22 June 2020

Dear Year 11, Parents and Carers,

I hope this email finds you all safe and well.  I have been in contact with many of you over the past few weeks and I know you are becoming even more focussed as you prepare for the next stage of your education, with many colleges now providing you with reading material in preparation for courses you’ll be starting in the autumn term.  Despite the setbacks of the last few months, there’s no doubt you are approaching a very exciting stage in your lives.

I continue to be inspired by your energy and enthusiasm to learn new things.  I previously asked you for news on what you were up to and you have not disappointed me!  I have heard from numerous students who are completing additional courses to develop their skills including a student who is not only maintaining her French (following 5 years of study at our school – three of which were with me!) but is also now learning Russian and has taken up embroidery.

Other students who have been creative with their time include:

* Naira in 11F has used her time at home to develop her creative skills and has learned how to sew, making a beautiful cushion!  What a talent – and what patience!  Well done Naira!
* Maui in 11F has started learning to play the piano and has recently taken up lessons via Zoom.   Her teacher is so impressed by her that she is now be preparing for her Grade 3 piano exam!  Maui’s interest in the piano comes from the music featured in the anime series she watches.  Maui has been so greatly inspired by Korean and Japanese culture that she has also started learning Korean, hoping to travel there again in the future.  Maui – you have impressed me immensely with your talents!

*(I have to say that until I joined Walthamstow School for Girls in 2013, I had no idea how big K-pop was and its influence on our student population!)*

* Nabia in 11S has been doing a really impressive work experience with Brighton and Sussex Medical School, a virtual medical placement which has been approved by the British Medical Council and is linked to the NHS.  Through this work, Nabia has managed to help raise over £10,000 for the doctors’ fund and has attended meetings with professionals on a number of subjects related to careers advice in the medical field.  If you are interested in this programme, it is free and details can be found [here](https://bsmsoutreach.thinkific.com/courses/VWE).  Well done Nabia!  You are one step closer to achieving your dream!
* Finally, many of our students and staff have been affected by the Black Live Matters movement and the cry for change and for voices to be heard.  I have seen and heard young people in our communities speaking out and seeking change.  Our very own Shanai in 11H has produced a personal and powerful video message on this subject matter.  It is now on our school website and you can watch it in the link [here](https://www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk/news/?pid=7&nid=1&storyid=349).   A strong message – we are really proud of you Shanai!

In addition to my message above, I also have some important information for you: 

**VERY IMPORTANT YEAR 11 INFORMATION**

* ***Year Books***: The deadline has been extended to ***12 noon on Friday 26 June.*** This is your very last chance to purchase the book via Squid only.  Given the abrupt way your year has ended, the yearbook is a long-lasting souvenir of your time at Walthamstow School for Girls.  *The cost of the book is only £13.35.*

*The books will be delivered to school for you to collect at a date to be arranged by us.*

* ***Hoodies***: The deadline has also been extended to***Friday 26 June***.  These are available from [SpeedStitch](http://www.speedstitch.co.uk/) . Hoodies are £16.20 for the standard 'Leavers 20' hoodie and it will cost an extra £3 to get it personalised.  The hoodies will have the names of all the students in the year group and are exceptional quality and value for money!

*The hoodies can be collected from SpeedStitch or can be delivered to your home address for an additional charge of £3.50.*

**OPPORTUNITIES**

* **Music Industry Work Placement**: There is a very exciting opportunity for a young person to complete a work experience placement work for an American record label.   This is particularly suitable for young people who are interested in the business of music and will involve you attending regular meetings, shadowing staff and working with various departments and learning about the different roles.  There has been a lack of diversity in the music industry, therefore this opportunity is being extended to students from the BAME community.  If you are interested, please contact me via the [info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk) school e-mail.
* **Visions of a World after Covid-19** : UCL openDemocracy is opening a [competition](http://email.schoolzone.co.uk/rsps/m/pBbg0FlvoT1kMiSBFhujxW_7J2157XJTX_n_l_5b2e4), which is aimed at **school and university students**(aged 14 and up) to share their vision of the future. There are prizes of **£200, £100 or £50** in book tokens plus the chance for personal **mentoring** from the panel of some of the world's foremost thinkers and some fantastic **work experience** with either UCL or openDemocracy.

Entrants can submit either a written **article**, short **video** or **image** that describes their vision for the world after the coronavirus crisis has passed.  [FIND OUT MORE](http://email.schoolzone.co.uk/rsps/m/pBbg0FlvoT1kMiSBFhujxShl4RKTutZ5u3279c20jMI)

**COURSES**

* **Apprenticeships**:   ParagonSkills is a national apprenticeship training provider giving young people the chance to do an apprenticeship.  They are holding a series of Virtual Open Days from 1 July until 19 August.  To register, click on the following on: [Paragon Skills](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FUxWXPMWGUGyXSpnS-hY3zW6vq0YtapAqVe4QkZPEGlURUtBRjdYSVQ1M01DWjdKUzVUVUQyNklRQS4u&utm_source=UK+Schools&utm_campaign=143e7c87bc-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_16_10_39_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_30908e702a-143e7c87bc-180396425):

**CHALLENGE INFORMATION / UNIVERSITIES**

* **Cambridge University - Virtual Year 11 Event**

On 13 July Cambridge University will be offering their first ever Year 11 virtual event. The event will offer lots of useful information about applying to university, choosing A-level subjects and degree courses as well as giving an insight into student life. If you would like to attend, [please sign up here](https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_73ZHYCz6EHPMxFz).

**INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS**

* **Speakers for Schools** continues to provide their inspirational talks.  This week’s schedule can be found here: [**VTALK Schedule**](https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/)**.**Speakers include the General Manager of TikTok, two senior STEM leaders, the Founder of ‘Leaders in Sports’ and many more inspirational people. Please consider taking the time to watch some of these if you can.

**EVENTS**

* [**Women of the World Festival**](https://thewowfoundation.com/)is a free online event taking place this weekend.  WOW is a global movement celebrating women and girls, taking a frank look at the obstacles we face and discussing solutions for change.  Details of the WOW Festivals and events can be found here:

* **The EAST Summer School** will be taking place 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 while learning a new creative skill in the summer holidays. Courses will be run by their 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, they have already had over a hundred potential applicants register their interest!

[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.

**NEWS AND INFORMATION**

*Please remember to keep up to date with the news by reading the following:*

* The school’s [Greensheet](https://www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk/greensheet) with the latest Lockdown Issues to keep up to date with things happening at school.
* [**The Day**](https://theday.co.uk/stories/pressure-mounts-to-decolonise-the-curriculum)is also available for you to read and can be found in our Year 11 Teams chat forum under the ‘The Day’ tab at the top of the page.
* Our school’s[**Diversity Calendar**](https://www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk/diversity)is also on our Year 11 Teams main page under the ‘Diversity Calendar’ tab.

Finally, students have been asking about two things:  firstly, returning your books.  Ms Kennedy is currently working on a date for this to happen and details will be sent to you soon.  Secondly, there WILL be a Year 11 Ceremony.  Again, we are not sure when, but it is being discussed by the Leadership Team and details will follow once we can be certain to guarantee it happening safely.

In the meantime, stay safe.  Enjoy the sunshine and follow government guidelines please!

With my very best wishes to you all

**Mrs Tracy Jean-Baptiste**

**Year 11 Student Progress Leader / Associate Assistant Headteacher**