## The Wellness Movement The Power of Gratitude and Kindness



Grab yourself a pen and notepad

## Mindfulness



#### Mindful Moment



- 1. Sit comfortably, with your back straight but relaxed.
- 2. Close your eyes or lower your gaze.
- 3. Focus your awareness on your breath, staying attentive to the sensations of the inhalation and exhalation, and start again on the next breath.
- 4. Do not judge your breathing or try to change it in any way.

See anything else that comes to mind as a distraction-thoughts, sounds, whatever. Let them go and return your attention to your breath.







#### Bio

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Founder, The Wellness Movement and Be More You

Wellbeing Consultant, Mayor of London

Passions: Running, Community and Mental Health











## Agenda

- 1. Wellbeing Index
- 2. Exploring Gratitude and Kindness (the science, benefits and some practical exercises and tips on how to)
- 3. Q&A





How are you?

Wellbeing Index It's okay to not be okay!



I'm okay!

I'm good!

## Wellbeing Index – how are you today?

- 1. Choose a number between 1-10 to express how you are feeling (1 feeling very low and 10 feeling fantastic!).
- 2. Provide some context behind your score:

Today, I am feeling like a 7. I got up this morning and mediated for 15 minutes before having breakfast, whilst catching up on some of the Winter Olympics highlights.

I then went for a short walk in nature before starting work, which brightened my mood as the sky is blue and the sun is out today.





It's okay to not be okay!



## Wellbeing Index – how are we?



Wellbeing Index Exercise

- 1. Select number that expresses how you feel right now!
- 2. Provide some context
- 3. Remember it's okay to not be okay!

## Having Wellbeing Conversations at Work

- 1. You can this exercise before the start of a meeting with colleagues.
- 2. Or perhaps at the beginning of the weekly team catch up.
- 3. This can also be taken and used with your friends, family and local community.

It's a fun and unintrusive way to gauge the temperature of the people you're interacting with and allows you to proceed in an empathetic manner.





## Gratitude



# "Gratitude is a powerful catalyst for happiness. It's the spark that lights a fire of joy in your soul."

Amy Collette, Author and Coach



## Gratitude







## Gratitude















## The Science behind Gratitude



## Dr Martin Seligman



Research has confirmed the emotional and physical benefits of gratitude.

One of the most powerful studies comes from Dr Martin Seligman's Reflective Happiness website.





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- 5. 78 per cent said it gave them more energy





## Taking better care of ourselves











Being grateful means you will Take better care of yourself.









## **Gratitude Experiment**



## Gratitude adds years to your life



Practicing gratitude can add up to 6.9 years to your life, which is a greater effect statistically than stopping smoking and exercising.





## Why does gratitude = positivity?



How we choose to think affects how we feel, and gratitude can make us feel great!





## **Gratitude Practices**



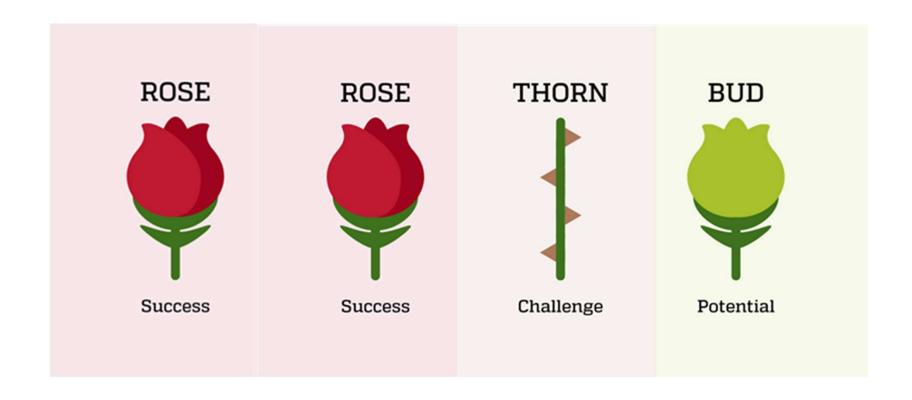
## Gratitude jar







#### Weekly gratitude practice







#### Rose, Rose, Thorn, Bud:

Rose, Rose, Thorn, Bud: is a simple weekly gratitude check-in with yourself, friends' family or your team, allowing you to build a sense of goodwill, authentic happiness and wellbeing!

Rose: I am into week 7 of my Boston Marathon training and all is going well so far. 🐯

Rose: I saw a friend for dinner on Wednesday evening who I hadn't seen in a while.

Thorn: My mental wellbeing was a little bit off earlier in the week.

Bud: I'm looking forward to visiting Berlin in April! 😭







We are now going to go through five journaling prompts to give you a taste of a journaling practice:

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- 5. What challenge are you grateful for overcoming? What did it teach you?





