

19 November 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope your week is progressing well.

I would like to impart an anecdote which I have been sharing with our Year 10s this week during assembly. Just food for thought...

Last Wednesday I travelled, sadly, to Wiltshire for my uncle's funeral. Despite the wind and the rain, and the fact it was a funeral, it was a bizarrely uplifting experience. I knew my uncle was an impressive man but I did not really know quite how so. He achieved much in his life; he attended Cambridge University, worked for HM Treasury, headed the administration at the National Gallery, oversaw a number of charities, had a doctorate in classical music, taught himself German and all this despite the fact he was confined to a wheelchair in his early 20s having hang-glided into a cliff.

His achievements were certainly top level by anyone's standards but they were not what was most impressive. What was far more inspiring was his character; not the achievements or the overcoming of the disability, but who he actually was. Everyone who spoke shared their absolute privilege of knowing my Uncle John. The key points: he always had time for everyone, he was always more interested in them than himself, he relished conversation and posing the difficult question. But most importantly, he had that rare quality to make one feel special.

Why do I re-tell this tale? Mainly because I wished he could have been there to hear these wonderful words. I am sure he knew he was a good man and perhaps that he made an impact on people's lives, but to this extent? I doubt it.

My message to the boys: 'as a nation, we are going through a challenging period and maybe there are people helping you through it or who have helped you in the past. Do we find the time to thank those people enough? It will certainly give them a lift and it might give us a lift too'. As I say, food for thought.

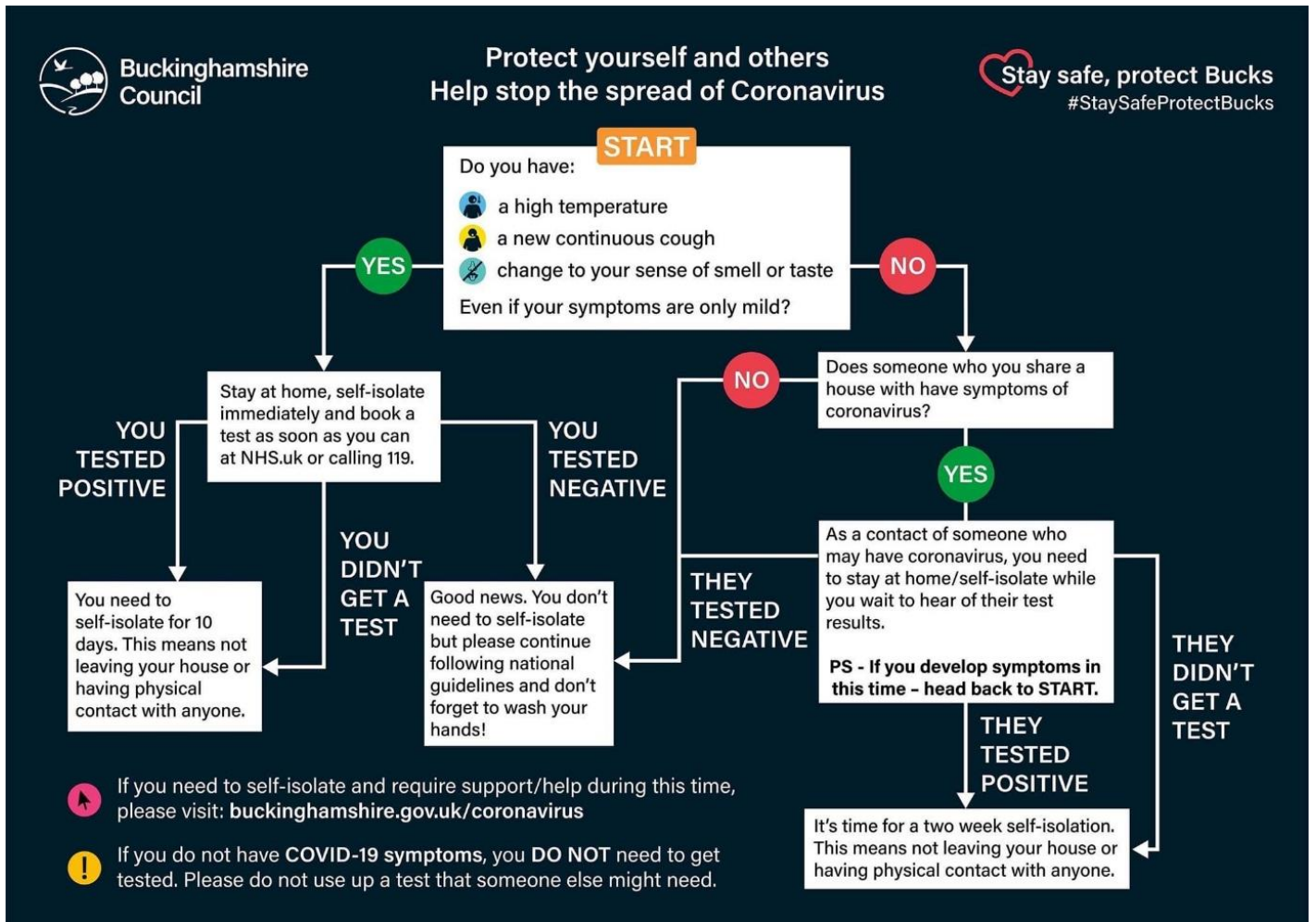
Henry Fraser

Henry Fraser is a good friend of the School who spoke to many of our senior pupils last year. When Henry was 17 he was involved in a tragic accident and is now paralysed from the shoulders down. Henry gave our pupils a very inspirational talk about overcoming adversity. Henry is an incredibly gifted mouth artist, who has produced a beautiful 53-page coffee table book. To find out more please do click [here](#).

Covid update

School continues to run smoothly during this period. Understandably staff and pupils are concerned about what the Government may decide with regards to examinations this summer. As we have said to the pupils, we can only continue to give of our best in all situations; there is little point in wasting time and energy trying to second guess what the Government may or may not decide. We are confident clarity of sorts will be provided in the near future.

We also wanted to share this poster from Buckinghamshire Council with you. We hope this is of use.



Thank you for your continued support.

With kind regards

Alex Wallace
Deputy Headmaster