

Crickhowell High School's Lockdown Summary - Carron Goold, Director of Learning

It has been a strange time, but here are some of the positives to come out of Lockdown in Crickhowell High.

We've used Microsoft Teams as a learning tool and communication platform. It engaged students in the digital world and taught them alternative ways to communicate whilst improving everyone's 'digital literacy'. Students became more independent and inquisitive, thus improving their 'personal effectiveness' and 'problem solving'. As staff, we had to think creatively to set work that could be completed at home whatever the circumstances. Here are some of the tasks we put in place:

KS4+5 started their Individual Projects: Aberystwyth and Bath Universities collaborated again to deliver an excellent online resource! I definitely recommend it.

Free Online courses: Y10,11+12 enrolled on the EtonX courses on Research Skills and CV writing. The Research Skills Course helped develop skills for the Individual Project and included a 'Proposal Form', which students sent to us for approval of their 'focus'. The CV course gave information about producing excellent CVs for their Destination Plans. I had access to a tracker, which helped to monitor students. Students could download their certificates and incorporate details of their learning and knowledge into their Destination Plans:



The Nebula Learning Online Finance Course proved popular with students in Y9-12, as it taught them about economics and personal finance through a variety of mediums. They could also download a certificate once they had completed the course. I have now signed up for the Nebula Mental Wellbeing Course, which starts in September.

Mini Artefact Project: This project allowed Y9 students to learn about the structure of the Individual Project. The Brief was 'to create a resource to teach Y7 and 8 students about Children's Rights'. We received some great artefacts, ranging from videos of outdoor games, quizzes, online lessons, films, artwork, songs and many more! After asking for permission to share their work, the artefacts were shared with Y7 and 8 on Teams. The feedback from this experience has been very positive.

Community engagement: Before lockdown, as part of our Community Challenge, our Y10 Welsh Bacc students engaged with our local residential home and were visiting every week to provide entertainment and activities for the residents. Students were disappointed that they would miss out on their visits, so they decided that they would write letters to the residents. I posted 20 letters a few weeks into lockdown, which were gratefully received. Some of the residents were so pleased that they wrote back to the students to thank them! After this, we decided to thank key workers! Y7, 8 and 9 developed planning and innovation skills by considering who they wanted to thank and then, to create their messages. They generated ideas, analysis of strengths and weaknesses, gathered feedback and drafted their work. Their final pieces included many lovely cards, recordings, films, drawings and letters. Students developed skills and gained experiences, which will help them to produce their Activity Pack for the Global Challenge.

Hwyl am y tro!

Carron Goold