



KBO/JBI
11 March 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy Friday everyone! I hope everyone has had a great week.

We've given another 7536 green points this week. With students receiving on average 9 green points each! We now have our first 400-point hero – well done to Fatima in the Resource Base! There are now 21 with over 300 points, 283 with over 200 points and 731 with over 100 points. We look forward to awarding their “hundred hero” badges before Easter.

Our top achievers this week have been:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Maria A (22)	Doug B (18)	Malith F (18)
Year 10	Year 11	Resource Base
Kizuwanda B (19)	Ashton G (24)	Kartell W-A (27)

Next week, we will be focussing on inclusivity in our assemblies. I wanted to ensure all parents were aware of the messages we will be sharing so you can support children with this at home too.

There are three key things we will be highlighting to all:

1. We don't tolerate the use of any form of prejudice amongst our school community and take every opportunity we can to celebrate inclusivity and promote tolerance. This includes, ensuring that we use language appropriately around school, within peer groups and in our curriculum.
2. Students must immediately report to any member of staff if they are aware that prejudicial language is being used, either in person or on social media, even if it's a rumour. This allows us to investigate, impose sanctions and complete restorative work.
3. The importance of making claims about prejudice, whether it is racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia or any other form, in a careful way as those claims are incredibly serious and should never be made flippantly.

This week, we have paused our usual TTCP curriculum to take the time with students to discuss and development their understanding of the current situation in Ukraine. The staff and students have been inquisitive and reflective on this topic and we hope that the sessions have had a positive impact on their understanding. A copy of the resources that we used are attached to the newsletter this week so you can continue those conversations at home. As well as the curriculum time, we've also worked with students who are upset or concerned. We recognise that the current situation is sensitive and know how important it is that we support those in our community who need it.

Continued

At Blaise, we recognise that completing homework regularly has a very positive impact on students' outcomes. To support students that sometimes find it difficult to get all homework completed on time, we are launching our Academic Mentoring scheme. We have invited our School Council members to take part in a peer support programme where they will act as a homework buddy. This will involve working in small groups to complete homework, as well as supporting each other in building effective routines. From next week, this will happen during Study Support sessions in Champion's Hour. In addition, Academic Mentors will attend Working Lunch to support students that require it.

Finally, I would like to continue to share the opportunity for parents and members of our community to join our school through our current support staff vacancies. We currently have new vacancies in our administration team that parents may want to check out. Furthermore, we still have a vacancy open for Exams Invigilator, which is flexible contract that may be of interest. Here is the link to our vacancies page where you can find more details:

<https://www.blaisehighschool.co.uk/contact-blaise/school-contact-details/staff-vacancies>

I wish you all a fantastic weekend when it comes!

Yours faithfully,



Ms K Brown
Headteacher

See below for the TTCP resources on the current situation in Ukraine.

Continued



Tutor Time Culture Programme

If you feel upset by any of the events in these TTCP tasks, then please speak to your tutor who will arrange further support for you.

Task 1: Why are people talking about Russia and Ukraine?

You have probably noticed that there is a lot of talk about Russia and Ukraine in the news, and on social media at the moment.

The Russian government has launched an attack on Ukraine. The Russian government is run by Vladimir Putin, his views on Ukraine are not the views of the whole country. The two countries have a long complex history. Ukraine became independent in 1991, before then it was controlled by the Russian government. Before the attack the Russian government made demands including a promise that Ukraine would not join NATO. NATO is a group of countries which includes the US and the UK, which promises to defend each other in times of need. Historically, Russia and countries that are a part of NATO have not always got on. Many people in Ukraine want the country to join NATO to avoid being controlled by the Russian government in the future.



The following videos show the events of the past that have led to the current situation in Ukraine.

KS3 watch:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60513502>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60554258>

KS4 watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVu8QbxafJE&ab_channel=Vox

Why are lots of people talking about Russia and Ukraine in the news and on social media?

How do you think this makes people feel? Why?

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Task 2: Misinformation and Disinformation in the Media

Ukraine continues to defend itself after being invaded by the Russian army. Fighting is taking place across large parts of the country with Russian forces trying to take control of the major cities such as the capital, Kyiv. The fast-moving nature of these events has led to misleading videos and information being shared online. BBC Specialist Disinformation Reporter Marianna Spring has some tips on how to spot what's true and what's false.

Watch: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60568631>

TikTok virality

One TikTok video has been viewed 27.5m times and shared by thousands of users who assumed that it was from Ukraine.

In fact, its footage shot by a man who appears to be a member of the Russian armed forces, and uploaded to his Instagram channel in 2015.

He uploaded the old footage to his TikTok channel on 24 February, the day of the Russian invasion of the Ukraine, leading to viewers thinking it was footage from the conflict.



Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/world-europe-60582327>

Why is it important to check stories that you may see on social media before sharing them with others, especially in circumstances like this? Where can you get reliable news information?

Why do you think some people would want to spread disinformation during a time like this?

If you feel upset by any of the events in these TTCP tasks, then please speak to your tutor who will arrange further support for you.

Task 3: How do we help people in times of need?

Bristolians gathering vital supplies to transport to Ukraine border as war rages on

Mountains of vital supplies are being gathered by Bristol residents before being transported to the Ukrainian border as the Russian invasion wages on.

A village hall has been turned into a collection point for Ukraine - and they have been flooded with donations.

Staff at [Emersons Green Village Hall](#), which has been set up as a

collection point, said the generosity of Bristolians dropping off essential items such as food, clothes and medical supplies had 'taken their breath away'.

Vera Stodon Postavska - who has lived in England since 1997 and Bristol since 2002 - is one of the people in Bristol who has organised the collection for aid directly to Ukraine. The drop off point is Emerson's Green Village Hall.

Two vans driven by volunteers left the hall last night (Tuesday, March 1) packed with food, clothing and medical supplies, with more scheduled to leave over the coming days.

Once they hit the Ukrainian border, they'll be picked up by aid workers who will distribute them among refugees and the military.

Visit this page to see how people are coming together to support Ukraine:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60522472>



What can you do to support people involved in the events detailed in this TTCP booklet?

1) ***Take sanctuary for yourself*** – the news can be scary and overwhelming. Breathe deeply, take breaks from reading updates, and spend more time doing the things that make you feel safe.

- 2) **Get your news from a reputable source.** Alongside the main UK news orgs, follow Ukrainian English-language outlets The Kyiv Independent and The New Voice of Ukraine, or Ukraine-based journalists: Olga Tokariuk, Christopher Miller, Nika Melkozerova, Illia Ponomarenko (and many others!).
- 3) **Show solidarity to all refugees** no matter where they have been displaced from, no matter their religion, ethnicity or skin colour. It is heartening to see so many people across our society stand up for these people.
- 4) **Be patient and be kind to everyone.** Different people will be affected by these events in different ways.

During the COVID pandemic how have people come together to help each other?

Why do people feel that they should come together to help each other in times like these?
