

John Spendluffe Technology College

Headteacher



Despite continuing to operate in unusual circumstances, I am sure students were pleased to come back to school and staff were eager to welcome their groups back to the classroom. Getting back into old routines will have felt very strange at first but I'm sure students (and parents) were pleased for in-person teaching to begin again and to move away from the virtual screen environment.

I know staff have expressed the same view and it is a reminder why schools are such important places in our community. Mr Whitaker who joined JSTC in January as our Deputy Head (Curriculum) has certainly enjoyed getting to know our students in person.

We are maintaining our vigilant approach to keep families as safe as possible because we all know that we are not at the end of this journey through the pandemic. We know that to keep your household safe we need to keep our focus on health and safety; please read the section on Covid Testing at JSTC.

We have had fantastic support from so many in our wider community, especially the Hub volunteer team supporting our testing process. Organisations have worked with us and ASHA to provide additional resources

to support our families and students and we are immensely grateful to them. Finding those additional elements of support demonstrates the strong values and collaborative partnerships within our community. I am sure those aspects of our lives will remain long beyond the impact of Covid. It is to you, as parents and carers, that I want to extend a thank you for the support you have given your child(ren) at home and the efforts made with home-schooling. I am sure it has been tough but I have so enjoyed seeing and hearing about some of the responses to some of the other challenges set during lockdown that took children beyond their laptop screen and text books.

Catching up lost learning will take time. Staff have clear plans to support all children with these losses and over time the loss of self-confidence and knowledge will diminish to be replaced with enhanced self-esteem and learning. To support our students we have recruited six additional catch up Academic Mentors who will work with small groups of identified students on a rota basis to help that process of education recovery. That process will not just take the remainder of the year. It will need to

continue into the future and staff at JSTC are ready to support that.

We are all looking forward to more normal times when we can hold large school events, celebrate together and students can go on school trips. We know that this may take a little longer but these exciting parts of school life will return eventually.

Experiences that we go through as individuals are an opportunity to reflect on our own lives. As a result of that, I have taken the very difficult decision to retire at the end of this academic year. To ensure that we come through this period together as safely as possible, restoring the education process for our learning community and supporting all of our students is my primary aim.

A recruitment process to find JSTC's next Headteacher has been completed with a successful outcome, that I am sure will enable our school to go from strength to strength.

As we look forward to sunnier days, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your wider family well and hope that you remain safe.

Joyce Shorrocks (Ms)



JSTC Spring 2021 Newsletter

The Great Language Challenge

Students have been participating in 'The Great Language Challenge' throughout the month of February and the MFL team have seen some excellent contributions.

Pupils have completed up to 20 language based tasks in French or Spanish (or both!) to complement their foreign language learning. Entries have included crêpe and fajita making, teaching family members how to speak a foreign language, changing phone settings to another language and watching their favourite TV programmes in French or Spanish. A superb effort by JSTC pupils. Full details can be found on the MFL department page of the JSTC website.



Comic Relief : Red Nose Day 19 March 2021



JSTC's Student Council are pleased to announce that they have raised **over £475** for Comic Relief this year.

The Student Council would like to thank all staff involved that supported the activities which were a huge success and highly enjoyable. The "Best Joke" competition is being judged at the moment with the best 3 receiving prizes.



Free School Meals

NEW FREE SCHOOL MEALS CLAIMS ONLY – if you already receive Free School Meals for your child you do not need to re-apply



If you are making a new claim for Free School Meals you need to be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit



Please apply via www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals and follow the instructions on the website. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Main Office and we can go through it with you.

Important: Once you have applied and your claim is successful, please let the Main School Office know.

For more information, please contact Lincolnshire County Council on 01522 782030.



JSTC Year 11 Fundraisers!

Well Done to Sports Studies student Kyle Radford who in early March completed his 100 miles in 10 days running challenge to raise money for Parkinson's UK.



Another Well Done to Louise Smith for taking on the 'March the Month' challenge to raise £200 for Prostate Cancer UK and we understand she is already over half way there.



