13 July 2020

Dear Year 7 students, parents and carers,

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

**This would normally be a very exciting week in schools all across the country, as this is the last week of the 2019/20 academic year and the final week before the summer holidays.**Under normal circumstances I would have taken the last assembly of the year to talk to you about **evaluating your year, learning from your mistakes and looking to the future.**But these are anything but normal circumstances and unfortunately we don't have an assembly this week. But that doesn't mean you can't reflect on your first year at Walthamstow School for Girls and start thinking about the future.

**It's important in life to always have things to look forward to.**Normally, as September approaches students and teachers alike dread the end of summer and the start of school. I have a feeling it will be different this year! As I have mentioned over the past few weeks**it is very unlikely that school will be same in September. But we are confident that school will be open in September,** so you have something to look forward to over the summer. That is the first time I think I have ever said that students will be looking forward to school!

**I hope these past few weeks have given you an opportunity to think about how valuable school is to you.**Not only to your learning, but to your friendships, your relationships, your mental health and to the structure of your daily lives. **When school does return, please do take advantage of every opportunity you are afforded,**and don't waste time on petty squabbles and arguments. **If there is one thing we have learned from this lockdown, is that life really is too short to waste.**

**I also just wanted to say how proud I am of all of you.**This has undoubtedly been the strangest year of my teaching career and probably the strangest year of my life. I'm sure that's true for most of us.**I think that the way all of you have moved to remote learning has been amazing. I think the vast majority of you have been working really hard during these last few months, and you have been doing a fantastic job of motivating yourselves and each other. It hasn't gone unnoticed by staff.** I think this year you really have embodied the meaning of the GREEN skills that you have learned about in school, especially Resilience. This situation won't last forever, it might feel like it will but trust me, nothing ever does. **One day soon you will be back in class with your friends moaning about getting too much home learning!** I just hope that day is soon, as I for one can't wait!

**By now you will probably have had a phone call from your form tutor. If you haven't then you can expect a call this week. These calls are nothing to worry about and 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 hope you enjoyed making contact with them again.

**On Monday 13th July most of you will be collecting your iPad from school as your family have completed the paperwork and paid the deposit by the deadline.**This means you will be able to use your iPad at home and take advantage of all the software already installed. If your family are able to pay the deposit and complete the paperwork before we break up, and there are enough families able to do so, we will consider arranging a further iPad issuing day at the end of the week. There will be a further opportunity for you to take home your iPad in September if your family are unable to pay the deposit and complete the paperwork at the moment – so do not worry!  If you have any questions about collecting the iPad then do please get in touch via [info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk](mailto: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 is still going ahead this year in an online format. [EAST Summer School](https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-story/get-involved/education-and-young-people/east-education-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**](https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/) **this week includes talks from:**

**REEMAH SAKAAN - Group Launch Director, Britbox (DATE:**Monday 13th July, 10 a.m.)

**ANDREW BAILEY - Governor of the Bank of England (DATE:**Monday 13th July, 2 p.m.)

**RICHARD AYLARD AND REBEKAH KENYON -   Senior Sustainability Advisors – Thames Water (DATE:**Tuesday 14th July, 10 a.m.)

**SARA CROFTS - Chief Executive, The Institute of Conservation (DATE:**Tuesday 14th July, 2 p.m.)

**ANNA TURNE – Paralympian** (**DATE:**Wednesday 15th July, 10 a.m.)

**ALEJANDRA CASTAÑO - GHG Air Quality Lead Advisor (DATE:**Wednesday 15th July, 2 p.m.)

**SHARON WALPOLE - Director, Careermap (DATE:**Thursday 16th July, 10 a.m.)

**JULIA ANGELES - Investment Manager, Baillie Gifford (DATE:**Thursday 16th July, 2 p.m.)

**Please do sign up to watch 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 *Cancel Culture*, the *Power of Music* and *Books about Donald Trump*.

**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](mailto:info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk)

Just a reminder, **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.

Until then stay safe, have a great summer, make sure you get lots of rest and have a nice long break.

Take care

Mr Morrow

Student Progress Leader Year 7