**26 July 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers

**iPads for incoming Year 7 students**

Following feedback from parents and carers at the induction evening last Monday, we have decided to adapt our iPad strategy for the autumn term for our incoming Year 7 students.  A number of you have expressed concerns about purchasing the devices, particularly in the light of financial hardship, resulting from the pandemic.  We wanted to act on this promptly because we do not want any parents to feel compelled to buy an iPad device or feel that their daughter might be disadvantaged if they do not.

We had hoped, as in previous years, that we would be able to loan iPads to students who had not already purchased them, but because it has become apparent that a number of families will not be buying into the iPad scheme, this is no longer viable.  As a result, we have been in conversation with Accademia, through whom parents were purchasing the iPad, to explore the implications of stopping all contracts and asking for refunds on existing purchases.  We have explored all other options and none of them seem feasible, either for parents or for the school.

**Accademia have told us that they will be able to provide a full refund for any parents who have purchased a device, either directly through the company or indirectly through their finance company.** We will be writing to you again as soon as we have further details from Accademia and will inform you of the next steps, should you wish to pursue a full refund.

If you have any concerns, please contact us on <mailto:info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk> and we will reply as soon as we are able, though please bear in mind that staff may be on holiday.  As always, we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers, and for the good of everyone in our school community.

Yours faithfully

Helen Marriott

Headteacher