1 June 2020

Dear Year 7 students, parents and carers

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

I trust you have had a relaxing break over half term with your families. In the midst of a difficult time we have been very fortunate to have such lovely weather to enjoy *(can you imagine what this would have been like in the middle of Winter!).*

As I’m sure you are aware, many Primary Schools across the country will open their doors today for the first time in three months in what is undoubted the first tentative steps in a return to normality. If this reopening is successful, **there is a strong possibility that we will see you wearing the lovely green of our school uniforms in the not too distant future.** But until that time comes it is very important that you continue to access your learning online until the school is reopened.

**Thanks to those of you who have completed the Remote Learning Survey**. I have left it open in case more of you want to complete it but didn't get a chance. *(see link below).* We are taking on board your comments and are making some changes based on your feedback.

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|  | [Fill | Year 7 Remote Learning Survey](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=B_HLllWrskmw7Ov9Af8xPM8l6UuTa19Chhi6Rq7y0eZUOVpLMFZHM0NURUxVOUVKNUtVVjNMRUE5Ry4u)We are doing a survey to gather feedback on our program of remote learning. Please complete all the questions in the survey by Saturday 6th June. The survey will only take about 5 minutes to complete.forms.office.com |

It can be difficult to get back into a routine after a break but do try to make sure you are doing your best to keep up with your assignments this week. **If you haven't done so already you should try to make a timetable to help you to organise your time and** do try to ensure you are giving yourself some variety and some breaks. Make sure you tick off all the work you have completed and **check your past assignments on Teams for feedback from your teachers.**

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 you should be spending **no more than three hours completing schoolwork each day** and approximately **one hour on each subject.** Don't worry if you don't complete every single piece of work every week, just let your subject teacher know that you didn't have time to finish it.

**If you want something to do outside of your timetabled subjects, I would recommend checking out Vtalks**. They are a series of Virtual Talks designed for Schools and they usually have some really interesting content. Here is this week’s full [**VTALK Schedule**](https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/)**.** Please feel free to join and watch**! It’s free and really interesting.** There is usually a great variety of speakers ranging from journalists, to lawyers and scientists.

I encourage you to take part and join a very interesting **talk about how to challenge inequality**.

On Thursday 4th June at 10 am, **Award-winning British-Turkish novelist, Elif Shafak, joins writer, journalist and broadcaster, Afua Hirsch** and they will discuss the widening inequalities across the world and how we can challenge them. You can even submit a question to Elif and Afua if you want to. Just email them at the following email address: **inspiration@speakersforschools.org**

Remember to**set your alarms** for 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday so you are registering on time this week. I will pose another challenge for you to have a go at before your next tutor time on Wednesday.  **Please encourage any of your friends who forgot about it to join in this week as it is very important that everyone stays connected.**

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.

**Please try to ensure that you not only look after yourselves at this time, but you also look after each other**. 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. Don't spend all your time working, you need to take regular breaks, exercise and have fun too.

Once again, I hope you are all well and are following the latest government guidance. I remain hopeful that we will see you again before we are due to break up for the summer holidays, but school will only remain 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