



## Assembly notices

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### Reflection for the week

Ada Lovelace was a woman who was the first computer programmer in the world.

Ada was the daughter of romantic poet, Lord Byron, and his wife, Anna Isabella-Byron. Her mathematical talent shone through in her early life, and her skills and interest in machines lead to a working relationship with Charles Babbage. Babbage was the inventor of the “Analytical Engine”, a complicated device that was never actually created, but resembled the elements of a modern computer. As a result of her work on the project, Ada is often referred to as the “world’s first computer programmer”. It was Lovelace's notes on the Analytical Engine that Alan Turing used as a form of inspiration for his work on the first modern computer in the 1940s.

Hedy Lamarr was the inventor of WiFi. Hedy was a self-taught inventor and film actress, who was awarded a patent in 1942 for her "secret communication system. This frequency hopping system was intended as a way to set radio-guided torpedos off course during the Second World War, but the idea eventually inspired Wi-Fi, GPS and Bluetooth technology commonly used today.

Annie Easley was a NASA rocket scientist, and a trailblazer for gender and racial diversity in STEM. When hired, she was one of only four black employees at the Lab. 34 years later, she had contributed to numerous programs as a computer scientist, inspired many through her enthusiastic participation in outreach programs, and broken down barriers as equal employment opportunity counsellor. Easley's vital work on the Centaur rocket project while at NASA laid the foundations for space shuttle launches in the future.

These are women who are examples of revolutionaries in the field of Information and Computer Technology (or ICT). However, they are among a minority in such an important field of work.

Last Thursday was the global International Day for Girls in ICT. As a society we are becoming increasingly dependent on technology and computing in particular. More and more workplaces depend on computers and more and more jobs are appearing in this field.

However, it is a career that is dominated by men.

Computer science is a subject with one of the lowest proportion of women having degrees in. Yet jobs in science, technology, engineering and mechanics are rapidly dominating the job market.

The United Nations are currently working to encourage girls and women to learn coding, apps development and computer science so as to widen the opportunities for them in the working world.

ICT skills are increasingly becoming a strong advantage for every student in just about any field of work that they wish to follow. ICT helps to improve lives of people everywhere – through better health care, better management of the environment, better communications, and improved educational systems. ICT is something that has become engrained in every aspect of society.

We also know how important ICT is in our social lives and it can be a real blessing in helping us to stay in touch with those we care about and love. However, we also know that this technology can be misused and abused by some people.

This week, consider when you come into contact with ICT. Think about the benefits. Think about the complexities of such technology and the attraction of a career in ICT.

### ***Staying safe online***

- Never give out your real name to a stranger on the internet
- Never tell anyone you do not know where you go to school
- Never give out your address or telephone number to someone you do not know
- Tell an adult immediately if someone makes inappropriate suggestions, makes you feel uncomfortable online, or asks you to send something to them online, for example photographs
- If someone you do not know does any of the following – these are danger signs – you should tell your parent or carer immediately!
- If they insist on having your address or phone number
- If the person emails you pictures which make you feel uncomfortable and which you would not want to show to anyone else
- If the person wants to keep their chats with you secret
- If the person tells you that you will get in trouble if you tell an adult what has been going on
- If the person wants you to email or send pictures of yourself or use a webcam in a way which makes you feel uncomfortable
- If the person shares information with you and tells you not to tell anyone else about it
- If the person wants to meet you and tells you not to let anyone know

### ***Social Media and Fake News***

There has been a massive increase in the amount of fake news and clickbait on social media platforms over the past 5 years. You must be careful about trusting what you read:

- Consider the source of the information – click away from the story to investigate the site, its contact information and its mission
- Check the author – do a quick search on the author – are they credible? Are they real?
- Check the date – reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events
- Check for subjectivity – does the author seem biased? Consider if your own beliefs could affect your own judgement
- Read beyond the headlines – headlines are there to create sensation
- Check the sources where an article claims to have got their research
- Consider that a story might be an example of satire – and therefore has been exaggerated for comedic reasons
- Use fact checking sites.

### ***Cyber-bullying advice***

Social media sites, including messaging apps, claim to have a zero-tolerance approach to cyber-bullying, however in a recent survey, 91% of people say that they were not satisfied with how the reports were dealt with.

All apps/ sites allow you to:

- Report abuse
- Block users.

If cyber bullying affects you speak with your parents or carers and it can be reported to the police – cyber bullying is a criminal offence. If the police were to investigate they can find the culprit pretty easily – especially as every post, message, picture or video added to the internet leaves a digital footprint – even if the person who has added the post deletes it, the post still exists somewhere.

However, some things should be considered:

- It is easier for cowards to write something abusive behind a computer screen than to say it in person
- Any post that is uploaded can be shared or screenshotted and sent to anyone
- Cyber bullying is a criminal offence. A cyber bully could therefore get a criminal record
- Cyber bullies can have their accounts deleted.

### **Please see the assembly notices for this week:**

#### ***Year 9 Options***

This week we begin our Year 9 Options process.

Pupils in year 9 will begin a four week careers fair which will help guide them through the Options process and provide careers advice in this important stage in a child's schooling journey.

The fair will begin on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April with a presentation from Careers Management Institution (this will include a presentation from an Apprentice).

Pupils in year 9 will choose their option subject in our Options Guidance Evenings, which will take place week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

#### ***Punctuality to school***

It is compulsory to attend school on time. This is for many reasons, but one of the main reasons is health and safety. At school we are in loco parentis – in other words we act on behalf of your parents/ carers – and as such, we need to know where you are and that you are safe.

