13 May 2020

Dear Year 11s, Parents and Carers

I hope you are still keeping safe and well. This continues to be a very challenging time for you – a time of uncertainty and great disappointment that you will not be sitting your exams: the exams you studied so hard for and you would, under normal circumstances, be sitting now. Over the last two weeks, teachers have been working hard to ensure you get your GCSE grades. We are unable to discuss this process with you, but you are an able year group and I’m sure you will get the grades you worked hard for. Your teachers speak so positively about your commitment, your hardworking ethos and your positive attitudes and are frequently asking me how you are.

I am missing you greatly Year 11. You are a strong, brilliant and resilient group of young women and I am really proud to be your Student Progress Leader. Please continue to let me know how you’re getting on with your various courses, home projects and college applications. I find it heartening to hear from you and your families.  I know many of you miss school, particularly the way it ended, and I hope we will be able to meet again soon.

Please continue to use your time well. Here are a few things you should know about and get involved in.

**GENERAL YEAR 11 INFORMATION**

* ***Year Books***: This is nearly complete.  Contact your Form Rep if you still need to send in photos or information.
* ***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.
* Every Wednesday and Friday we will be giving you an online challenge/chat to participate in. Please check into **TEAMS**- both the group chat and your form room chat. **It is an excellent way for you to 'keep in touch' with school and your school friends**.

**COURSES - UPDATE**

* **Manga Illustration Workshops:**If you are interested in manga illustration, Japan House London is offering free workshops. Artists will deliver free workshops via zoom. These courses are not microphone or video enabled so you will watch and follow the illustrator’s instructions and, should you wish to communicate, you can do so by writing in the Q&A section.
Link as follows:
<https://www.japanhouselondon.uk/whats-on/2020/exploring-manga-online-demonstration-with-elena-vitagliano/>
* ***EtonX Course:***  The Making an Impact course is still running 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**

* **Live Post-Mortem** If you’re interested in a career in medicine and are interested in biology or the human body, there is an exciting opportunity to participate in an interactive, recreated post-mortem live on TV.  Dates for this are: Monday 25th May and Friday 29th May. You will need to enrol on the course.

Details can be found here:

[https://www.premedprojects.co.uk/anatomy-lab-live-online-event-may-20th-25th-2020](https://premedprojects.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=500e94a232b1cc19c4fcb1318&id=ee9fdc58fe&e=5809febb4c)

* **Stanford and Harvard Universities** I have shared details of this previously, but you can still attend summer STEM courses by applying here:  <https://www.summersteminstitute.org/>

**CHALLENGE INFORMATION**

* **Future Learn – Free online courses**:  You can participate in courses on a variety of subjects during lockdown. There are courses on a diverse range of subjects, and more are always being added. Courses vary in length. Most are six to ten weeks long but there are also some shorter two and three week courses.

Perhaps you may want to invite a friend to take part with you? You can do this via email and social media when you join.

For our mathematicians, Ms Robinson would recommend: Flexagons and the Maths Behind Twisted Paper

Visit: <https://www.futurelearn.com/>

 **CAREERS**

* **START** Don’t forget to log onto your Start profile for careers help and support and to update your CV.
* **INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS**
* Speakers for Schools continues to provide their inspirational talks. You may remember we had Jackie Smith, Chief Executive of the Nursing and Midwifery Council coming in to school to speak to you when you were in Year 9. She was superb and I recall you asked her a lot of interesting questions, including what her salary was…  The following speakers will be offering some invaluable career advice to you:
	+ *This morning, at 10am*, the **Vice President of Facebook, Lady Nicola Mendelsohn** talking about her work at Facebook and will give you her **top tips for a career in the media**.
	+ *This afternoon, at 2pm*,**Sereena Abbassi** is the **Worldwide Head of Culture & Inclusion** at the **prestigious advertising agency, M&C Saatchi**.  She will be talking about **overcoming barrier to build a career you love**.
	+ *On Thursday, at 10am,***Ed Couchman, General Manager of Snapchat** will be talking his career and **giving advice for a career in social media/technology**
* Link as follows:  <https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/>
* **ONLINE VIDEOS TO WATCH AND ENJOY**
**Covid-19 Around the World:** There is a series of interesting videos on how different countries around the world are responding to COVID-19 which gives a lot of perspective.  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cs_37sHyzuE&list=PLgvm8_W6YmpuIP0I7jgah2axLIw0-TWf8>
* **Ted Talks:**There are lots of interesting subject matters found at TED Talks at: <https://www.ted.com/>
* **Popular Ted Talks for under-20s** can be found here: <https://www.ted.com/playlists/129/ted_under_20>

**READING FOR PLEASURE**

* Please don’t forget the importance of reading! There are some lovely essays at Penguin: <https://www.penguin.co.uk/penguin-perspectives/>

Please do use the time you have to access the above.

Year 11 do please look after yourselves, your parent/carers, siblings and family members and stay safe.

On a final note, I would like to pay my respects to students from our Muslim community and their families.  During this time of fasting and reflection it must be very difficult for you not to experience Ramadan as you usually would: connecting with your communities, praying collectively at the mosque or breaking iftars communally must be very challenging.  We are all having to cope and adapt with these new circumstances and my thoughts are with you all at this time.

With my very best wishes to you all,

Mrs Jean-Baptiste

Student Progress Leader Year 11