

PHSG STUDENT COUNCIL SUMMER HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

Week 2 - Thursday 30th July

I would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Joynes for kindly sending these newsletters to the new year 7s each week. On behalf of the whole Student Council team, I would like to welcome the new year 7s to Plymouth High. I am so pleased you are receiving these newsletters and I hope you enjoy reading them!

I would like to thank Ophelia for writing this week's newsletter. I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I have! I have been inspired to try digital art, although I must say, even if I practised every day of the summer holidays, I don't think I could produce artwork as incredible as yours, Ophelia!

A special mention from Mrs Carter and me about the Language Immersion Challenge. Thank you for including it, Ophelia, and well done for taking part!



Learning new skills is an opportunity we all have at the moment. I saw this week that Tom Daley has swapped diving boards for knitting needles!

If you have learnt a new skill you would like to share, do send me an email to tell me what skill you have learnt, or a photo of what you have made. Please send it to me czoe14@phsg.org by Tuesday 4th August and we'll feature your new skills in next week's newsletter!

Happy reading and happy holidays!
Zoe :)

Newsletter Writer: Ophelia, 10RFD, Latimer

The topic for this week is... Learning new skills!

"Learning a new skill" I'm sure was something the majority of us set out to do at the beginning of quarantine, while maintaining baking loaves upon loaves of bread, a regular exercise schedule, writing a new novel, becoming the definition of stylish and keeping on top of all the work. Okay, maybe it was just me who had planned to have an entire wardrobe made out of self-knitted clothing, that inevitably failed as I realised I couldn't get past the first couple of steps, but the beginning statement still remains. A lot of us set out to learn a new skill during quarantine, and although some of them, I imagine, have been disbanded at this point, a lot of these aims have been carried out and will have improved your skills, whether you feel like they have or not.

Now, even though the summer holidays have already begun, it is not too late to learn more new skills, and you can even continue them into the new school year!

So, what new skills can you learn?

Firstly, a good example I've found is simply reading. Although I understand it's not everyone's cup of tea to be reading books in your free time, it can massively improve multiple different skills. You not only sub-consciously gain English skills, but if you happen to be reading a skill-based non-fiction book, such as a book on the theory of music or baking, you can learn those skills as well! Similarly, you can start writing! Whether poems, stories, a script, music, a non-fiction article, or an essay on any topic that you may be interested in, any writing you do increases your skills. Even if you may not feel like it is amazing at the beginning, the more you read and practise your writing, the better it will become!

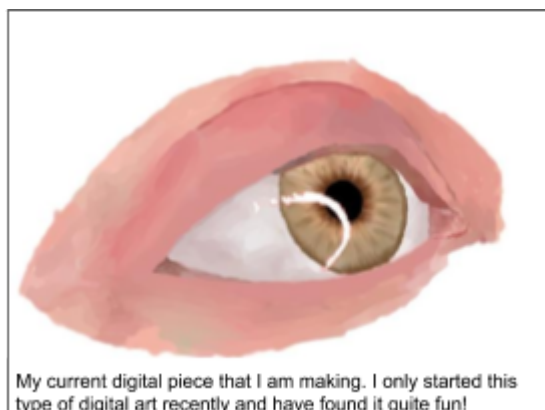
Languages are also an educational and easy skill to practise and learn, whether a language you already know, or one you don't. There are a lot of different apps and websites that can be used to further your knowledge of languages, and most are free for basic use. Another good way to increase your language skills is through the language immersion challenge that was sent out just before the summer holidays. I have been trying my best to keep up with this challenge, and I have already found that I am a bit more confident when revising my French notes and while reading articles.

Furthermore, if you have the ability, you can try to start playing a new instrument. Even if you don't have any instruments, there are several apps and websites that can help you with learning through virtual instruments, especially with instruments like piano, drums and guitar, or you could learn to sing. A great way to start is by looking up beginner's tutorials for the instrument you want to learn, and from there I've found a great way to motivate myself is looking through songs I like and aiming to be able to play some of the harder songs I've found. There are also a lot of apps that can take you from the very beginning of learning an instrument through to the more complex skills you'd usually only learn through lessons. There are also an increasing number of singing tutorials online, and most apps for learning instruments also offer singing lessons.

Moreover, a great way both to gain skills and decorate your house is through art and photography. Photography is a great way to get started, as most devices come equipped with cameras, and you may even have the ability to edit your photos without having to download extra apps. Photographs also work as a great way to help you get started with art, giving you multiple reference photos to work from and improve your art skills, especially with proportion and finer details.

On the other hand, you can also learn art skills through online tutorials, social media, and just practising! Even if you don't have paints, ink, fineliners, or any other materials you would normally work with in school, you can use just pencils or pens to create great pieces of art.

Or, if that isn't for you, there are many apps you can get on your phone, or on laptops and computers, that help you create digital art for free, using various tools and brushes.



Additionally, some easier skills that you could learn online through tutorials and instructions include: learning to moonwalk, learning to whistle, learning to juggle, speed reading, learning how to do calligraphy, how to knit or crochet, how to beatbox, how to do a cartwheel or how to do a handstand. You can even learn, with lots of time and stretches, how to do the splits, although make sure that the tutorial doesn't take you to doing them instantly, as you will most likely have to have a few weeks of stretches, before you're able to do them, if you have never done them before.

With all these skills, don't expect to see instant results! They will take time and perseverance to gain results that you feel happy with, but in the end, it'll be worth it.

Some benefits of learning new skills are as follows:

1. When learning new skills in the future, you tend to pick them up more quickly
2. They will give you more opportunities in the future
3. It can be lots of fun
4. Making progress can increase a sense of accomplishment
5. Having multiple skills can help with other cross-curricular skills and activities



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