



# THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL

## Home-based learning

In these difficult times, teachers have produced a range of activities for you to explore to keep your minds active and focused if you are staying at home due to self-isolation – and because many of your usual clubs and activities cannot take place. Perhaps you will even learn new skills!

The activities are themed by subject and designed to contain inspiration and are suggestions that you might like to follow. Read through with your family and take time together to choose the ones that could work best for you. You may come up with other ideas, too!

Although some of these ideas do require internet access, we think plenty of these are possible without too much screen time.

## Keep a record

We certainly want to hear what you've done while you're away. Take photos of what you achieve, keep a scrap book or make a poster of the tasks you complete. You can also use your Unifrog login to record your activities on your Activities and Competencies log.

We have set up a Cotswold School 'padlet' wall. It's an online pinboard where you can post work you've been doing, see what others have been up to and maybe get some inspiration. Teachers can continue to add to these padlet boards over the next few weeks.

Add your work here <https://padlet.com/CotswoldSchool/homelearning>



## English

- READ. Read more than you ever thought possible. Keep pushing yourself to read more challenging books. Or get nostalgic and re-read books that you loved when you were younger. All pupils should aim to read at least 30 minutes per day.
- Write book reviews to inspire other people to read more. Share your reviews with family and friends to inspire them to read more if they are also staying at home and self-isolating.
- Write poetry. Experiment with writing poems in different styles. Consider basing some of your poetry on the experience you are going through.
- Write a short novel. Plan some ideas and characters and see if you can take them on an exciting journey.

## Maths

- The best thing you can do in maths is regular practice work. Most pupils know how to access these resources already, but Maths teachers are sending home details of how to log in to two websites that can help pupils work independently.
- Key Stage 3 pupils should work from MyMaths
- Key Stage 4 pupils should work from MathsWatch

## Science

- Get back to nature! Go out in your garden (or further afield if you are able/allowed) and see what plants/insects/birds you can identify. Keep a log of what you find. Even if you are confined to your house and garden, learn how to identify native species. Have you ever built a bug hotel or bird house?
- Learn about gardening. The spring and early summer is a perfect time for planting many small crops. If you can get access to seeds, choose varieties to grow. Research the care they need and make them thrive.
- Have a look at these American-style science fair projects:  
<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/science-projects>

## Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

- Learn a completely new language! Download a free app like Duolingo, or get a phrase book from your local library. There are also audio books you can use to get started. Do you have a friend or relative who speaks a different language? Can you phone/skype them to start learning it?

## Geography

- A country study – build an investigation on a country you know very little about.
- Carry out a village enquiry – what can you find out about where you live? The people? The history? Can you map it?
- Map your cupboards! Where have the products from your cupboards come from? Are there any trends? Why have these products come from these locations? Map it! How far has it travelled?
- Sustainability challenge – what three changes could you make while out of school to make your life/home more sustainable? Were you successful? What challenges did you face?
- Geogglebox! Use our Twitter page @cotswoldgeog to find a list of geographical programmes that you can watch.

## History

- Research your family history. Talk to parents/grandparents/other relatives (a great way to connect with potentially isolated elderly people). Create a family tree and other ways of recording the information you discover.
- Research an aspect of local history. This could be a history of your village or a particular event that happened in your local area in the past. Come up with a creative way of communicating this information to a new audience (video/powerpoint/handout/short book etc).

## Music

- Learn a musical instrument. Apps and YouTube can help with this. A basic ukulele can be purchased for £15-20 or ask friends/neighbours if anyone has an instrument gathering dust, which you could borrow. If you have a smart phone or tablet you can download digital keyboards to have a go.
- Learn new songs – find lyrics and chord sheets online and film yourself performing as you improve. If you want to push yourself, look up the syllabus for graded exams on your instrument/voice to keep approaching harder material.
- Listen to music – sit still and just listen. Expand your range and tastes. Check out classical pieces. Try to describe what each instrument is doing and what the structure is. Have a go at listening to it and playing it on an instrument just by ear!
- Compose music – write lyrics and simple chords to write your own song. Watch some short YouTube tutorials to get you started, then look around for inspiration.
- Make instruments out of recycling or household junk. Percussion is straightforward but can you make a tuned instrument and play a recognisable melody?

## ICT/Computer Science

- Learn a new programming language.
- Create a webpage – choose a topic that you could explore through your own webpage.
- Construct a model of the components of a computer or a model of a robot from cardboard, packaging etc.

