

Trevor Dawn

Lock down school report

Subject	Marks	Comments	Effort
Organised home deliveries	10%	seriously underprepared	E
Technical devices	30%	PC and I-pod only Insufficient capacity	C
Technical skills	30%	Previous neglect now finding him out	A
New skills	50%	Impaired by previous neglect	B-
Health	50%	Too much wine and chocolate Not enough exercise	D
Routines	20%	See above	D
Keeping in touch	75%	aren't texts great?	A
Keeping myself entertained	90%	Youtube & I-player I love you	B+

“Over very many years, Trevor has not taken his responsibilities as an old man very seriously. He should have bought a tablet, organised on-line shopping, stocked up with paint and garden stuff, bought presents and put himself on all the lists of vulnerable people. Instead he preferred to be independent and enjoy himself, play bridge, see his family, go to the cinema and so on. He has been slack and ill-disciplined and perhaps needed this momentous change to his life to shame him into more purposeful and productive work. We have prepared an action plan which should help him achieve his full potential.”

Oh, yes. Come the release from self isolation, no chance.

There are a great many 'what ifs' and 'why didn't I' as we adjust to our lock-down life. Whatever I got right prior to lock-down was by sheer good fortune. Mobile banking for example lay on my phone for years untroubled by human hand until I was forced to use it – or starve; we had Milk & More deliveries because we liked the ten year old kid who knocked on our door 15 years ago and said “my dad's starting up a milk round” (Dairy Crest); we changed the boiler in October and have had trouble free heating. We have had other deliveries due to the resourcefulness of friends who told us what they were doing (Bonners, Oxford Wine Company). I told you I was unprepared.

Only saints and hypocrites enjoy the unreal situation we are in. Of course I curse and rail, mourn and moan, rally and relapse. But there have been many plusses: great moments on Facetime and Zoom; the food cupboard is now stocked only with in-date tins and packets (we still eat the ones that were out-of-date, our record being 2006 sun-dried tomatoes ate 3 weeks ago – can anyone beat that?), our meals revolve around what we have in the house until the next food parcel arrives, just like the 1940s; we may even be winning the battle

against the clothes moths now that we have stripped the under stairs cupboard of its 1950s wall paper; the garden is now semi-wild out of choice and principles and not idleness.

I can't wait to get back to SBC and OBC and play some bridge. I would like to think I will improve in the subjects where I am weakest but don't hold your breath.

Stay sane!

Trevor