Well done to one of our students who created this great piece of artwork!

Year 9 students were tasked with designing a comic book strip/ front cover as a final piece based upon the work they had been doing on superheroes the term.



There has been a good selection of remote learning provided to my child. Live lessons have been really useful, quizzes, pre-recorded lessons and independent sessions. I think the amount of work has been manageable. On the whole the delivery has been great. Thank you to all the teachers for their hard work, I know its difficult and appreciate all your efforts in trying to keep the students engaged. And get your head round IT!



## Fantastic Technology Work

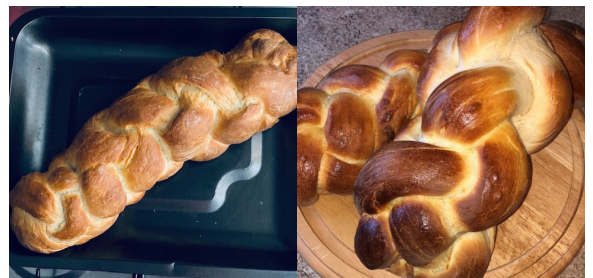
Students worked really hard and completed extra technology work at home during lockdown including baking and making monsters.



During lockdown, students also learnt new skills. One particular student was busy making items both by hand as well as on a laser cutter (pictured above).

## Baking Bread

Students baked challah bread whilst at home, as an additional challenge to their GCSE Judaism work, specifically Shabbat. They looked absolutely amazing and it was lovely to see them putting their knowledge into practice.



I'm so impressed with the structure, content, enthusiasm and support our daughter has received during the last few months. It has not been easy for any of us but the updates we as parents receive from school and the dedication of all the teachers has been quite overwhelming. Thank you to all the teaching staff and support staff for making this difficult time as stress free as possible.





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## Lockdown 2020-21

Read books in the Sun  
Appreciated family time  
Internet Shopping  
Nature thrived  
Baked treats  
Only essentials  
Waved at loved ones from afar

Lockdown 2020-21  
is a time we  
won't ever  
forget!

By Miss Thomas



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## Lockdown 2020-21

The year we stayed  
at home, we could only  
speak to loved ones on  
the phone.

The year we cheered  
for the NHS, because  
of their help with  
the covid stress.

The year we did Joe  
Wicks PE everyday,  
and we could only travel  
a mile away.

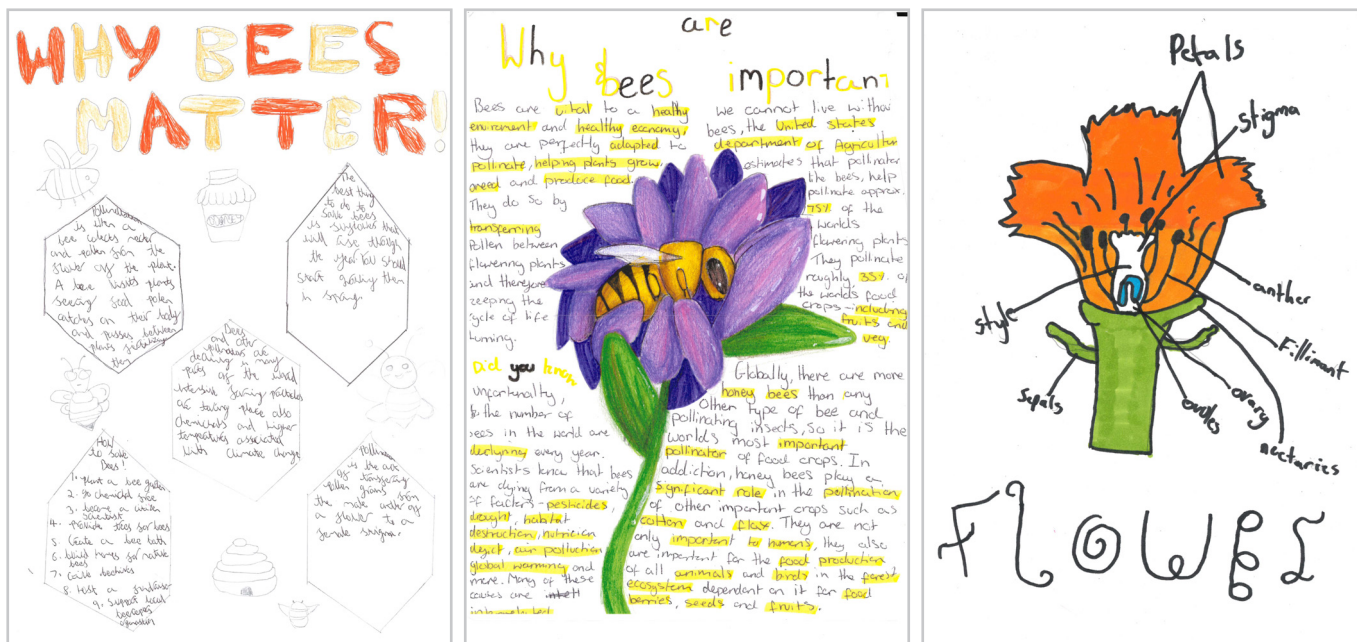
But slowly the world  
is going to recover,  
the Lockdown  
year 2020 was  
like no other.



