



### **Newsletter – Lockdown Edition**

19th June 2020

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## Headteacher's Address (nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As advised in my letter on Wednesday, we start our more structured approach to remote learning on Monday, including a daily live clinic for all students in Years 7-10. Mrs Fyfe will be writing separately today with the details, including timetables for each year group. Please look out for that email so that your child knows how to join the first live session at 11am on Monday.

#### Pastoral Support for Students

Our enhanced provision will also give us capacity to provide more pastoral support for the students, which I feel is increasingly important as the lockdown continues. Each form group will receive a Teams meeting next week, as follows:

Year 7	Tutor Group	Time Slot
Monday	7B	10:00 - 10:30
Tuesday	7A	10:00 - 10:30
Wednesday	7C	10:00 - 10:30
Thursday	7D	10:00 - 10:30
Friday	7E	10:00 - 10:30
	7F	10:30 - 11:00

Year 8	Tutor Group	Time Slot
Monday	8A	10:00 - 10:30
Tuesday	8B	10:00 - 10:30
Wednesday	8C	10:00 - 10:30
Thursday	8D	10:00 - 10:30
Friday	8E	10:00 - 10:30





Year 9	Tutor Group	Time Slot
Monday	9A	10:00 - 10:30
Tuesday	9B	10:00 - 10:30
Wednesday	9C	10:00 - 10:30
Thursday	9D	10:00 - 10:30

Year 10 are having their Welfare and Academic Review meetings next week, so their weekly Teams meetings will begin on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

In addition to this we have launched a new Wellbeing Assembly Playlist from Mr Bhambra on our YouTube channel. These sessions cover a range of wellbeing topics and are a really fantastic resource and I would encourage you to direct your children to them. The playlist can be accessed via this link:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5O-YFsnbTWoAI3jEMDOr4bjJA3sNW0cZ

#### Key Worker Provision (KWP)

The two key worker bubbles have operated very successfully this week. Mr Bhambra continues to lead KWP, so if you require support with your child then please contact him directly via email (<a href="mailto:tbhambra@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk">tbhambra@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk</a>). Our resources remain limited, particularly as we are now offering daily live lessons and face-to-face contact for Years 10 and 12, but we will do our best to support all those who need it.

Finally, I would like to extend my genuine thanks to Catriona Woodhead who has been making and selling facing masks and has donated the profits to the School. This is an incredibly kind gesture and we are really very grateful.

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney** 

Headteacher

## Maths, Computing and Science (<a href="mailto:lpanesar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk">lpanesar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk</a>)

This week Maths, Computing and Science are planning for the face to face lessons with year 10 and year 12. We are so excited to be welcoming those year groups back into school. The first steps to normality.

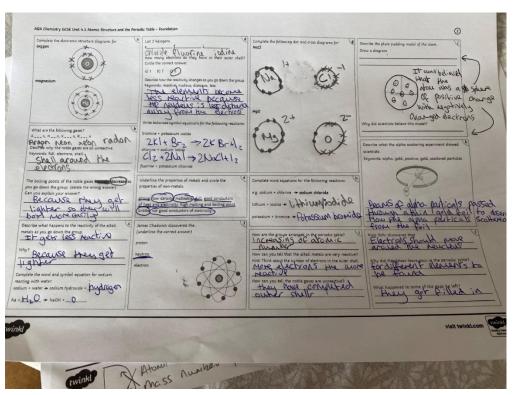
During the last week Mathswatch has seen impressive figures with 743 logins, over 4600 questions attempted and 226 videos watched. Year 7 are in the lead with 1518 questions answered and they are closely followed by year 10 with 1069. Well done everyone, keep up the good work.

