8 June 2020

Dear students, parents and carers,

I hope you and your family are well and safe.  Hopefully, now, with the gradual easing of the lockdown restrictions, you may have been able to start meeting members of your extended family and some of your friends. Please stay safe.

Welcome to week 7 of online learning.

We have been confined for many weeks now but the last one has been particularly difficult as with the killing of George Floyd, it has become even more emotional and upsetting. Protests have been happening all over the worldand in London at Hyde Park. The key message of these protests is that racism in all its forms must end. We all have a part to play in helping towards a more equal world.

In our school, Equal Opportunities and Diversity are key. We aim to inspire a love of learning and a genuine respect for all members of our multi-cultural, multi-faith community. We ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect. All cultures and languages are valued equally regardless of numbers.

**It is vital that during this time we stand with our black community and show our solidarity.**

Make sure that you keep up to date with what’s going on in **the news,** read the articles on **the Diversity page**and in the**Diversity magazine.**

You will also find really useful resources in**The Day**and**VotesforSchools,** both mentionedin our school **Greensheet** this week**.**

**Take a look at this video about implicit bias and systemic racism, it gives a very clear explanation of the American system:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO_bdQ&app=desktop>

**Some of this week’s assignments might be a bit different as we wish to show our support, to facilitate reflection and greater understanding. We also want to encourage healthy discussions at home.**

On a whole school level, when school fully returns to normal, there are many charities we can reach out to and work with. I would definitely like to involve our Diversity students to discuss how they want to support in our meetings, so they share their ideas and get their voices heard.

Please **continue to stay calm and to look after your mental wellbeing.**  Remember if you have any general school issues or you are having problems with Teams, please contact us at [info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk)

Here is next 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.**

I encourage you to take part and join a very interesting **talk with Dr Funke Abimbola a Diversity Campaigner.** On Tuesday 9th June at 2pm, Dr Funke Abimbola will be joining SFS to discuss 'Climbing mountains' - a session that reflects on Dr Abimbola's personal leadership journey, her journey to becoming a senior healthcare executive and lawyer and sharing top 5 tips for success!

**It’s easy to join the VTALKS:**

* Join 10 minutes before the VTALK to be ready
* You can join without needing an account – [**Watch how here**](https://vimeo.com/418436143)
* For full speaker descriptions visit the [**VTALK Schedule here**](https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/)

**Well done again for engaging so brilliantly with Tutor Time!** Remember to set your alarms for 1.30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays so you are registering on time this week.

Kind regards

Ms Desbenoit

SPL Year 8 / Diversity Coordinator