

# Special Interest Projects

Every child has a special interest in something and it is important to harness this passion, particularly if they are out of school for an extended period. Talk to them and encourage them to find something they are passionate about and then set them up to complete an ongoing project – it's really important that they get stuck into something that they love and spend 1 hour each day working on it.

If students are happy to share their interests more widely why not have a 'Chatterbox' session with members of their tutor group giving them the opportunity to talk about their interest and keep in touch. For those listening, it is important to set some rules (see National Online Guidance document on Teams/Zoom meetings), but also engage with the topic by asking questions about the project.

It would be lovely if your child could share their SIPs with their tutor or Head of Year by sending any material to them by email.

Here's a few ideas to get you going:

- Keep a daily diary/ quarantine journal (in a particular writing style? In another language?)
- Or keep a photo journal!
- Learn sign language, or a new language with online courses (<https://www.british-sign.co.uk/>)
- Do a virtual museum tour and write a review – eg The Globe Theatre or The National Gallery
- Start a factual project, researching and presenting information on absolutely anything or perhaps try to combine two disciplines – maybe the History of Sport for example the 'History of Parkour!'
- Become Richard Attenborough in your garden – video yourself talking (in Attenborough style) about wildlife in your back garden.
- Start a family debate club with each family member taking it in turns to lead a debate. Possible topics: 'Should students get paid for attending school?' 'All zoos should be closed', 'Nuclear power should be banned', 'Professional athletes should have a salary cap'. Make sure you do your research and do not let it lead to too much ill feeling. Make sure someone plays devil advocate.
- Start a blog or create a podcast – perhaps become a news journalist – interview the family!
- Create a character then write a series of short stories featuring that character
- Write a computer programme – building on some of the Computing lessons!