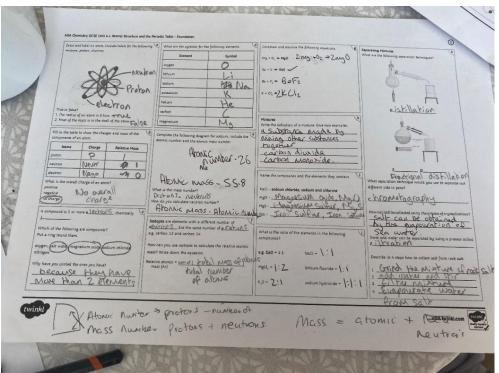




Turning the focus onto computing we have seen year 7 and 8 finish off their coding topic with a knowledge quiz which tested areas such as what a variable is and how loops work in a program. They will be moving on to understanding more about computers and looking at how they communicate using Binary.

In science, our year 9 students have produced excellent work on the Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table. Thanks to Max Standing and Jack Thornton for these excellent submissions.









Finally I left you with this problem last week: There are two ducks in front of a duck, two ducks behind a duck and a duck in the middle. How many ducks are there? Well done to those who came up with the correct answer of three ducks, two ducks are in front of the last duck; the first duck has two ducks behind; one duck is between the other two. This week we have the following problem which originated in Hong Kong.



## Business and Humanities (cjohnson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Another amazing week in the world of Humanities. Business A-Level students have been researching how various companies have been reacting to the Black Lives Matters campaign and critically examining whether the companies are in full support, or using it for PR.

Historians have been learning about the reputation and organisation of policing in 1888 and drawing parallels to the protests seen across the world today.

Year 7 geographers have been investigating Volcanoes (something my 4 year old has very much enjoyed joining in with at our home!)

Mr Baylis has been incredibly impressed with many students across his classes with a plethora of emails congratulating their efforts being sent.

Criminologists have been investigating the role of police, forensic scientists and pathologists at crime scenes – an incredibly interesting task.

Government and politics have been reviewing the structure and role of the Cabinet Office.

I always feel a sense of pride when looking at the work set across the faculty with the wider breadth and diversity of topics that all relatable to current affairs.

## PE Update (<a href="mailto:chumber@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk">chumber@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk</a>)

The PE dept have been setting a number of different exercises for all Core PE classes from Yoga to High Intensity Interval Training with special congratulations to Luke Stanborough and Edward Messum for their engagement with High Intensity Interval Training sessions.

The PE dept would love to see pictures or short clips of you taking part in exercise so please do send them into <u>z PE@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk</u>





The GCSE PE and Sport Science classes have been working on their knowledge and understanding of the Cardiorespiratory System and Aerobic & Anaerobic Exercise as well as competing against other classes in the fortnightly online SMHW quiz!

Mr Humber would also like to congratulate all those students regularly taking part in the online quizzes – this is not an easy situation but do not give up and keep trying! Well done!

As it stands the current GCSE average class scores in the SMHW quiz are below but these will be updated weekly:

#### **GCSE PE**

**10C** (Mr Humber) – Aerobic & Anaerobic Exercise system - <u>class average is currently 78%</u>

**10D** (Miss Matthews) – Aerobic & Anaerobic Exercise system - <u>class average is currently</u> 85%

Special congratulations to the top scorers in each class who were:

**10C** Jazz A, Alyse B, Sophie J, Themba J, Frankie M, Hollie W

10D Kayla M, Matthew S

#### Sport SCIENCE – it's a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place!

9A (Mr Humber) – class average is currently 88%.

9D (Mr Tichband) – class average is currently 88%.

Special congratulations to the current top scoring super stars so far:

**9A** Kymani R, Jay B, Freddie B, Kyle P

**9D** Hollie G, Luke K, Josh P

# English and MFL (efry@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

It has been another busy week for our faculty. Miss Pepper has continued to work on becoming a YouTube superstarthis week with her livestreamed reading of Harry Potter! She has been delighted with the number of students who have listened and I would recommend it as a very relaxing way to spend an hour. Next Monday she is planning on branching out and reading an extract of different text to hopefully encourage as many students as possible to try something new. We hope for an even bigger audience than last week!

This week the English department have also been working hard to reflect current events in our work. KS3 students have been working on *Strange Fruit* by Abel Meeropol and Billie Holliday which has opened a conversation about reading beyond what is sometimes seen as the canon. Teachers have been impressed at their students' impassioned responses to the issues explored in the text and their willingness to continue to learn. We know that we are only at the beginning of the process of reviewing our curriculum in order to fight rooted inequalities and that, as Mrs Lloyd said last week, 'we need to make space for, and listen to, those that bear witness.' However, we are proud that students want to join us on this journey and we will continue to make this a focus.

