7 July 2020

Dear Year 11s, Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all continuing to keep yourselves safe and well.

During the course of last week, many of you will have received phone calls from your tutors or from members of the Year 11 team.  Staff who have made phone calls have unanimously said how wonderful it is speaking to you all!  I know from my own conversations with you how great it is hearing how you have been doing and what you have been up to.  Many of you are now receiving bridging work from your colleges and are getting into the right frame of mind for college and sixth form and the next phase of your education.

During the weekend, many shops, restaurants and other venues opened to the general public.  I'm sure many of you were keen to get out and meet with your friends socially.  In doing so, I would continue to advise you to take extra precautions: maintaining social distance and being vigilant when out and about.  Do remember that you are more likely to be exposed to the Covid-19 virus when you are in social places and around other people, so please do take care.

At school, we are preparing for the end of term and trying to organise final arrangements for yourselves.  Please see the important information below plus opportunities still available to you.

* **BOOK RETURNS - Wednesday 15th July**

We now have a date for you to return your books.  Either students or parents can attend and will be given a time slot to ensure that it is safely managed (only one person can come onto site). You will have a personalised list of books you will need to bring in and will be given your cash deposit when the books are returned. E-mails will go out tomorrow with details of what time you should arrive and the safety procedures in place.

* **HOODIES AND YEAR BOOKS**

Both hoodies and yearbooks are in the process of being finalised and printed.

As you have ordered your hoodies online, you will be notified when they are ready to be collected from Speedstitch.  If you have paid for postage, they will be sent directly to your home.

The yearbooks will be sent to the school (this is now likely to be during the summer holidays) and will be available for you to collect once we know the full arrangements for Year 11s.  Due to safety measures and ensuring we adhere to strict health and safety procedures, we will not be allowed to have students coming into school to collect their yearbooks over the summer period.  Please keep reading your emails and we will alert you once we have put firm plans into place.

* **OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS**

We regularly get information, opportunities and events for Year 11 students.  Here is what we have received in the last week:

* **WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY**

This opportunity came to us and is for students interested in medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine:

“*Hi everyone, we’re a team of final year medics, junior doctors and a consultant anaesthetist from Cardiff, Bristol and London. We are working on an initiative to build a preventative healthcare platform in the UK. If you are interested in applying for medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine, or already have an offer, this may be of interest to you. We are looking for bright young minds who are passionate about preventative medicine to get involved with us. You will have the opportunity to be trained on how to effectively research using evidence-based medicine, write your own articles and get published. This would be a great addition to your personal statement and CV, and also something you can talk about in your interviews.*

*If you already have an offer, firstly congratulations! Secondly do let us know as we are looking for society ambassadors from various universities. This can be a good opportunity to build your online portfolio alongside your university course and it is also great for networking.*

*If you are interested or have any queries, please contact us via:**admin@docbot.org*”

* **CAREERS ADVICE**

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is offering free careers advice for students.  Please see the attached poster for further information and contact details.

* **VTALK SCHEDULE**

Here is the link for this week's [**V-TALK Schedule**](https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/)**.**  Speakers include Matt Brittin, responsible for business and operations at Google, Kanbar Hossein Bor, the Deputy High Commisioner for Bangladesh - this is a really interesting talk, as he speaks about his personal journey as a child refugee to becoming a British diplomat.  There are talks also from a publishing house and an explorer.

**HOW TO JOIN THE V-TALKS**

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

**V-TALK LIBRARY & MORE**

* + Watch pre-recorded V-Talks from our library [here](https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/vtalks-video-library/)
	+ Please see our [**Schools Guide here.**](https://www.speakersforschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/School-Guide.pdf)
	+ Below my signature is more information on the SFS activity sheet
	+ The colour codes can be found under my email signature below

Take care of yourselves Year 11s and continue to make time for yourselves, look after your mental wellbeing and look after each other.

With best wishes,

Mrs Jean-Baptiste

Student Progress Leader Year 11