## Art

- Learn a new artistic skill. Always wanted to try charcoal/pastels/watercolours? Take the time to explore how to do this well.
- Take some photographs. Don't worry about having an amazing camera. Take self-portraits, experiment with different lighting and shadows. Try to take 30 photos in 30 minutes and if you can print them out make a 'joiner' just like David Hockney (worth googling). Try taking 10 photographs of the same object but from different angles.
- Doodle! Take a pen and paper, start doodling without a fixed idea of what you will draw and see how creative you can be. You could do this on junk mail and turn something useless into something more interesting.
- Model making – use recycling or household equipment to sculpt models.
- Create your own plasticine or repurposed models (Lego etc.) to make your own stop-frame animation. This takes time and patience. You have the time... do you have the patience?
- Choose a piece of artwork that means a lot to you from a book or online. Produce a piece of writing or even a video of yourself describing and analysing it and say what you feel about it.

## PE

- Learn specific skills for a sport you enjoy. If you have a garden, can you refine your football/hockey/rugby skills?
- Do a daily workout, either using YouTube videos (e.g. Bodycoach, 15-20 minute daily exercises) or put together exercises you have used in school.
- Can you plan workouts that your family members can take part in too? How can you help older relatives stay active? Look for 30-day fitness challenges that your whole family can take part in.

## Design & Technology (D&T)

- Learn to cook three new meals for your family. If you are confined to your home and have to rely on limited supplies, create recipes that are nutritionally balanced but use what is available. If more ingredients are available then push yourself to learn new skills and make things like bread or even pasta from scratch.
- Keep a food diary with descriptions of the dishes using in-depth sensory analysis (taste, texture, appearance). Include suggestions for how to change ingredients or improve the texture, taste or appearance. Note where in the world the ingredients have come from.
- Ask an adult to show you what basic tools are available at home. Find a small project that you can build by yourself, or something more ambitious with adult supervision. What new skills do you need to learn? How can YouTube tutorials help?
- Up-cycle project – can you take an old piece of clothing or spare fabric such as an old duvet cover and turn it into something else? Can you attempt to make seating using layers of card? (Tip – Google 'cardboard seating').
- Learn new craft skills such as knitting or crochet. YouTube tutorials can help. What is the most ambitious thing you can craft?
- Complete any of the James Dyson Foundation Challenges:  
<https://www.jamesdysonfoundation.com/resources/challenge-cards.html>

## Life Skills/Cross-curricular

- BBC Bitesize is always an excellent resource. It covers a range of topics for KS3 and KS4 and has revision and tests activities.
- Although we encourage only limited screen time, BBC iPlayer and other providers have some excellent documentaries covering a huge number of subjects. After watching the documentary, write up things you have learnt, present it so others can understand it and ask further questions.
- Seneca Learning is an excellent online learning platform with a range of topics. It is mainly focused at GCSE and A-Level classes but there is some KS3 work on there too. Ask your teachers by email for ideas or start to learn about something that takes your interest.
- Learn about something completely new and different that you never get to study in school. This could become a mini-EPQ (extended project qualification)
- Design and make a new board game. Once made, play it with your family.
- Do you have a younger sibling? Plan an activity to do with them each day. This could be a craft, reading a story or helping them continue with their education away from school.
- Do you get frustrated when you have to type a long document? Why not do an online touch-typing course?
- If isolation/quarantine rules allow, bake or make edible gifts for local relatives or neighbours.
- Write notes to or phone people who can't leave the house.
- Spring clean! Do a deep clean of at least one room in your house. Clear out your own room. Why not sort through old clothes/toys and see what you can donate to charity or even sell online?
- Find a charity that you want to support. Research their work and plan a way to raise money for them. How can you raise awareness about this charity?

## Drama

- Write a review of a play/show/film you have seen recently.
- Make puppets out of materials from around the house. Write a script and create a performance. Look up different styles of puppets online and see how ambitious you can be.
- Write a script for a play. You could create something completely new or base it on real life events. This could even be based on research into the current pandemic or interviews with people who are affected. Or choose a historical event and turn it into a play (you have dramatic licence to alter people/places/events!)
- Build your own theatre. Can you create a working stage with curtains, scenery, lighting and moveable actors?

## Looking after yourself and others

- Phone (or skype/facetime) a relative or friend who is also self-isolating.
- Do a random act of kindness.
- Repair something old and broken in the house. Give it a new life.
- Watch the news and keep up-to-date (but don't get obsessed by it). Watch out for fake news.
- Help around the house. Do your chores; help your parents.
- Keep a diary. It could be fascinating to read in the future.
- Do a jigsaw or play board games. Have family time.

