**Keeping your Mind Active – Online Culture for Self-isolation**

**Newspapers**

**Financial Times**

Most newspapers have a “pay wall”, so you must pay a subscription to read their articles. However, the Financial Times (FT) has free access to 16-19 year olds whose school is registered. Portadown College is registered and this link will tell you more about accessing FT:

<https://www.ft.com/content/7ab6a9ec-1e4e-11e8-aaca-4574d7dabfb6>

Despite the name, the FT has a great range of interesting articles on a wide range of subjects and many are appropriate for 16-19 year-olds taking A levels and preparing for university. Have a look at this link for an example of what’s available:

<https://www.ft.com/stream/dc4eb395-7eaa-4cea-a0c8-4ad46ec26347>

FO also has a fantastic art and fashion section.

**The Guardian**

Still free access but you are encouraged (not forced) to make a contribution to keep it free. Full of high quality, fact-based and well written articles on a range of subjects.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

**Reading Groups**

**The Blank Page**

[**https://theblankpage.kellymccaughrain.com/about-us/**](https://theblankpage.kellymccaughrain.com/about-us/)

This is a blog run by Kelly McCaughrain, the Children's Writing Fellow for NI. It is primarily a support and resource for Librarians and Teachers running Creative Writing Groups in post-primary schools, but has lots of useful and entertaining links for young people on how to write creatively. You must register to receive the blogs.

**The Arts**

From standup to the Sistine chapel: the best online culture for self-isolation

The coronavirus crisis has closed galleries and concert halls – but inspired an explosion of creativity to enjoy at home. Here’s some of the best from The Guardian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/mar/17/hottest-front-room-seats-the-best-theatre-and-dance-to-watch-online>

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/mar/22/standup-sistine-chapel-best-online-culture-self-isolation-coronavirus-live-streaming>

**National Theatre Online**

This is world-class professional theatre free to colleges but is usually only available in school.  However, during closure it can be accessed from home.  There is a good range of plays from NT including stage versions of Peter Pan and Treasure Island which might pass a few hours in the weeks ahead.

Details here: <https://alexanderstreet.com/products/national-theatre-collection>

Access details are available from Miss Curry but all English and Drama students will be given details.

**Online Library Services**

**Libraries NI Virtual Services**

If you live, work or study in Northern Ireland you can join the library for free – just complete this form.

When you complete the form you will automatically become a **virtual library member**. This means you can borrow eBooks, eMagazines and Audiobooks, browse the online catalogue, register for updates and make use of the virtual service. Examples of free access to magazines include: New Scientist; The Week; Time; Newsweek; BBC History: and a range of leisure titles on fashion, motoring, food, computing and sport.

Here is the link to subscribe  
<https://www.librariesni.org.uk/_layouts/LNI_CustomPages/CreateLMSUsers.aspx> - if you’re under 16, you will need a parent as a guarantor.