1 May 2020

Dear Year 11

I hope this email finds you keeping safe and well.  I'm sure many of you are adjusting brilliantly to our 'new normal'.  I am hearing stories of students participating in dance classes, learning new skills and new languages.  Many students are also in the process of completing their college applications.  It is important that you continue to do so.  Keep it up!

I also acknowledge that this isn't easy for many of you at the moment.  Students and parents have contacted me stating how difficult it is for you all. I am even getting messages from students saying how much they miss school.  I will reiterate that these will be among the best days of your lives ...

I will continue to encourage you to use this time you have resourcefully.  I wanted to update you on Year 11 matters and to provide you with things you can/should be getting involved in and some exciting, interesting opportunities for you to take up.

**GENERAL YEAR 11 INFORMATION**

* ***Yearbook***: Form Reps are currently completing the yearbook.  Please help them by providing them with photos and information when they ask for it.  It is a big job and they are doing it so well.  Thanks also to Ms Cato for helping with this.
* ***Hoodies***: These are now available for you to buy from our uniform supplier, SpeedStitch.  The link has been sent to you/your parents but can also be found on Teams.  The hoodies are £16.20 for the standard 'Leavers 20' hoodie and it will cost an extra £3 to get it personalised.
* A reminder to check into **TEAMS**- both the group chat and your form room chat.  It is an excellent way for you to 'keep in touch' with school and your school friends.

**COURSES – UPDATE**

* ***EtonX Course:***  Eton College has been inundated with requests from schools for courses.  Eton is no longer providing the 'Critical Thinking Skills' course, so we have chosen a course entitled: 'Making an Impact'.  You can find details of the course here:   <https://etonx.com/courses/making-an-impact/>.  The course will run until the end of July but should be completed within a two-week time frame.

*Please note, you will not need to reapply, if your name has been given to me, you will still be eligible.*

*If you want to do this new course, please contact me also.  It is not too late!*

* ***Courses/online opportunities available to you***.  There is a huge range of courses/and online resources for you to access to cater for your level of interest. Please see details below:

**STEM OPPORTUNITIES**

* **Stanford and Harvard Universities** are offering you the opportunity to take part in a Virtual Summer Research programme.  This is a 6-week virtual summer programme running from 21 June-1st August.  You will participate in a science and research bootcamp, a Masterclass lecture series and a mentored research project.

You will need to apply for this, and it is a detailed process, but it is an amazing opportunity if your area of interest is in Science.

<https://www.summersteminstitute.org/>

* **Eduvate** offers a series of podcasts for students interested in STEM related subjects.  There is a podcast from the Head of Programmes at Tech Nation, Parveen Dhanda and podcasts related to digital portfolios, and a fascinating podcast on surgical robots carrying out keyhole surgery in Cambridge.  These are approximately 10-minutes long and accessible to all interested in careers in the field of technology.

<https://eduvate.biz/category/podcast/>

**CHALLENGE UNIVERSITY LINKS**

* I have attached ‘**Challenge Ideas for Lockdown’,** put together by Ms Robinson with information about digital resource hubs and applications to Oxford University, webinars on STEM, Arts, Humanities at Cambridge University and learning opportunities provided by the Royal Veterinary College.

**CAREERS**

* **InvestIN** is a company offering you the chance to take part in live and summer online internships.  Students can work alongside experienced Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers, Investment Bankers, Computer Scientists, Psychologists, United Nations staff, CEOs, Architects and Filmmakers, to gain an immersive, 360-degree experience of their dream profession.  These internships come at a cost, but bursaries are available to students.

<https://investin.org/>

**INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS**

* Speakers for Schools has previously provided us with inspirational speakers, coming into our school to talk about their careers, most recently Dr Victoria Tzortziou Brown on International Women’s Day.  Below is a link for ‘Speakers for Schools’.  You will find inspirational talks next week from people such as media Creative Director Carl Jones, Breast Cancer Surgeon Liz O’Riordan, Ambassador for Equality Dr Janvi Patel, to name but a few.  Link as follows:

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/>

**READING FOR PLEASURE**

* Some lovely essays from authors such as Malorie Blackman, Philip Pullman, Lee Child, Jung Chang, Nick Hornby and holocaust survivor Edith Eger.

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/penguin-perspectives/>

Good luck with accessing the above.  If you do get involved in something, please let me know how you get on.  In the meantime, take good care of yourselves, your family and friends.

Best wishes

**Mrs Tracy Jean-Baptiste**

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