Working with schools in South America

As part of our International Schools Award our students will be working on exciting projects over this and the next academic year. We are very fortunate to have staff members with contacts with the Jefferson school, Guayaquil, Country Ecuador and the Anglo Mexican Foundation, Colonia San Rafael, Mexico.

The activities will include sharing thoughts and experiences during the 2020-2021 global pandemic. Students from both schools will be producing a local guide providing a platform for further cultural consideration through comparison and contrast.

Other activities include a Staying Safe poster created by both our students and the students in the schools in South America, along with a national holidays project with respective school students learning about their own culture and to teach others about it.

We are aiming to build a strong link with these schools with continued contact and future projects. The objective is for our students to develop their ability to consider the wider extent of our world with their understanding of different cultures being greatly enhanced.



Covid-19 Testing at JSTC

The lateral flow testing in school is going well. Staff and students have become accustomed to doing these tests and although the tests have limitations, we know that they do pick up positive cases and can find infected individuals who should not be at school. Our aim is to maintain this safe approach whilst working hard to ensure

that testing does not get in the way of our teaching and other more enjoyable aspects of school. The wonderful team of volunteers from the Alford Hub patiently work with our students to make sure that they are confident that they can complete these tests then get back to their learning.

Should we find a positive case we will unfortunately need to ask students to self isolate.

Whilst this is disappointing, we will of course do our best to support the affected students during their period at home.



We certainly hope that this does not happen too often but with cases above the national average in East Lindsey, that is a possibility. Any positive test taken at home during the Easter break would need to be confirmed by a PCR test at a testing centre. Please also let school know via the office@jstc.org.uk email.

We will always communicate directly with affected families and use our ClassCharts platform, facebook and website to keep you updated.





Successful Bids for JSTC & Alford Sports Hall



Ensuring that students have the best equipment to support them in their studies and physical activity is something which JSTC takes extremely seriously. Earlier this term, Mr Whitaker received confirmation that we had been successful with a bid to the Platform Housing Group through their Community Chest Funding initiative, resulting in a £5,000 grant to the school to help with IT support materials. JSTC have used this funding to purchase some Reader Pens / Exam Pens which will help our SEND team and our Exams Officer significantly with students who need that additional scribing support as part of their learning.

Inspired by the actions of Mr Whitaker, a further bid to the Community Chest fund from our colleagues at Alford Sports Hall Association was made with a focus on the Health and Wellbeing / Community Cohesion aspect of the fund. Another £5,000 grant was allocated and will be used to upgrade existing sports equipment which will be used by JSTC students, local sporting teams and the wider community of Alford. Future bids are being planned for equipment in the Music department and we hope to be able to bring you some more good news on this in the months ahead.



Holly's Inspirational Story

We'd like to send our best wishes and support to one of our remarkable Year 10 students, Holly Ralph who is currently raising money for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Currently undergoing surgery and treatment herself at a Nottingham and Newcastle hospitals, Holly's story is one of determination and resilience. Her positive attitude in the face of adversity is something which she and her family should be extremely proud of. As you can see from the photo, she is still smiling!

So far, Holly's appeal has already raised a fantastic £1,200 through her Just Giving appeal. We caught up with Holly this week and here is what she had to tell us:

Holly wanted to thank all of those people who had made donations so far. She had been amazed by the kindness and generosity people have shown and especially likes to read the messages of support people post as they make their donation, they mean a lot to her.

Holly told us that she was doing well and was coping as well as could be expected at the present time. She wanted us to tell her friends and the staff at JSTC that she is missing them and cannot wait to be able to get back to school again.

If you would like to make a donation to Holly's appeal then you can do so via the link below:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/holly-ralph?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=holly-ralph&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp&utm_term=0d20028ab30048ccbd8b70a46e4233a2

From all of the staff, students and the wider JSTC family, we want to send you our best wishes Holly. We hope to have you back with us again in school in the near future. Keep smiling!

