



Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre

LEARNING • RESPECT • BELONGING

Alumni Newsletter No 5: July 2020

We hope this Newsletter finds everyone safe and well as we come to the end of what has been an extraordinary academic year. As one Homewood Year 13 leaver remarked in a recent BBC interview (see below): "I think it will be crazy telling my grandkids that this happened to me when I was your age."

For the first time in Homewood's 72-year history there have been no end of term 'rights of passage' for leavers: no celebrations of achievement, no concerts or sports days bringing everyone together and, of course, no exams. Yet the Homewood spirit has remained strong throughout, with many stories of resilience, kindness and hope amongst students, staff and our alumni too.

September will hold new challenges but we'll rise to them as always, with our sails set to use the prevailing winds to carry us forward. Wishing you all a good summer wherever you are.

The Homewood Alumni Team



Students share lockdown experiences on TV

School life has been turned upside down for everyone, but it's been particularly strange for those in years 11 and 13 who have had their exams and leaving celebrations cancelled. Four Homewood students - two from each of these years - recently shared their lockdown experiences and concerns with BBC News reporter Josie Hannett for a feature broadcast on BBC South East News across the day and on social media on Tuesday 14 July. They did the school proud with their mature responses and showed great resilience whilst being concerned about what those August envelopes will bring.



Can you help?

Transition to secondary school and between Y8 and Y9 can be daunting at the best of times but even more so with no induction weeks to help students settle in. Could you send a message to a student to reassure them based on your experience? Please email messages to us at: alumni@homewood.kent.sch.uk



Altered images

With her wedding photography business on hold during lockdown, Homewood alumna and professional photographer Helen Mckevitt-Batt decided to record the work of the PPE Team Tenterden through their home windows as they set out to provide thousands of free masks, headbands and kit bags to front-line workers. The heroic team includes school staff, parents and other alumni. This photo is of team founder and Homewood science teacher Chloe Falder. You can read the whole story on our website [here](#).



Lessons from lockdown

We received lots of responses to our call for alumni to tell us what you've been doing during lockdown and the lessons you've learnt as a result. Here are just a few of them:-

Kieran (left in 2013) who is a doctoral researcher in Materials Physics at the University of Sussex has been busy looking to the future, preparing his very first paper on graphene, a new and eco-friendly technology which could transform manufacturing. He has created a video about it for Homewood's science students.

Oliver (left in 2018) has dedicated the majority of his time towards creating a new online wine business, using the internet to learn more about finance and business management. "I've learnt that the key to progress is organisation and self-discipline, which is what school teaches you, if you adapt and commit."

Chester (left in 2020) has been working in Tesco as a temporary worker, supporting the local community, and has enjoyed every second. "If I've learnt anything from this time, it's that happiness won't come from sitting doing nothing but from the sense of achievement when you've done something for someone else."



Royal approval

Alumni Oliver had a never-to-be-forgotten day a few months ago when he met Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, on a private



visit to Stevenson Brothers Rocking Horses in Bethersden, where he has been on a work placement arranged by Homewood. During her visit, Oliver was over the moon to learn that he had been awarded a dream apprenticeship with the world-famous company.

Charity wing walk

While some students hope to hold their lost 18th birthday parties this Summer, Year 13 leaver Abbie decided on a different way to celebrate: a charity wing walk to raise



awareness of mental health issues, particularly at the present time. Brave Abbie successfully completed the challenge on 12 July and has raised £4,000 for MIND.

Keep up with all Homewood's news

You can always keep up with the latest from Homewood via our [website](#), and by following us on [Twitter](#) and via our [Facebook](#) page