

# @ The Cedars



**THE CEDARS  
SCHOOL**



FRIDAY 3RD APRIL 2020

**END OF TERM**

## DEAR PARENTS

What a strange term this has been! None of us could have foreseen at the start of this term how it would end. One of the challenges for us has been in switching to be an 'online school' and it is fair to say that this has taken some of us – myself included – out of our comfort zones.

I am grateful for all the feedback we have received over the last two weeks. Alongside the many positive comments which have been made, some areas for development have also been highlighted. Chief among these is the need for more live interaction between teachers and pupils and plans are in hand to address this on our return after Easter by which time we will be using Google Classroom as our platform. This is a more user-friendly application and it should make life easier for both pupils and teachers. In our evaluation of our provision, we have also felt that we have not done enough to preserve a sense of community, something which is needed more than ever in these days. We are working hard to address that too and you can expect to see much more in the way of video messages from staff, enrichment talks and perhaps even musical performances after the break!

I am probably one of the least tech-savvy members of the Cedars community and, earlier today, I took my first steps in recording a message for the boys. After overcoming the technical difficulties, I then gave some attention to the 'visuals' before deciding that perhaps no visuals were best and opting for a voice-over instead. I am sure it will be easier next time though!

### Mr Teague's end-of-term message to boys

You can hear it here: <https://youtu.be/hZEvfwLyAA>

In my message to the boys, I covered some of the same points about which I wrote to you earlier this week before reflecting on the importance of Easter. The events that we call to mind next week – Christ's passion, death and resurrection – remind us that God will bring good out of the most terrible events. "We can rejoice, not because we are free from trouble, nor in spite of trouble, but because there is something that surpasses whatever this world can throw at us." One of my favourite quotes from Fr George's noticeboard is this one from St Josemaria: "To be happy, what you need is not an easy life but a heart which is in love." God may not be giving us an easy life at the moment but he wants us to be happy and perhaps he wants us to learn that that happiness doesn't come from an absence of problems but from trust in Him as our loving father.

I know that the current crisis will be causing difficulty – financial and otherwise – for many of you. Please be assured of our determination, supported by PACT, to help in any way we reasonably can; and don't hesitate to contact me over the break if I can be of any assistance.

I wish you all a joyful and peaceful break over Easter. Let's support each other through this unsettling time.

Robert Teague,  
Headmaster

## COMPETITION FOYLE YOUNG POETS

[Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award](#) is OPEN and will continue to be open until 31 July 2020. **Enter now!**

The competition is open to anyone aged 11-17. The deadline to enter your poem/s is midnight 31 July 2020. It is completely FREE to enter and you can enter as many poems as you wish.



## YOUNG ECONOMIST OF THE YEAR ESSAY COMPETITION 2020



ROYAL  
ECONOMIC  
SOCIETY

The Royal Economic Society's Young Economist of the Year Essay Competition is now open. In partnership with the Financial Times, the RES is inviting Year 12 and 13 A-Level students to submit a 1500-word essay on one of five titles to be in with a chance of winning £1,000 and have their essay published in the FT. **The deadline is 27 July 2020.**

### YR 11 ESSAY COMPETITION: CORONAVIRUS

Before the Year 11s went on study leave, Mr Rix set a challenge for them to write an essay on the Coronavirus. Quite a few were submitted but **Omar Nawol in 11A** came out as the winner. His essay was well researched with clear direction and strongly informative. Well done Omar!

Royal Economic Society  
in association with the Financial Times

## Young Economist of the Year Essay Competition

The Royal Economic Society invites Year 12 and 13 students to write an essay of up to 1,500 words on one of the following topics:

1. "A Mansion Tax is an idea whose time has come." Discuss.
2. Will targets to bring greenhouse gas emissions in the UK to net zero by 2050 be a drag on economic growth?
3. "The gig economy is a great opportunity to increase women's participation in the labour market by allowing more flexibility." Discuss.
4. Given the concentration of high-value economic sectors in big cities, is a promise to significantly reduce regional inequalities by 'levelling up' possible to fulfil?
5. From an economic point of view, are rules limiting the transfer of data to other countries on privacy or security grounds any different from protectionism in the trade of goods?

### Prizes

Best overall essay - £1000  
Best essay on each topic - £200 each (x5)  
Opportunity to be published by Financial Times



SCAN ME

Competition deadline: 27 July 2020  
Please submit via the RES website in Word or PDF format only  
[RES.org.uk/essaycompetition.html](https://RES.org.uk/essaycompetition.html)



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[ft.com/scholarsarefree](https://ft.com/scholarsarefree)

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# Take a virtual museum or gallery tour



If like me, you are finding our current confinement frustrating, you will enjoy exploring Google Arts and Culture site. Here you can visit galleries and museum collections from across Europe and around the world. Take some time to explore together as a family, and I am sure that you will and find inspiration for future visits or enjoy artworks and treasures without crowds obscuring your views!



<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/10-top-museums-you-can-explore-right-here-right-now/igKSKBBnEBSGKg>

This morning I return to the Pergamon Museum in Berlin to enjoy the **Proceeding Lion, a ceramic tile freeze from the Processional Way of Babylon**. The colour, craftsmanship and scale of this ceramic work is breath taking both in reality and on a virtual tour!

**Ms Beetlestone**