10 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Learning at Walthamstow School for Girls and the use of the iPad**

We are looking forward to meeting you and your child and being able to welcome you all to our community.

Over the years our school has developed and implemented a powerful vision for learning which aims to explicitly teach our students how they can learn most effectively and become self-regulating, motivated and confident learners. The school has used the latest evidence based international research as well as input from students, their families and staff to shape this vision.

Our students named our vision “GREEN” based on the following key values and skills needed to be an effective learner:

**G** is for **GROWTH** and having a growth mindset.

**R** is for **RESILIENCE** and being able to persevere even when learning becomes hard.

**E** is for **EMPATHY** and understanding that learning happens when we empathise with others.

**E** is for **ENERGY** and the need to put effort and motivation into our learning.

**N** is for **NEWNESS** and the acceptance that all learning will take our skills, thinking, behaviours and attitudes to unfamiliar places.

A more detailed outline of our vision is attached, and in it you will note the value we place upon the use of one-to-one devices. An iPad will be an essential piece of school equipment when your daughter joins us in Year 7, and we are working with a company to provide the specification of iPad required so that all our girls have access to the same quality of device. Additionally, we need to ensure they all have the same learning apps including Apple Classroom, so they can be used most effectively and safely in school. The iPad for your daughter will need to be purchased from them, using one of their several payment options. We will be sending out further details shortly.

Your daughter will have one lesson a fortnight called GREEN in which she will learn some of the key skills, attitudes and habits of powerful learners. The learning in these lessons can and should be applied to all other learning and enables our students to make great progress across the curriculum.

We will contact you shortly with further details of how to purchase the iPad. In the meantime, please do not purchase one independently.

With best wishes

Ms Jane Snowsill
Deputy Headteacher KS3

**Our learning culture offers breadth and depth of knowledge, skills and understanding. The more we learn, the more anchors we have upon which to secure new learning.**

**To quote Amanda Spielman, Ofsted:**

**WHAT and HOW will they be learning?**

***“… children’s’ time in education are their wonder years. The time when they get to grips with the power and flexibility of the English language and the fundamental mathematical concepts, when they learn about the scientific principles that shape the world around them and the universe, and the events that have forged history.***

***It should also be the time that children discover the possibilities of foreign languages, develop an appreciation of music and the arts, … and design and technology.”***

**Equally important is our commitment to teaching HOW to learn by:**

* **using the GREEN skills which support independence and a capacity to learn for life.**
* **encouraging skills for self-regulation so students are not dependent, passive recipients of knowledge, but are active in their learning.**
* **embracing mistakes and barriers because they are a key part of the learning process.**
* **having access to one-to-one technology to encourage empowerment and engagement enabling students to prepare for future opportunities and challenges.**
* **cultivating inclusivity and collaboration, fostered by one-to-one technology.**
* **ensuring access to a full range of resources at all times, including the school Office 365 based learning platform.**
* **preparing students in the use of technology in a modern work environment.**
* **supporting self-led research and problem solving**
* **improving the quality of feedback, home learning and collaboration**
* **providing new and innovative ways for students to learn**
* **ensuring all students have the same access to school resources at home as they do in school.**
* **supporting self-led research and problem solving**
* **improving the quality of feedback, home learning and collaboration**
* **providing new and innovative ways for students to learn**

**A key part of our vision for learning at Walthamstow School for Girls is the use of one-to-one devices. This is based on convincing research and evidence which demonstrates the positive impact they have on: engagement; progress; the development of independent learning skills alongside effective, inclusive collaborative ones; and exam success.**

***“iPad is transforming the way we teach and learn. Powerful creative tools, interactive textbooks, and a universe of apps and content make for endless learning possibilities.”* Apple**

**All Y7 students will need to have an iPad which will be used for learning in school and at home to support home-learning. This is an essential item of school equipment.**

**These are purchased by families via an educational leasing company of which we will inform you in due course. The iPads are set up to optimise their use as learning tools, and any unsuitable apps are blocked. Parents, carers and students will sign an acceptable use policy to ensure the iPads are used appropriately.**

**There will be several payment options to enable families to manage the financial aspects over time.**

**Subsidies will be available for families entitled to free school meals and the pupil premium grant.**

**We will be sending out details shortly.**

