6 July 2020

Dear Year 7 students, parents and carers,

I hope this message finds you all safe and well. We have now entered our thirteenth week of remote learning and our fifteenth week of lockdown.

**With only a couple of weeks left in this academic year, our thoughts are turning to September and what school will be like in the Autumn.** While we all hope that we will be able to return to business as usual and we can go back to full classes on a normal timetable, at this stage that does seem unlikely. It is **more probable that there will be some significant changes to how you will be learning in September.**We are making plans to ensure that in the event of further lockdowns, or more educational restrictions, that we are ready to deliver more interactive lessons to you at home. **Over the past. couple of weeks we have been trialling the use of different platforms to enable staff to teach you live.**We are still testing these programs, but we are confident that we will be able to provide you with dynamic, exciting lessons even if we are in social isolation again.

As you may have seen at the weekend, the rules around social distancing are being relaxed meaning more shops have opened up. But this also means there will be increased face to face exposure, and therefore the likelihood of being exposed to the Covid-19 virus has increased. It is therefore especially important to stay vigilant at this time to ensure you aren't exposed to the virus.

One thought about lockdown did occur to me this week. **By the time you return to school in September you will have been out of lessons for around six months. That works out at almost 5% of your lives so far!** As this is such a significant chunk of your lives do try make sure that you don't waste your time when you are in lockdown. Don't you want to be able to look back on this time and say that you managed to achieve something significant? (*rather than telling everyone about how many new series you watched on Netflix or new TikTok dances you learned).*It could be as simple as learning to cook a new dish, or play a new song, or read a new book. Do try to use your time to better yourselves, as I have said before, you will never get such a significant period of time like this again when you are not at school or working.

**As I mentioned in my last message, you can expect a phone call from your form tutor over the next couple of weeks. These calls are nothing to worry about, they are just a way for your form tutor to stay in touch before the academic year comes to an end.**If you've already spoken with your tutor, then I hoped you enjoyed making contact with them again and having a real conversation.

**From Monday 13th July it will also be possible to collect your iPad from school provided your family have complete the paperwork and paid the deposit.**This means you will be able to complete your work on your iPad at home and take advantage of all the software already installed. If you have any questions about collecting the iPad then do please get in touch via info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk

**Since many of you will not be going on holidays this summer, you’ll need to be well occupied!** We’re delighted to tell you that [EAST Summer School](https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-story/get-involved/education-and-young-people/east-education-summer-school) is still going ahead this year in an online format. EAST Summer School is a completely free programme for 12 – 17 year olds who live in the local area and want to have fun and learn a new creative skill in the summer holidays. Courses will be run by some East Bank partners including the BBC and UCL, as well as established local organisations such as The Yard Theatre, Studio Wayne McGregor and Staffordshire University London. Since being ‘live’ for less than two weeks, EAST Summer School has already had over a hundred potential applicants register their interest – which is great to see! You can register [here](https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-story/get-involved/education-and-young-people/east-education-summer-school). Full programme and timings will be available soon.

**The Speakers for Schools programme this week includes talks from:**

* **KATY SUMPTION - author & creative director (DATE**: Monday 6 July,
10 a.m.)
* **CASSIE CHADDERTON - CEO, World Book Day (DATE:**Tuesday 7th July, 10 a.m.)
* **MATT BRITTIN - President, EMEA Business & Operations, Google (DATE:**Tuesday 7th July, 2 p.m.)
* **ADAM FORBES - Head of Marketing, BP Launchpad (DATE:**Wednesday 8th July, 10 a.m.)
* **KANBAR HOSSEIN BOR - Former Deputy High Commissioner for Bangladesh (DATE:**Wed 8th July, 2 p.m.)
* **HOW TO GET INTO PUBLISHING - Simon Armstrong and Hannah Chukwu, Editorial, Penguin Random House**(**DATE:**Thursday 9th July, 2 p.m.)
* **BEN SAUNDERS - Polar Explorer (DATE:**Friday 10th July, 10 a.m.)
* **DR KATIE MACK - Theoretical Astrophysicist (DATE:**Friday 10th July, 2 p.m.)

[**Please do sign up to watch**](https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/) **some of these inspiring virtual talks if you get the chance.**

**I would recommend you** [**read the Day**](https://theday.co.uk/) **to catch up on all the latest news.**This week the articles include a feature on the Anti-Science movement in the USA, Slavery and Kanye West running for President.

**Please remember that if you have subject specific questions or need any help with your assignments, please use the Team chat to ask your teacher.** If you have any general school issues or you are having problems with Teams, please contact us at info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk

Just a reminder that **you should all be reading and completing your quizzes for Accelerated Reader.** While some of you have used this time away from school as a great excuse to really dive into the books you love, others have sadly neglected their reading. Do try to make time each day to read a book or magazine (or something not on a screen!). Not only is it relaxing and fun, it will also help with your wellbeing and you might even learn something along the way.

Every week we are setting you tasks to do that I'm sure are taking up a lot of your time, but don't forget to make time for yourself as well. **Your mental health is just as important as your physical health** and it must not be neglected. So please don't spend all your time working, you need to take regular breaks, exercise and have fun too.

Once again, I remain hopeful that we will see you again before we are due to break up for the summer holidays, but school will only fully open when it is safe to do so.

Until then stay safe, stay alert and keep learning!

Take care

Mr Morrow

Student Progress Leader Year 7