29 June 2020

Dear Year 9 students, parents and carers,

I hope you are well and had a good weekend. Welcome to week ten of online learning, it is hard to believe that the last time I saw you in school was over three months ago! The resilience, independence and commitment to learning you have shown as a year group has been amazing, and I am so impressed with the hard work I have seen from many of you week after week.

You should now all be aware of the GCSE subjects you will be studying next year. If your parents and carers have not received this information, please email mailto:info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk and a member of the front office team will get in touch to give you these details.

Saturday 4th July sees the easing of many lockdown restrictions and I hope you will all remain safe and alert whilst enjoying the return to a slightly more normal way of life. Social distancing has now become part of daily life for us all but the re-opening of many restaurants, cinemas, theme parks and hairdressers will hopefully provide more opportunities for us to venture out, enjoy ourselves and get our hair fixed! We will have more freedom to see family and friends from Saturday and will be able to spend time indoors or outdoors with people, keeping a 1 metre plus distance at all times of course. I know many of you have been finding lockdown difficult over the past couple of weeks and so hopefully the relaxation of the restrictions will allow you to have a bit more fun!

[The Speakers for Schools programme](https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/) this week includes talks from Mark Maciver, the barber responsible for styling the hair of Stormzy and Anthony Joshua, authors Marlon James and Ekow Eshun, and an event celebrating women in engineering who work for Thames Water. Please do sign up to watch some of these inspiring virtual talks if you get the chance.

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|  | [Upcoming Vtalks - Speakers for Schools](https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/)Speakers for Schools are excited to present our weekly VTalks schedule! This schedule will be updated weekly and talks will be targeted to different age groups and is accessible via the links below. To view anonymously, click the on Vtalk link in the schedule below and select: (Watch on the web instead > Join anonymously). Watch how to join the VTALKwww.speakersforschools.org |

Remember we are here to support you if you need us. We only want you to spend three hours a day completing your work with approximately one hour on each subject. If you have any questions about your assignments, please post a message on the chat to your teacher who will get back to you when they can.

It is really important to us that you have the opportunity to stay connected with school, your tutor and your friends which is why we have Tutor Time every Wednesday and Friday at 1:30 p.m. In addition to this you will all receive a call from your form tutor over the final few weeks of term to check how you are, how you have coped with lockdown, and have a chat about what you may have planned for the summer holidays. Your tutor will contact your parent or carer and request to speak to you, so I really hope you enjoy these conversations and the chance to catch up with your form tutor.

I hope you all have a great week, please keep up the fantastic work that you have been doing!

Take care

Ms Warren

Student Progress Leader Year 9