8 June 2020

Dear year 9 students, parents and carers,

I hope you and your family are well and had a good weekend? Firstly, I want to say congratulations on your efforts last week completing your online learning, you are all doing incredibly well at this difficult time. Lots of assignments have been completed to an incredibly high standard and we will be recognising your hard work over the next few weeks.

We have been confined for many weeks now, but the last couple have been particularly difficult following the killing of George Floyd, making things even more emotional and upsetting. Protests have been taking place in London, across the UK, and all around the world**.** 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.**

While the events that have played out on the nightly news since the death of George Floyd, and the subsequent violent response by many of the police have been scary, in some ways they have also been inspiring. Never before in my lifetime have I ever seen such a mass movement of people over a single issue: Racial Justice. All over the world people marched to show their leaders that they would not support violence, brutality or discrimination.

In our school, Equal Opportunities and Diversity are key, and we aim to inspire a genuine respect for all members of our multi-cultural, multi-faith community. We ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with the respect they are entitled to. You may find some of your assignments this week have been adapted to facilitate reflection and a greater understanding of racism in society.

As I tell you every week please remember to do something you enjoy every day. You could phone a family member or a friend you haven’t spoken to for a while, go for a walk, go for a bike ride, watch a film, watch an episode of your favourite series, listen to music, play an instrument, play a game with your family, draw, paint, bake, craft, knit, complete a workout or do some yoga. These are activities that will make your day more ‘normal’ and make you feel more positive.  

There have still been a few issues regarding assignment submissions and so I am attaching a document to help you, and your parents and carers fully understand this process. It shows screenshots of exactly how to complete assignments, upload documents and 'hand in' your work using O365 Teams. It will also hopefully make it clear for your parents and carers how to check if you have completed work for each subject.

Finally, here is the schedule for the Speakers for Schools talks over the next few days. [**VTALK Schedule**](https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/)**.**This week includes virtual talks from a diversity campaigner, a television and radio presenter, a vocal coach to the stars, an economist and a film director.

Thank you to those of you who completed the Online Learning Survey last week, we will be analysing the results and using these to improve your online experience further. I hope you all have a fantastic week and look forward to catching up with you at tutor time on Wednesday and Friday afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

Take care

Ms Warren

Student Progress Leader Year 9