Year 9 German have been looking at festivals in Germany and hoping that we'll soon be able to enjoy such things again. It was just six months ago when we were able to get on a coach





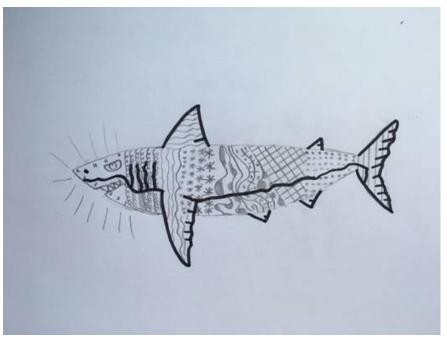
and visit the German Christmas market in Birmingham. We look forward to attending events like this again in future.

I would like to thank all students who are engaging well with the work set by our faculty. I would also like to thank all of the English and MFL teachers who are going that extra mile to make learning our subjects as interactive and exciting as possible, despite the challenging circumstances.

# Creative and Performing Arts (<a href="mailto:msimpson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk">msimpson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk</a>)

Year 7 and 8 have been creating zentangle patterned animals – here are a few of our favourites so far. Keep sending us images of your work, we love seeing your creativity.













Year 9 have recreated famous artworks in their big art attack challenge this week, using objects from around their house. We've really enjoyed seeing how inventive they have been with materials and the artworks that they have chosen to recreate.











#### Y7 and Y8 musicians in action!

It has been fantastic to have been sent a constant stream of work from our enthusiastic y7 and y8 students – really insightful reflections about their learning, their opinions and critical thinking, not to mention recordings of compositions and performances. Keep them coming everyone!! Here are just a few ...

### Grace Maple (Y8)

Composing her video game music entitled Frantic, Grace said,

"I loved this title as it was exactly how the music made me feel and would hopefully make a player of the video game feel the same. Madly rushing to get to safety! I loved doing this project! I love video games so visualised a scary game while putting my piece of music together!"





### Sennen Jarvis (Y7)

"I really enjoyed this project. It made me see another side of music that I have never seen before — I was quite surprised. I can't wait to do another project. I think these projects really get you thinking."

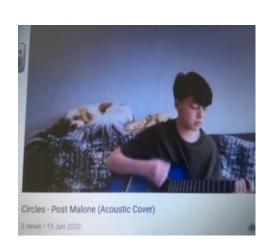
#### Myles Addison (Y7)

Inspired by a performance by Danny and Tristan in Y8 last week, Myles has created his own cover of 'Circles' by Post Malone.

"Some of the chord changes still need more practice but I will improve these until I can play it really well."

("An example of a student with commitment and real determination. Very proud of his positive attitude and effort!" says Mrs Wellman)

https://youtu.be/uHfJP3Vf7o









#### Luke Fyfe (Y8)

Has completed the 'Songwriting' project and has composed this song, **Sky of Blue** – both lyrics and music. Do check out the following link to hear/see him performing it.

https://youtu.be/5CLeDt75GLo

### Sarah Shields (Y8)

Writing her lyrics for the 'Corona Virus Rap' whilst listening to the beat.

"I found writing the lyrics a bit challenging but I also found it very enjoyable. I was learning new things and it didn't even feel like it!"





### Jenny Dunn (Y7)

Composing her video game music called **The Fight** using an app called GroovePad (which is free, easily downloadable and which she would recommend to other students!)

"I enjoyed using GroovePad again and watching the videos on how people create video game music."

Good luck for your next week of learning everyone! Can't wait to hear your masterpieces.

## Mrs Hodgson: Transition (<a href="mailto:shodgson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk">shodgson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk</a>)

Another week sees more video meetings with primary schools to learn all about the new Y7 students and what their strengths are. I am getting so excited to meet you all properly as I feel like I know you already!

