

Yours for the making

By Barry Wright

In these current uncertain times people are having to behave in ways that do not necessarily come natural to them. Who knows where this could lead them mentally and emotionally?

Instructables is an online community for people who like to make things.

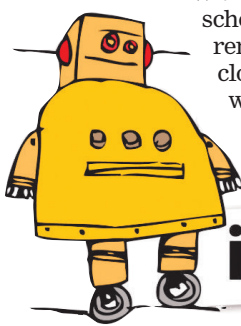
They say: "Making things makes people happy. We can't prove it, but we know it to be true. Find your happy place, and join one of the friendliest online communities anywhere."

Surely, a resource that offers the chance of happiness and the opportunity make something at the same time is well worth a look?

"We make it easy to learn how to make anything, one step at a time. From the stovetop to the workshop, you are sure to be inspired by the awesome projects that are shared everyday" they add.

The website has projects covering subjects including electronic circuits, crafts, cooking, baking, living, outdoors and includes tutorials on the likes of how to build a giant hidden shelf edge clock; a foldable, wall-hanging greenhouse;

how to resurface cast iron pans; make a zero gravity grow box; a cardboard play dome and thousands of other ideas, even how to make your own face masks!



With all schools currently closed the website also

offers a vast array of creative opportunities for youngsters. These range from basic crafts to educational tools.

So, now, more than ever, is a time to get in touch with your creative side and make something worthwhile, or just for the fun of it.

All of the required information is available at www.instructables.com

instructables



School gives lessons in community support

By Jack Troughton

CLASSROOMS may be closed but the Lady Elizabeth School is teaching others how to support students, parents and the wider community in the coronavirus crisis.

One of a group of 10 academies forming Colegios Laude in Spain and part of the International Schools Partnership; the Benitachell school is taking part in a series of initiatives to help pupils' families and the local community.

The 'Covid-19 Fee Support Scheme' is financial relief for the families of students during the emergency: it involves the reduction of fees of up to 50% until facilities are allowed to reopen; deferral of re-enrolment fees; and a freeze of fees throughout the first term of the next academic year.

This is in addition to steps swiftly taken when schools were ordered to close across the country. Parents were then informed school bus and lunch fees for the remainder of March would be refunded.

Chris Akin, head of the Lady Elizabeth School, said: "For the past three weeks our priority has been our students and we have focussed on ensuring the continuity of their education through our Distance Learning programmes; which have received overwhelmingly

positive praise from our families.

"Now Distance Learning is solidly in place, we are kick-starting our Covid-19 Fee Support Scheme to alleviate the immediate financial pressure on our students' families and to align our fees with the distance

learning service their children are now receiving."

The move is possible because of being part of a successful group of schools around the globe - and the school has already been thanked for the helping hand; one email said: "The offered

solution is such a release for many families."

And there are positive moves to help the wider community; Lady Elizabeth School has donated all its stocks of protective face masks and gloves to Marina Salud's Denia Hospital - other Laude schools have donated food trays to nursing homes.

Schools possessing 3D printers in their 'Fab Lab' have joined a nationwide drive to make face protection masks for health workers and the machines are in production 24 hours a day.

The group as a whole has offered local hospitals the use of all student accommodation to health staff temporarily moved near schools - Lady Elizabeth School has offered its Pedreguer student residence to Denia Hospital.

Finally, and back to learning, the group is making its distance learning knowledge and experience to other schools. Mr Akin added: "We feel proud to pass this know-how onto other schools that need it."

