5 June 2020

Dear Year 11

I hope you are still keeping safe and well during these times.  We have been very lucky with the weather recently and I hope this has helped ease the difficulties of being at home and not being able to socialise with others as much as you would like.  Hopefully, now, with the gradual easing of the lockdown restrictions, I hope you are able to start meeting members of your extended family and your friends also.

In addition to my usual information-sharing, I want to make this an email that celebrates your successes!  So many of you are working hard, applying for courses and making positive steps forward in your experiences.

* Firstly, I want to say a very big WELL DONE to the large number of students (close to 50) who have completed the Eton College course.
* Last half term I advertised a STEM course at **Stanford University**, and we had one student who successfully applied for a place and will be starting shortly.  Big congratulations to***Chikara in 11H*** for her success - it will be a fantastic experience for you!
* This July, we have two students who will be attending summer school courses at the **London School of Economics**.  The application process was highly competitive, and students were told at the outset that there were very limited places available.  Huge congratulations go to ***Aoife and Ying Hang in 11F*** for managing to get places as this highly sought-after course.  Well done!
* Finally, two of our Year 11 students were successful in gaining places at the prestigious **United World College**.  The application process for this took months and both girls went through a rigorous interview process.  I am so proud of ***Florence in 11F*** and ***Izzy in 11W*** for getting into this college.  They will be moving abroad in the autumn term: Florence will be studying in **Armenia**and Izzy will be relocating to **Costa Rica**.  Izzy is in the process of finalising her funding for her studies through a GoFundMe page, and if you wish to support her, click [here](https://www.gofundme.com/f/aqqgtt-my-dream-college?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link-tip&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet).

Please continue to share these successes with me.  It is important that we celebrate your achievements collectively as a school – teachers love to hear about the great things you are doing, and it is also important for you to inspire one another with your successes!

Below is some important information for you:

**IMPORTANT YEAR 11 INFORMATION**

* *Year Books*: These are now available for you to purchase via Squid only.  The book looks fantastic and is the best one yet!  *The cost of the book is £13.35.  The deadline for payment is Sunday 21 June.*
* *Hoodies* are available from <http://www.speedstitch.co.uk/>  Hoodies are £16.20 for the standard 'Leavers 20' hoodie and it will cost an extra £3 to get it personalised.  *The deadline for payment is Sunday 14 June.*

**NEWS AND INFORMATION**

*At this particular moment in time, it is really important that you keep up to date with what's going on in local, national and global news.  There has been a lot in the news about the Black Lives Matters movement.  With the death of George Floyd in America, a global movement seems to be happening and, with this, a need and urgency for equality and justice to truly happen.*

*I have previously done assemblies on the young man, Stephen Lawrence, who was very sadly murdered in a racially motivated attack in London in 1993.  He was just 18 years old.  It hit me hard at the time, and I can't tell you how devastated I am to hear that racially motivated deaths are still taking place in this day and age in countries which are considered to be developed.  When will this injustice end?*

*While watching the news last night, I saw John Boyega's impassioned speech about the current injustices taking place in the world.  Please read about it here:*[*John Boyega's speech*](https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/jun/04/john-boyega-anti-racism-speech-wins-praise-star-wars-costars-black-lives-matter)*.  Do continue to read the news and be aware of what is happening to people around the world.*

***At Walthamstow School for Girls you will have experienced one of the richest and most culturally diverse environments you are likely to be a part of.  We hope this has helped you to develop your understanding and acceptance of different cultures, beliefs and ways of thinking.  I hope you remember this, and you live your lives in a way that shows your openness towards others, and that you continue to embrace and view differences as something positive.***

*For more news and information,*

* Don’t forget to read the school’s [Greensheet](https://www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk/greensheet) to read the latest Lockdown Issues to keep up to date with things happening at school.
* **The Day** is also available for you to read and can be found in our Year 11 Teams chat forum under the ‘The Day’ tab at the top of the page.
* Our school’s**Diversity Calendar** is also on our Year 11 Teams main page under the ‘Diversity Calendar’ tab.

**COURSES - UPDATE**

* ***EtonX Course:***  The ‘Making an Impact’ course is still available for students to attend and runs until the end of July. Should you wish to still do this, please contact me directly.  Details of the course can be found at:  <https://etonx.com/courses/making-an-impact/>

***Courses/online opportunities available to you***.  There is a huge range of courses/and online resources for you to access to cater for your level of interest. Please see details below:

**STEM OPPORTUNITIES**

* Loughborough University is offering students in Year 11 the opportunity to take part in their ‘Girls into STEM Online’ event.  Dates are 6-12 July.  There will be taster sessions plus talks from successful women in various STEM careers, and guidance on researching future options.  Also, students can explore what university life is like with our virtual campus tours and related videos and have the chance to talk to our students live on the webchats!  To register, click [here](https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/FOEU0354H7CGXTRF).
* Teens in AI is running their annual Teens in AI Accelerator competition.  For three weeks in July and August, students will be teaming up to develop innovative entrepreneurial projects Using AI for Good, surrounded by mentors from some of the UK's most innovative companies (Microsoft, QuantumBlack. Element AI, Google, etc.).
All teams pitch their ideas to the judges, and the winning teams will have the opportunity to take their project further. In previous years, the winners went on a fully funded trip to Silicon Valley, spoke at the UN conferences in Brussels, Paris and Berlin, CogX, EU. Many have joined apprenticeship programmes or gone on to study computer science at Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Bath, Southampton, Westminster, University of Pennsylvania and other universities.

  There are only 40 spaces available.  Details can be found here: [www.teensinai.com/accelerator](https://teensinai.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9b3c84c43d7e6e146a7bd0c46&id=bb95390e26&e=565bfe5348)

**CHALLENGE INFORMATION**

* **‘Inspiring Minds: Social Sciences and Humanities’** is an online event taking place at Loughborough University for students in Year 11.  It will allow you to explore different subject areas (psychology, politics, geography and media to name a few), as well as offering an insight into various career paths and general information and guidance regarding university.  To register, click [here](https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/FOEU0354WXVXwamu).

**UNIVERSITIES**

* UK University and Apprenticeship Search is offering a virtual university fair on 17th June featuring over 90 exhibitors including Cambridge, Southampton, Liverpool, Warwick, Hertfordshire, Reading, Kent, Manchester Met, St Georges, Brunel and the RAF. They are also running a series of  [**Webinar Wednesdays.**](https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com/blog/post/webinar-wednesdays), covering topics such as Clearing and UCAS Personal Statements [**For more info see here.**](https://ukuniversitysearch.vfairs.com/)

**INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS**

* Speakers for Schools continues to provide their inspirational talks.  Here is the  [**VTALK Schedule**](https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/)**.**

On a final note, some students have been in contact about a ‘leavers’ ceremony’.  Rest assured, when we can have one safely, we will do so.  You deserve a good send-off!  In the meantime, your Tutors and a number of staff at school are working on a small farewell for you.  We’ll keep you posted in the next few weeks.  I am in school today and am reminded of you and miss you very much!  Look after yourselves, stay strong and resilient and be positive! And please – when you are venturing out, please keep safe and exercise caution.

With my very best wishes to you all,

Ms Jean-Baptiste

Year 11 Student Progress Leader / Associate Assistant Headteacher