

## Headteacher's Blog February 2021

### **Covid-19 Update**

All of the staff are having lateral flow tests, twice weekly, and we are thankful to continue to be safe and well.

As I know you all are, we too are waiting for the Government to announce when a return to school will be possible.

The vast majority of our pupils are engaging well with home-schooling and we are extremely grateful for your patience and support with this. The majority of pupils in any context need external motivation, positive encouragement, incentives, sanctions etc. This is just the daily life of teaching, so don't be worried if it is not easy going. They also need to have time to chill and have fun, as this is a stressful time for everyone.



The learning we are providing, remotely and in school, follows our planned curricula sequences in all subjects, as shown in the curriculum section of our website. Wherever possible, we are offering as broad a curriculum as possible, but if you are struggling, please focus on what has been planned for maths and English.

### **STEM Project**

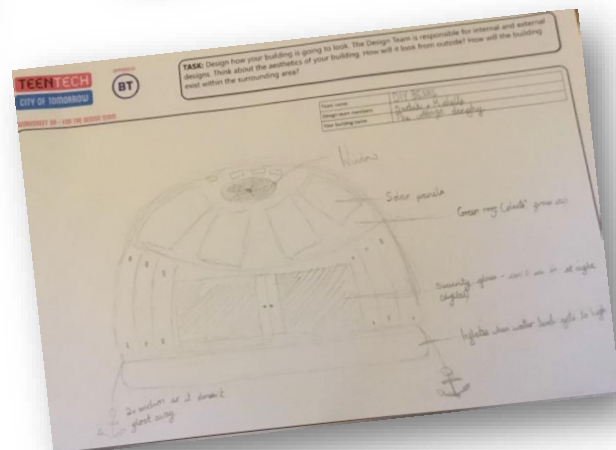
I was delighted that both home-learning and school based Year 5 and 6 pupils were able to take part in our planned 'TeenTech: The City of Tomorrow' project, which was able to be moved fully online.

The pupils learned about: career opportunities in science, engineering and computing; the fast changing nature of computing and technology; issues face by global communities; and they heard from industry mentors and shared ideas.

Our pupils did us proud and submitted amazing design entries for their 'buildings of tomorrow'. These included designs for underwater communities, making electricity from micro-plastics and oxygen from algae; teleporter hospitals; floating bungalows to combat flooding; and a host of buildings in which sustainable energy, plants and animals were used to improve the environment and wellbeing. The pupils used a range of

techniques, including 3D computer building apps, junk modelling and drawing, to submit their ideas.

Every one of our pupil's entries were showcased on the industry expert feedback session - I was extremely proud of them all. Some examples are below:



## Remote Education

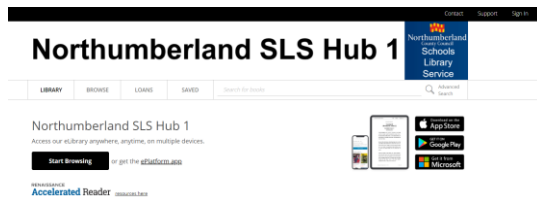
Just a reminder that all pupils have been given login details for access to our new 'e-book Hub' via the Northumberland Schools Library Service. Pupils can then login via the link below.

You can access this site on a range of devices and there is a mobile app too.

<https://northumberlandsishub1.eplatform.co/browse/accread>

Pupils will need to 'sign-in' on the top right of the login page, as seen below.

Pupils can be supported to change how books look on their device, such as font size, text and background colour, to make access easier, especially for pupils with additional needs.



We also still have a few unclaimed learning packs still available from the school office.

### **Cold Weather Clothing**

Please can the pupils attending school have shoes if they come in wellies, gloves, hats and a change of clothes to keep in school, in case they get wet outdoors etc. As we can't share things between pupils, we are struggling to have suitable spares.

Keep staying safe!

Diane Lakey