

Please circulate to all appropriate staff.

Dear Colleagues,

Half term beckons next week and soon, we will hopefully find out what the plans are likely to be for the eventual re-opening of schools. You will no doubt be planning for this to happen, all you need is the date!

The phrase 'a lost generation' has re-appeared in the press again, which, in my opinion, underestimates both the resilience of young people and the professionalism of teachers to do what needs to be done so our young people can thrive.

With that in mind, I would like to draw your attention to Steve's message (below) as we break up for half term. Welcoming all pupils back to school will no doubt have its challenges and it is with that thought that we are planning our Conference for Tuesday 16th March 2021.

First things first, enjoy a break, refresh and we look forward to meeting up again soon. On behalf of the PiXL Primary Team, we thank you for all you are doing for the young people in schools.

Please see below the key things we wanted to bring to your attention:

[Quick Summary of what is NEW in PiXL Primary](#)

1. Author Podcast from Cressida Cowell
2. Revised Summer Assessment Calendar to include end of Key Stage 1&2, plus Phonics Assessment
3. Announcing the Summer Transition Package
4. Message from Steve Munby
5. Debating Masterclass CPD Package

And much more...

[Author Podcasts - DO NOT MISS THESE!](#)

On Wednesday, the third in our series of author podcasts was published. This week's podcast is by UK Children's Laureate **Cressida Cowell**, author of the 'How to Train Your Dragon' series. The podcast prompts pupils to **draw a map** of their own **imaginary place** and then write a story about it. Its accompanying resource provides ideas on how to structure reading or writing lessons around the podcast, through task-based learning. The podcast and resources are aimed at children aged 7-11 but may also be suitable for younger or older children.



#CreateWithCress

The podcast can be [found here](#) and its accompanying resource can be [found here](#). You can also listen to Cressida narrating the first chapter of 'How to Train Your Dragon' [here](#).

Please [click here](#) to view a schedule of the podcasts.

Feel free to forward our Author Podcast communications on to parents and/or guardians, as all of the links that we include are accessible without a PiXL login.

[Summer Assessment Calendar](#)

We are pleased to be publishing the Summer Assessment Calendar today, replacing the PiXL Assessment Calendar 2020-21 which has now been suspended. There will be no partnership data this term, although the Y3-5 papers are available to schools should they wish to use them. [Click here](#) to view the Summer Assessment Calendar.

Following lots of positive feedback about the Autumn Transition Package, we are delighted to announce that we will be launching in May the Summer Transition Package (STP), which will be adapted from the Autumn Transition Package. As you can see in the calendar, we see the STP as a tool to support formative assessment which can be used throughout the summer.

Following our recent survey, the overwhelming feedback is that schools would like to see KS1, KS2 and Phonics assessments in the summer. We have listened - these will be made available alongside the other summer assessments.

To **understand more** about the **rationale** behind the **design and timings** of the **Summer Assessment Calendar**, please [click here](#) to watch a **short video** which **explains more**.

[Steve Munby](#)

Watch the latest short video from Steve. This is such an important message about the resilience of young people and the ability of schools to invest in them so that they can thrive.



[Primary Live with Alex Quigley](#)

Thank you to those of you that joined us at our Primary Live yesterday. If you would like to catch up on all of the insightful things that Alex had to say, you can do so via the on-demand section of PiXL TV. Please [click here](#) to access the footage.

[Debating Masterclass - Debating within the Classroom *NEW WEBCAST](#)

We know that a number of schools have been eagerly waiting for this webcast, so we are pleased to say that this is now released. The CPD session is led by Debbie Newman, Director of the Noisy Classroom. Debbie's webcast outlines why it is important for pupils to debate and ways to start debating within your Classroom. It is full of practical tips and ideas which we are confident that teachers will find very useful in developing debating further. [Click here](#) to access the CPD webcast.

[Coming Soon...](#)

Look out for further resources to be released Monday 22nd February:

- By popular demand, we have produced **15 additional sets of 3 in 3 resources** for Mathematics and GPS. In last week's briefing, we published a webinar recorded by one of our schools on using Google Forms to create online assessments using 3 in 3 resources. For those schools who have already 'run out', we hope that these additional sets help.
- **Echo Reading**: Videos modelling Echo Reading, which can also be shared with parents.

[Catching Up on the Primary National Conference \(14th January\)](#)

Please do catch up on the footage from the Primary Conference on the 14th January.

The main conference livestream and CPD sessions are now available for you to watch on-demand, via [PiXL TV](#).

If you have not yet registered, please [sign up here](#). You must be registered in order to view the conference footage.

[Click here](#) to download the delegate handbook to use if you are watching the meeting on-demand.

[Handbook of Ideas](#)

Please [click here](#) to download our updated Handbook of Ideas.

This is a collection of ideas, best practice and useful websites that have been sent in to us from teachers across PiXL schools. Please do look at this, even if you have already downloaded it, as it is a constantly evolving document with new ideas being added regularly. The latest additions to the handbook are at the top of the document. If you have any ideas to share, please do email us at the address below so that we can keep adding to the document.

[Contacts](#)

Are you having to forward this communication to other staff each week? Why not add them to the contacts list under your PiXL account, so that they receive this email directly? You can do so via [www.pixl.org.uk](#) - Member Login - Enter login details - Contacts. You can also access this area on PrimaryWise itself via Settings - Contact Details.

[*NEW* Headteacher Leadership Coaching!](#)

We know that leading a school can feel like a lonely job at the best of times, but this crisis has led to a heightened sense of isolation and placed an even greater emphasis on making high-stakes decisions under pressure. We know from Headteachers in the network how much they value peer to peer support and the ability to find a safe space to be vulnerable, bounce ideas off colleagues and do some strategic thinking.

The School of PiXL Leadership are running a new coaching programme for Headteachers. The course will be a mixture of individual and group coaching sessions and is a trial before they may scale it up. To find out more, [click here](#).

If you would like to be included in the very first cohort, please email leadership@pixl.org.uk for the booking code.

There is a cost of £499 + VAT per delegate.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact primary@pixl.org.uk.

Twitter: [@PiXLPrimary](#). You can also follow Nick, on [@NickPiXLPrimary](#).

Best wishes,

Nick Ware and The Primary Team