



IDPE online regional meet-ups

We are continuing to run a series of online regional meet-ups as a way of sharing ideas and connecting with the wider IDPE community.

Teams and individuals are in different circumstances, but there are also many similarities and ideas that all schools can benefit from.

Engagement

- Great opportunity to engage with alumni, but there is a need to prioritise – many are contacting older, more vulnerable alumni in the first instance, others are focusing on medical workers and key influencers who attend events
- Encourage sixth formers to write to vulnerable alumni – they choose who they write to, and in many cases receive replies and it is much easier to have conversations with alumni off the back of this. Some prep schools are running pen pal schemes, so pupils have the opportunity to practise their handwriting
- Create lists and develop networks of support globally – one school's alumni living abroad are supporting others 'stuck' overseas, helping with travel advice and offering places to stay
- Communicate your school's response to the crisis
- Create your own lockdown newsletter
- Continue to thank current donors, show how funds have been invested and the impact and difference they have made to the school
- Maximise on the potential of social media:
 - 30 second clip to thank alumni for their support
 - YouTube videos of services i.e. scripture, services filmed in empty chapel with footage of past services, choir singing
- Run virtual events
 - Business breakfast with alumni, parents and wider community
 - Facebook live – annual reunion
 - Alumni book launch
 - Weekly quizzes
- Keep Y11 and Y13 engaged through creating a leavers' yearbook, online tutoring for Y11 and Y13s

Fundraising

- Ask alumni community for donations towards equipment to make PPE
- Some fundraising for bursaries and hardship funds is continuing – buildings/capital projects are primarily on hold other than relationship-building/prospect management
- Some sixth form parents are offering up their deposits to the school, even if the school has decided not to ask parents to do this, this year
- Ask parents to donate the difference – many schools are offering discounts on fees, and asking parents to donate the difference. If parents are not invoiced for the full fee amount, and then choose to donate the difference separately to the school, the donation will be eligible for gift aid
- Letter sent to top 10 major donors – transparent about school’s financial position, what they are doing – asked for support – 9/10 donors have made a gift

Those jobs you never have time for:

- Time to get the jobs done there is never any time for!
 - Tidying up data
 - Work on the website

Other ideas for now:

- Many members have found the IDPE webinar [‘How resilient is your fundraising strategy to coronavirus?’](#), delivered by Juliet Corbett, Strategy Consultant, [Juliet Corbett Consulting](#) a great help as to where to start
- Some members are trialling virtual events, finding their way with small groups online, or enjoying staff quiz nights – if you have already started to offer virtual events, please get in touch as members would be keen to learn more about what works
- Keep celebrating the impact of development at your school – we know development is so much more than fundraising, you just need to look at all the engagement that is going on across the sector to see this

Keep in touch with IDPE (it’s business as usual), check into the [members’ forum](#) and keep an eye on our [website](#) for coronavirus related news, support and ideas from the IDPE community.



Have your staff been furloughed?

Don't forget, if you or your colleagues have been furloughed then you can still keep in touch with the IDPE community, just get in touch with info@idpe.org.uk, tell us your personal email address and give us consent to keep you informed.