We have had quite a few questions come in from the students, so Mr Johnson and I have prepared a video that answers all the main concerns, you can watch it here: https://youtu.be/q0F2eLDkuSA

Keep your questions coming and don't forget to check YouTube each week for new induction videos!





### Miss Cairns: Year 7 (rcairns@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

I hope everyone has had a lovely third week of the Summer Term, despite the slight change in weather and the onset of rather a lot of rain. Luckily for me, I love running in the rain so haven't been too disappointed, and, on a positive note, next week is supposed to be super sunny!

As for this week at school, we have had another fantastic one, full of Year 7 pupils producing amazing work that has thoroughly amazed some of their teachers! My weekly shout out this week has to go to Jenny Dunn, I have had so many lovely emails about her fantastic work, ranging from a fantastic rabbit being drawn in Art to fantastic effort and achievement across a range of other subjects including but not limited to, History, Geography and Religious Studies!

This week will continue to see 'Pupil of the Week' emails go home to some of the Year 7s who have produced amazing work that goes above and beyond what their teachers expect of them. Friday assemblies continue this week, with my theme being 'Can one person make a difference?'. Please make sure to look out for the YouTube link (<a href="https://youtu.be/Y34xPqAzX6E">https://youtu.be/Y34xPqAzX6E</a>), it will also be sent to all pupils.

As always, if you have any problems at all please do not hesitate to get in contact and I will do my absolute best to help! I hope everyone has a lovely weekend, filled with positivity!

### Mr Baker: Year 8 (<a href="mailto:sbaker@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk">sbaker@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk</a>)

Another week seems to have flown by, and Year 8 have been on top form yet again (unlike Arsenal!). We start with Religious Studies, and the following pupils have been smashing the philosophy quizzes with 100% scores on their recent tests – Shabab Farooq and Elliott Barry. Well done to you!

In Geography, Sean Egan has been on fire, and made such easy work of the latest Geography quiz. Top work, Sean! In Art, Palak Kohli and Henry Bray both drew inspired pictures of a zentagle animal (a Jellyfish and a Shark, respectively). Miss Ridgers was beyond impressed with their efforts! Well done to Palak and Henry.

In Music, Mrs Wellman has praised Edward Taylor for his all-round commitment, and super star work. Well done, Edward! Also, Luke Fyfe has produced a classic original song 'Sky of Blue'. I was astounded by the quality of it, and it might be a chart hit one day! Top work, Luke!

In terms of the changes to learning next week, I see this as a good thing, as the structure and content have been put together for Year 8 pupils, and broken down in to 4 sessions per day. As outlined, there will also be online support sessions available to help with Year 8 learning. I also aim to arrange some Pastoral Review Meetings with the Year 8 forms over the next week. In these meetings, their form tutor and I will have a chat with Year 8 pupils about how they have been getting on.

Again, I would like to thank the parents and carers of Year 8. Your support has been fantastic, and made this difficult time, much more workable. If you do have any queries then please do not hesitate to get in contact. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.





## Mr Tichband: Year 9 (jtichband@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Hello Year 9,

It has been lovely to see some of the year 9 artwork on the Emmbrook Instagram! I was truly blown away by the talent you all have, so if you have been creating anything over this time period, please do share it with both me and your tutors. As always, I recognise how hard you are all working. It has been so overwhelming to hear positive stories about so many of you and it is great to know that you are trying to stay on top of your studies. Remember that as we progress through the weeks, it is important to reflect on how things are going. So do spend some time reflecting and trying to relax.

I am sure you have all been missing our regular assemblies. Well, I have good news! Keep an eye out for the latest edition of the year 9 assembly which I will be videoing from home. I would love to have feedback (be nice) and I would be keen to start to share some of your lovely stories or ideas you have with the rest of the year. As always keep in touch and keep making me proud. You can find the assembly here: <a href="https://youtu.be/Oo9a4ciH6jE">https://youtu.be/Oo9a4ciH6jE</a>

### Miss Horne: Year 10 (ehorne@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Despite Year 10 knowing that they are returning to school in some capacity over the next few weeks, they have certainly not slipped in engagement. Currently, 2539 MathsWatch questions have been completed in the month of June which puts the year group on track to beat their May figure of 4040 – fingers crossed!