### In Memory of Stephen Sutton

Key worker students in school made bunting in memory of Stephen Sutton. It was displayed at along the school gates for all to see.

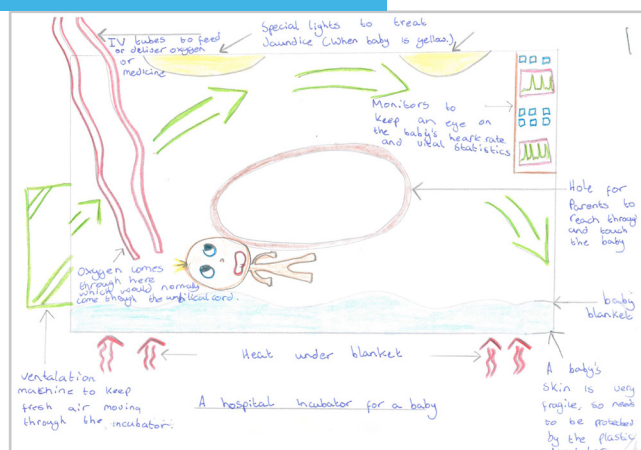
I especially wanted to say a huge heart felt thank you to Kim in the office. I can't imagine the calls you have had to deal with in this 3rd lockdown and everytime Kim answer's the phone its warm and welcoming. Kim is such a lovely person who goes that extra mile and has such a calming energy, I'm so grateful for all your help, guidance and kindness.



## Science

Some absolutely fantastic work produced by our students in year 7 during lockdown.

I have been so impressed by the dedication shown by the staff towards home learning during my daughter's GCSE year. The team have been available around the clock to monitor and provide feedback. I cannot believe the changes that have been thrown at educators and how quickly they have had to react. Despite this, the staff of year 11 have still provided a high standard of teaching under very stressful circumstances. Stay strong and keep smiling.



It was good to have some time away from the screen to do a science experiment with Miss Farrington. Well prepared and enjoyable.

Thank you to Mr Cartman for his help and care to Tilly. Also your receptionist is a diamond. She certainly helped me a lot with my concerns. And to you all what a grand job you are doing. Thank you.



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## Lockdown 2020-21

Lockdown was an unusual but amazing experience with my family. Lockdown learning was superb - especially in lockdown 2!

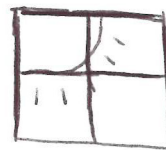
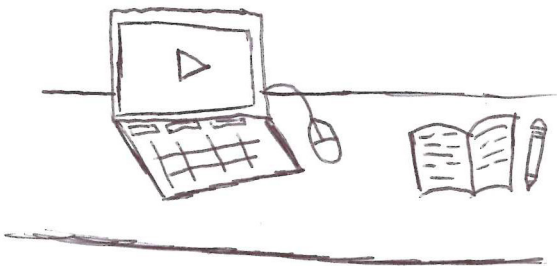


R. Cowley



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## Lockdown 2020-21



Thank you Mrs Cowley! You have been absolutely amazing keeping English going and personally checking in and offering so much help to my daughter and all her other students. Thank you.





