

# Kids at school send special thanks to key workers

CHILDREN who are attending school to allow their key worker parents to continue working during the coronavirus outbreak have produced special messages of thanks.

Year 7 students who are attending Sir Frederick Gibberd College, in Harlow, while their parents work in the hospital, for the police or in the supermarkets are completing a creative task each day.

Among the projects was a video message to their parents, thanking them for what they are doing, thank you cards to key workers and rainbow posters with positive messages.

Student Connor Muffett said: "My mum took the NHS card to her work in the doctor's surgery and it made some of her colleagues cry."

Head teacher Dee Conlon said: "Some people – their parents, teachers and they themselves – are having to make sacrifices for the greater good."

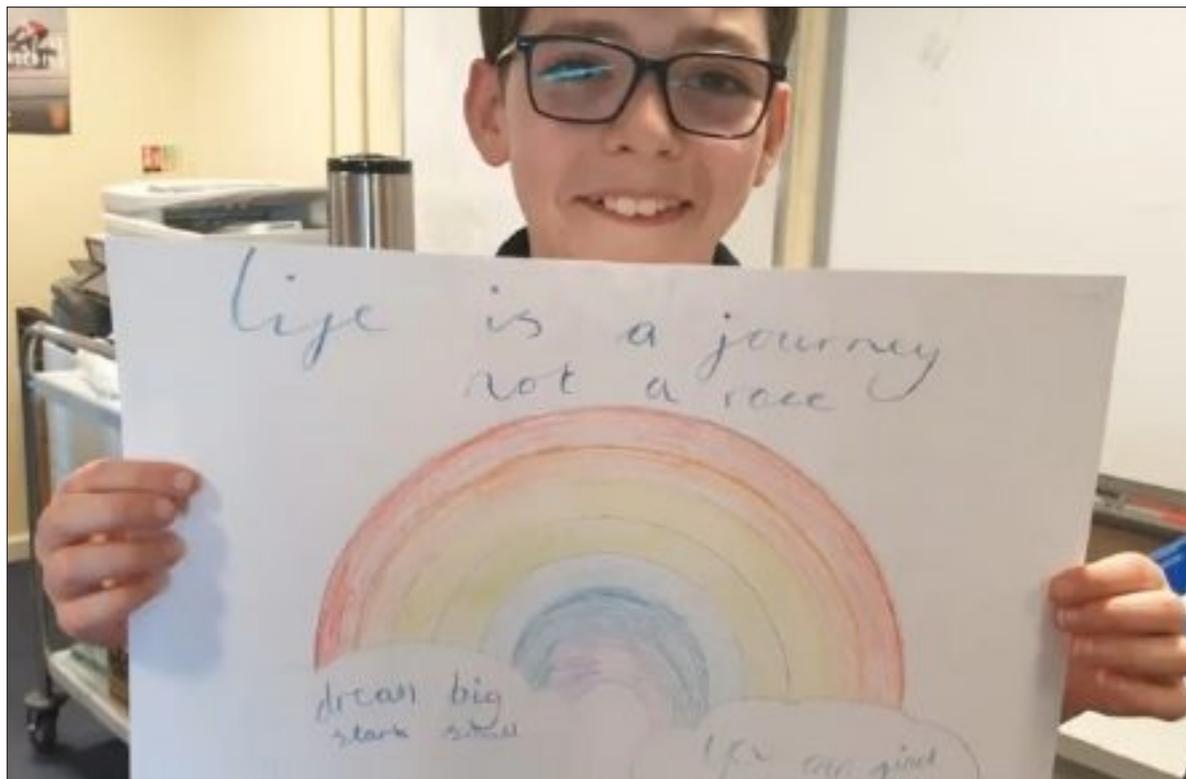
"These are unprecedented times and we must do our bit."

"We are all in this together."

"We are also reminding our students not to focus on just the negatives, but to remember there is a lot of good in the world."

"The projects we do each day help to enforce this message."

"These are really important lessons for our children to learn in life."



Year 7 students who are attending Sir Frederick Gibberd College, in Harlow, created messages of thanks to key workers

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### READERSHIP

TOTAL COMBINED AUDIENCE Source: Telmar

**133,596** online and local print readership April 2016

READERS Jicreg

**40,066** people read the Guardian Series every week Jan 2015 - Dec 2015

WEB AUDIENCE Omniture

**347,563** unique users visit the site every month. Jan 2016

**1,328,823** unique users visit the site every month. Jan 2016

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# Fears online services will replace physical libraries

By Lewis Berrill

LIBRARY campaigners have called for assurances that 'physical' libraries will not be replaced by online services when the coronavirus lockdown ends.

Since lockdown measures were introduced on March 23, Essex libraries have experienced a 22 per cent rise in electronic use during the lockdown.

Campaigners for Save Our Libraries Essex (SOLE) have applauded this achievement but are calling for assurances libraries will be supported by Essex County Council following the lockdown.

The county council has promised physical libraries will reopen when it is "safe to do so"

A SOLE spokesperson said:

"We applaud Essex library staff on achieving this increase, it must be helping a lot of people get through these times. Electronic library use is crucial and a vital layer of the library service that should continue to be developed, and is invaluable during this lockdown period."

"However, electronic use cannot be viewed as an adequate substitute for local, professionally staffed libraries. It is vital to remember that many families and older people do not have the internet, so the increase in electronic use must not be used as an excuse to close physical libraries."

"In fact the current crisis demonstrates how we are social beings who need interaction with others."

The council has confirmed

it will reopen the buildings "as soon as these restrictions are lifted".

An Essex Libraries spokesperson said: "To ensure a library service continues to be delivered in these exceptional circumstances we have enhanced our eLibrary offer and we're pleased to see that Essex residents are using it in increasing numbers."

"As a way of reaching some of our customers who aren't online we are also developing a telephone befriending service specifically for our Home Library Service customers."

"We recognise the unique value that our physical libraries provide and we are looking forward to opening our doors again and getting back to delivering the great services and activities cherished by our customers."

# Massive drop in use of public transport

ESSEX has seen one of the sharpest drops in public transport use in the UK during the coronavirus lockdown, data from Google suggests.

NHS England's medical director Stephen Powis said people are continuing to follow government guidance to stay at home to help reduce the number of hospitalisations due to the coronavirus.

Google's figures, which use location data to chart trends in

people's movement, show visits to public transport hubs in Essex fell by 85 per cent in the six weeks to the end of March, compared to two months earlier.

Only a small number of places have witnessed a bigger drop-off, with visits to bus and train stations down by an average of 75 per cent across the UK when compared to a previous five-week period at the start of the year.

Mr Powis said we are "contin-

uing to see people adhering" to government policy – particularly on public transport.

Speaking recently at a daily coronavirus press conference, he said: "The sun might be out, but that doesn't mean you should be out. We all need to make sure we resist the temptation, whatever the weather."

"This is not the time to be complacent and to take our foot off the pedal. We need to continue to comply with the instructions."