More success stories have been shared from English this week; Mrs Lloyd is really looking forward to hearing the results of the outstanding and challenging topics many students have chosen for their Spoken Language Component of their English GCSE:

- Harry McBain Racism in football
- Jazz Abbott Pay gap between nurses and doctors
- Lewis Fahy Legalisation of euthanasia
- Molly McGuinness Past objectification and new representation of women in comicverse
- Sanjana Jaidka Invisible and pernicious discrimination against women in how our world has been designed
- Amelie Taylor Sea World and animal rights
- Hollie White Pay gap between men and women
- Kirstie Coelho How valued is the NHS?
- Tejasvi Venkatkumar The different schooling methods in the UK and India: Advantages and Disadvantages

Next week sees the start of weekly assemblies that I will be delivering to Year 10, the link for this will be sent to students and the video will also be available on The Emmbrook School YouTube channel (<a href="https://youtu.be/qACcs2D-HNI">https://youtu.be/qACcs2D-HNI</a>). The first assembly is a reflection of the past 3 months and prepares them for their Welfare and Academic Review Meeting and day in school in a couple of weeks' time. I am really looking forward to running these assemblies; if you or your child have any themes or ideas that you would like to be covered then please let me know.

I can't wait to see so many faces next week for the meetings! In the meantime, stay safe and drop me an email if you have any questions.





## Mr Constable: Sixth Form (dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

It has been fantastic to see year 12 back onsite this week. We have been undertaking our welfare meetings and, at time of writing, are about three quarters of the way through the year group. It has been uplifting to hear the amount of positivity year 12 still have despite everything that has been going on. The engagement from the year group has been some of the best in the school and, the welfare meetings have revealed that the students are generally very positive about the work they have been set and the way it has been structured. It has also been really pleasing to see and hear how keen the year group are to return to school, the majority have expressed their desire to get back into lessons, to see their friends and teachers again, and to get back to some face to face learning.

Whilst I know this process will not have been easy for all, the way year 12 have come together to help each other through the school closure demonstrates the community spirit that exists within year 12. This is a community that the new leadership team, once they are appointed, will be able to build upon to continue embedding the sixth form at the heart of the school community.

It is great to have year 12 back and we can't wait to be able to teach them again in a couple of weeks.

## House Update: Miss Wood (rwood2@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

As we continue to be unable to come together in school, the house team are missing seeing you all, to congratulate you in person, to participate in events and support one another and in our assemblies cheering each house on. Whilst we may not be able to meet face to face, below are messages from the House Captain teams to each of their house communities:

#### Jupiter:

Hi Jupiter!

We hope you are all feeling well and are keeping up with school.

We are currently battling Venus for the top spot on the leader board, so make sure to participate in all the school activities that are being set! It has been wonderful to see all your creativity on social media so far.

Remember to keep positive and persevere through these challenging times.

GO JUPITER!

From Dorotea and Jessica

#### **Mercury:**

Mercury,

One is reminded by these competitions of bowling. At present we are one of four balls, slowly rolling along, hunting the skittles that it is our task to destroy. However, while the other balls slow, turn, fall away, we continue along the course. The other balls descend, crash, flail into the gutter and roll to a halt, defeated. However we roll on, every skittle destroyed, a perfect strike, a perfect house.

From Cameron and Zara





#### Venus:

Let's go Venus!

This is just a message to tell you all how amazing you all are, we have been at the top of the leader board when it comes to house points for two weeks now, ending the battle we had had with Jupiter for first before half term.

It is amazing to see that you are all so motivated earning those house points, taking part in challenges, and really engaging with the distance learning. We can only urge you to keep going, to keep pushing. It will be hard sometimes, but you have and will overcome any challenges you may face.

We can only thank you for being incredible students and inspiring us every day with your effort and creativity! We can't wait to see more of the incredible things you have been doing over lockdown and hope we will soon be able to see you face to face so you can tell us all about it.