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## Lockdown 2020-21

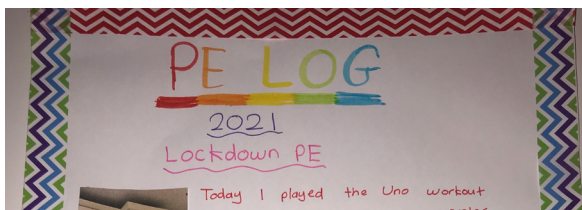
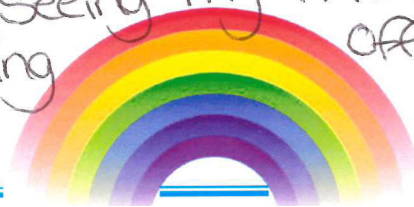
I liked lockdown because we had no school and it was less stressful. I also enjoyed playing xbox with my friends and going on walks.



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## Lockdown 2020-21

I enjoyed being off school but after a couple of months it was boring being at home all the time and I missed school. I missed seeing my friends but I enjoyed being off and at home.



### Students getting active

One student created a fantastic log book to show all the various activities they were taking part in for PE whilst at home!

I would like to say a big thank you to All the staff at CTA who have made online learning possible for our children. I cannot imagine it's been easy. We are so impressed with how the lessons have kept our daughter focussed and in routine with a like for like learning day at school. This been our first year as part of the CTA family we very impressed how you have dealt with this current situation and taking care to ensure our children continue the high standard of learning they are used to receiving in school. Well done to all staff!





- Skill Development
- Mental health
- Fitness and exercise
- Creativity in sport
- Literature in sport