In addition, being punctual is a quality that is important in having now and in the future:

- Punctuality shows that you are organised
- It shows that you are dependable
- It reflects professionalism and attention to detail
- It shows respect for your teachers and other pupils.

Again, you are reminded that:

- All pupils in Key Stage 3 should be in school no later than 8.40am.
- All pupils in Key Stage 4 should be in school no later than 9.40am.

If you are late to school, you will be issued a Late Detention, served at lunchtime.

### ***Extra-curricular clubs***

We are delighted that extra-curricular clubs are returning this half term.

Everyone should try to attend an extra-curricular club because by participating you will develop your communication skills, meet new friends and become more confident.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Staff member</u>
Mondays (AM)	Basketball Club	Year 11	Coach Fernando
Mondays (PM)	CCF	for year 10 pupils	with Ms Webb
Tuesdays (PM)	St John's Cadets	for all pupils	with Ms Webb
	Basketball Club	Year 8	Coach Fernando
	Boys football	Year 8	Mr Klassen
Wednesdays (PM)	Basketball Club	Year 9	Coach Fernando
	Boys football	Year 9	Mr Paton
	Girls football	Years 8 and 9	Mr Olaniran
Fridays (AM)	Basketball Club	Year 10	Coach Fernando
Fridays (PM)	Basketball Club	Year 7	Coach Fernando
	Boys football	Year 7	Mr Paton
	Girls football	Year 7	Mr Olaniran

If you wish to attend a club in the Summer Term you must have parental consent. Please speak to Ms Webb or Mr Olaniran for a letter.

### ***Taking pride in your environment***

Please be mindful of the environment that you work in. Nobody wants to work in an untidy or messy classroom. Nor do they wish to use a toilet which has been used carelessly.

This is our school. Look after our school.

Additionally, as you have been told repeatedly, germs spread in toilets – when you use them properly and carefully, this reduces the amount of germs that can infect you.

### ***Uniform notice***

When you are in school you are expected to be in full school uniform and our expectations on appearance and professionalism has not faltered.

- Look after your school uniform
- Piercings: nose piercings, smiler piercings, eyebrow piercings or multiple piercings are not allowed – and boys are not allowed piercings at all
- Hair: no cuts, lines or high top. We do not permit afros and hair must be your natural hair colour.

### ***Equipment***

You are reminded of the basic equipment that you are expected to bring to school:

- Several blue or black pens
- Several HB pencils
- A ruler with cms and inches
- A pencil eraser
- A scientific calculator
- A reading book

You should also try to bring a glue stick, highlighters and a dictionary to school.

### ***Social Distancing***

Schools must continue to enforce social distancing, year group bubbles and Covid-19 specific rules, such as wearing face coverings in communal areas and now in classrooms.

So therefore, we are obliged to remind you that we all have a duty to abide by the additional school rules:

- You must keep two metres apart where possible from staff in the school
- You must keep at least one metre apart from other pupils in the corridors and stairwells
- You must not shake hands, fist bump or hug other pupils

- When wearing a face covering, do not touch the part of the face covering that is in contact with your mouth and nose
- When wearing a face covering it should cover your mouth and nose
- Be aware of what you touch – avoid touching handrails or door handles. You should sanitize your hands after touching handrails or door handles – consider this especially when using public transport
- You must not lend nor borrow equipment
- Wash your hands regularly and properly – for at least twenty seconds – especially when arriving to school, before and after lunch and when leaving school
- Gloves are not effective ways of preventing the spread of germs and diseases
- You must stay in your year group bubble – you are not allowed to wander around the school unsupervised. You are not allowed to mix with any other pupil from another year group whilst you are in the school – including lunchtime. Entering an area of the school where there is a bubble which is different to yours will lead to cross contamination and further restrictions on your movement around the school. This includes crossing areas at lunchtimes.
- Only two pupils are permitted in a toilet block at any one time – and pupils should not go into any other toilet block other than those assigned to you.

Please also be reminded that if you are seen fist-bumping or making physical contact with others, you may be issued with a fixed term exclusion. If a pupil even playfully slaps, touches or grapples with another pupil they will be issued with a fixed term exclusion. You should not touch anyone.

You are reminded that that any pupil who acts in a way that causes panic will be sent home immediately with a meeting arranged with their parent/ carer before they can return to school.

Behaviours that cause panic include, but are not limited to, fake coughing or sneezing on others, making physical contact with others, spitting, fighting, play fighting and claiming that they have Covid-19.

Additionally, please continue to be vigilant and reflect on the seating plan of the canteen and main hall at lunchtime. Tables are in rows facing forward. This is in place purposefully as when people face each other when they eat there is a greater chance of the spread of saliva spreading involuntarily when talking or eating and hitting someone's face. This means that germs are more likely to spread.

Therefore, when eating lunch you must sit forward.

Seating plans in lessons must also be kept to. Pupils are not allowed to move seats, as you need to be socially distant from as many people as possible. The less different people you are near the better for you. If pupils disregard this notice then they are putting others at potential risk. We cannot and will not accept this.

Please be mindful of your noise levels when being escorted from your classroom for an option subject, lunch or at the end of the day. Excessive noise causes anxiety for many people and it disrupts lessons that are going on. Pupils who make excessive noise around the school will be sanctioned.

Stay safe.

*Attitude Determines Altitude*