## Kindness



# Make an appointment with yourself each day!



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- 1. Prioritise some "me" time, so you can relax and reflect on how you're feeling and how your day or week has been so far.
- 2. Turn off from your social media channels for a day, or even a week
- 3. Treat yourself to something small, such as buying or planting some flowers
- 4. Do something you enjoy, like listening to a favourite song or dancing in your kitchen
- 5. Spend some time in nature, which is good for our mental health





# Acts of Kindness



#### Three reasons to be kind

1. Kindness creates a sense of belonging and reduces isolation.



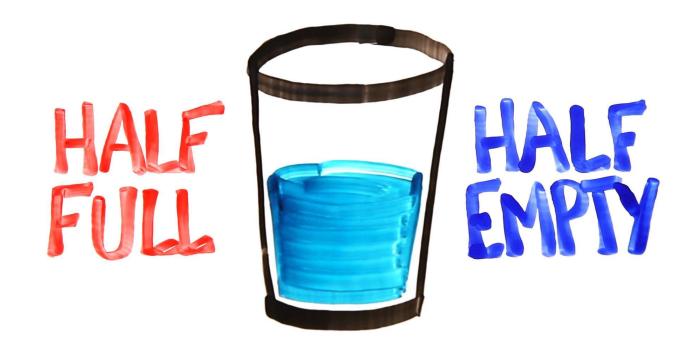
Source: Mental Health Foundation





#### Three reasons to be kind

2. It helps keeps things in perspective (happiness, optimism and satisfaction)



Source: Mental Health Foundation





#### Three reasons to be kind

3. It can help make the world a happier place – one act of kindness can lead to more!



Source: Mental Health Foundation





# Kindness Study



# Kindness at Home/Community



# Acts of Kindness at home/community

A small act of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life:

- 1. Make some time to practice self-care today 🏝 🗸
- 2. Write a postcard or secret note to a friend or loved one and tell them what they mean to you 🔊
- 3. Send a hand-written thank you card to someone who has done you a good turn recently
- 4. Smile at a stranger 😉
- 5. Check-in on a vulnerable neighbour





# Acts of Kindness at home/community

Ring someone who is on their own, or video call them 📞



- Pay for coffee for the person behind you in the queue
- Give your place in a queue to the person behind you



- Try listening more than speaking today (§)
- 10. Hug your pet 嗡





#### Write a postcard!



There is no requirement to be on holiday to send a postcard!

Postcards are like little rays of sunshine arriving through the letterbox. It only takes a few minutes to write and send one, but has a much longer-lasting impact on the recipient, who will enjoy it far more than reading a post online.

- Buy a pack of postcards
- Sit down and think of someone who you haven't been in touch with recently.
- Write them a simple message to let them know how you are and that you've been thinking of them.

#### Attach a stamp and post!





# Kindness at Work



#### Acts of Kindness at work

- Remember to greet colleagues and ask how they are whether that's face-to-face, or virtually if you're working from home
- 2. Offer to support colleagues who may not be familiar with videoconferencing or new software that you have already used 🔊
- 3. Set up a virtual coffee/lunch club with your regular colleagues and new ones
- Have a conversation with a colleague you don't usually talk to
- 5. Start a book swap club in your department or team





#### Acts of Kindness at work

- 6. Get to know a new member of staff it's hard to join a new workplace during the pandemic
- Lend your ear listen to your colleague who is having a bad day
- Say thank you to a colleague who has helped you
- 9. Praise a colleague for something they have done well





## Kindness on Social Media



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- 5. Think about your comments and replies. Try not to say nasty things, or pile on where somebody questions another person's actions





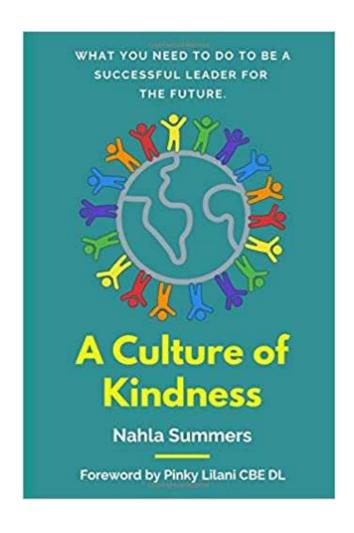
# Random Acts of Kindness Day Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February

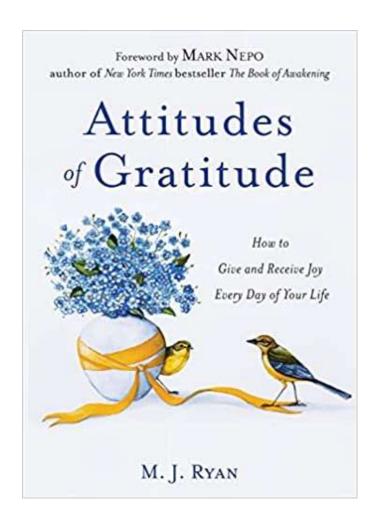


What one thing will you try to commit to in the next 7 days?



#### **Book Recommendations**











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#### The Wellness Movement

Join us to enhance your Lifestyle at Home, Work and on the Go through Fitness, Nutrition, Emotional Wellbeing and more! 🤦 🧛

























www.thewellnessmovement.co.uk

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Q&A

## Sha Hussain sha@thewellnessmovement.co.uk

LinkedIn: Sha Hussain

Thank you



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#### Be More You

Health & wellness website

Supporting runners and communities with positive mental health and guidance.

























Q&A

www.bemoreyoucommunity.co.uk Instagram: bemore.you Weekly Zoom check-ins for runners