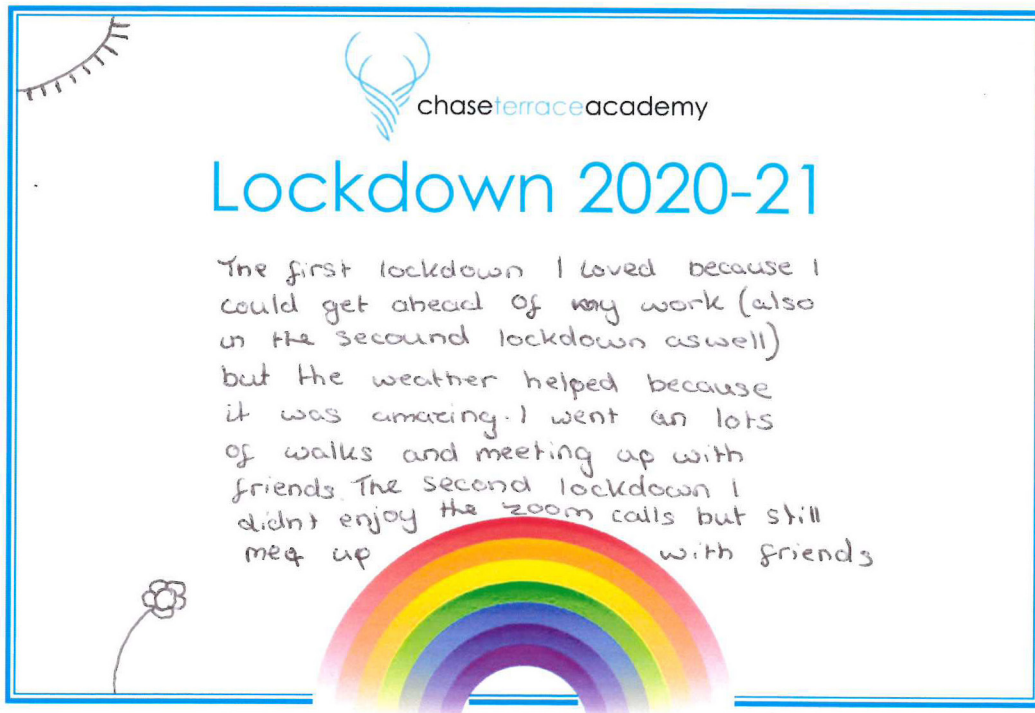
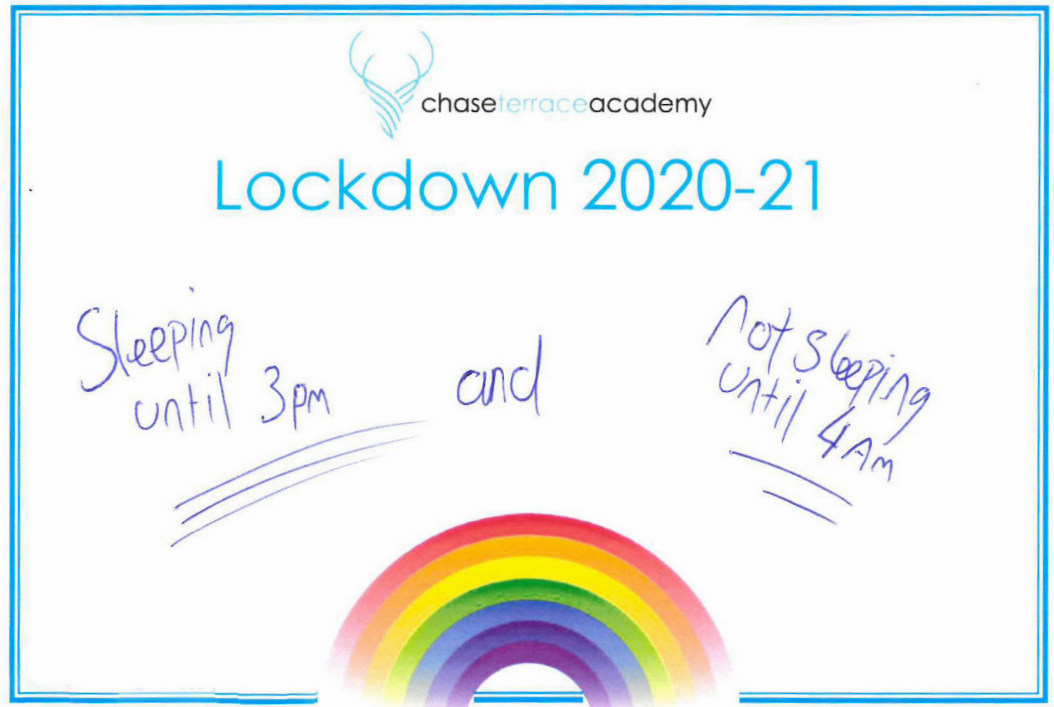
Students really enjoyed taking part in many of these activities as well as 'Beat the teacher' challenges which were set by PE staff.

We were extremely lucky to have links with James Austin, the Burntwood and Lichfield School Games Organiser and Tasmine Turner, Sports Development Officer for Burntwood and Lichfield (also an ex Chase Terrace student.) The money that the two generously allocated allowed us to access the following coaches who all delivered live extra-curricular clubs for our Chase Terrace students which have been well attended:

Yoga – L.Swannell  
Boxing – W.Elcock  
HIIT and Boxercise – P.Woollard



Mrs Tooth is an absolute diamond! Her smiling face greets the students throughout each online lesson and her shouts of: "Annie! Unmute and answer the question!" leads to a realistic and interactive learning environment. A perfect mix of fun, yet strict, encouragement. Mrs Tooth, you're great!



You have lived through history, survived a pandemic and one day all of this will be a dim and distant memory. Hold on tight, take all of the support offered and go forward and live your lives. Each one of you, staff and students alike, have done the very best you can to get through this however you can. There is no right or wrong way, there is only your way.