Keep on pushing, let's go Venus!

From Olivia and Ramis

#### Saturn:

Hello Saturn!

We first want to say how proud we are of you for working so hard and getting involved in competitions and activities outside of the school environment. There's been some absolutely amazing entries with The Emmbrook Creation Station, and we've loved seeing just how many of you have participated in it. House Points are very close at the moment – we may not be in first place but if we continue to work together virtually, we know there's a good chance of catching up.

We are sure you're aware of many resources teachers have been sharing in the past few weeks regarding Black Lives Matter and encourage you to continue to engage with them. Whilst the curriculum is important it is by no means extensive and educating ourselves on anti-racism and how to be an ally is essential for promoting equality in The Emmbrook School.

From Katie and Luke

#### **PTA**

We are pleased to announce that we received a donation of £400 from the organisers of the Wokingham Half Marathon for helping with their Bag Sort  $\odot$ . Thank you to everybody who came and helped with making our volunteering a success.

Thank you to everybody who donated a £1 for the last dress down day – which raised £592.

We have been running the PTA Lottery during lockdown and will be in touch with our lucky winners!!!

We will be holding a (Socially Distanced) Happy School Bag Collection at School on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July** from **9am until Midday**.





The drop off point is the big white bungalow at the front of school. For what items we can collect, please follow this link:- <a href="http://www.happyschoolbag.co.uk/">http://www.happyschoolbag.co.uk/</a>

Thank you for your continued support.

The Emmbrook School PTA Committee

# **Speakers 4 Schools**

Over the last few years, we have been proud to work with the Speakers 4 Schools organisation and have some excellent speakers visit our pupils. They are currently running online sessions, with next week's schedule below;

## **WEEK STARTING MONDAY 22ND JUNE 2020**

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 10am  Add to calendar	Zoe Irwin , Creative Director, John Frieda	The Independent calls her "the Stella McCartney of hairdressing" Her innovative styling menu using Liberty prints caused a beauty blogger meltdown two summers ago And such is her industry kudos that hairdressing multi-millionaire John Frieda asked her to join his salon group as creative director. Join us as Zoe Irwin discusses all things hairdressing and creativity, sharing insights into her career, life lessons and advice with students from 11-18 years.
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2pm  Add to calendar	Armando Iannucci, Oscar- nominated Writer & Director	Oscar nominated writer, director and producer Armando Iannucci will be speaking to SFS and young people across the UK about his career in comedy on film, TV and radio and answering your questions!
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 10am  Add to calendar	Richard Waterworth, General Manager, UK & EU, TikTok	Rich Waterworth will be joining SFS and students across the UK to discuss his own career journey and to demystify TikTok and the work that takes place within the organisation!
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2pm  Add to calendar	Tamara Holmgren, Engineer and Project Manager, BP	Join SFS and Tamara Holmgren, Engineer and Project Manager at BP on International Women in Engineering Day for an interview that will focus on STEM careers and Tamara's career journey to date.
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> June 10am  Add to calendar	Maurits van Tol, Chief Technology Officer, Johnson Matthey	Maurits van Tol will be interviewed by SFS before moving to student Q+A. Tune in to learn more about Maurits' career in STEM and life lessons and advice.





Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2pm  Add to calendar	Bernadine Brocker Wieder, CEO, Vastari Group Ltd	Interested in how exhibitions are put on? Join Bernadine Brocker Wieder to explore how she got to where she is today and more about her role.
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2pm Add to calendar	In collaboration with Penguin Talks: Big Narstie & Ciaran Thapar	How to believe in yourself  British MC, rapper, TV presenter and author of How to be Narstie, Big Narstie, joins youth worker and freelance writer, Ciaran Thapar, to discuss the importance of living your own life and believing in yourself.
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> June 10am Add to calendar	James Worrall, Founder, Leaders in Sport	Join us as James Worrall shares life lessons and top tips from leaders in sport.

#### **HOW TO JOIN THE VTALKS**

- Join 10 minutes before the VTALK to be ready
- You can join without needing an account Watch how here
   For full speaker descriptions visit the VTALK Schedule here