4 March 2021

Dear Year 9 Students, Parents and Carers

I hope you are all safe and well. I would firstly like to thank you for your support during this period of remote learning, it has been a very challenging time for everyone, and we really appreciate your efforts to ensure your children continued their education at home.

Earlier this week we sent you an email with details of your child’s lateral flow testing time slot which will take place on **Wednesday 10th March**.  All the information regarding the testing process is detailed within that email and here is the link to our lateral flow test guidance video

[Student Information Video on Covid Lateral Flow Testing](https://youtu.be/CSd9XDumADM)

Please ensure you have also completed the consent form for your child to have her test in school.  If you did not receive the consent form or time slot or have any questions, please e-mail the school at

[info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk)

Once their test has been completed on Wednesday students will return home. Year 9 students will not have live lessons on Wednesday but will be set **screen free and well-being challenges**to complete during the day (attached in a PDF format to this message).  **Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th March will be online learning days following the school timings from before Xmas** (see Year 9 school timings below).

**We are looking forward to welcoming all Year 9 students back to WSFG for lessons on Thursday 11th March at 8:45am.**Our usual expectations in terms of uniform, jewellery, hair colour, nails, false eyelashes and make up remain in place and can be found on our school website. Students will need to be in full school uniform including blazer and lanyard, with appropriate school shoes and plain black waterproof outerwear. If they have PE on Thursday, they need to come in their PE kit.

When students arrive on Thursday morning, they will enter the school site via the side gate, which leads on to the MUGA. Students will hand wash and line up in single file on the MUGA in their subject classes and will be met by their teacher.

We will be reverting back to the school timings the year 9s followed last term.

**Year 9 (entry when attending onsite lessons - 8:45 am)**

Registration 08:50 - 09:10

Period 1 09:10 - 10:10

Period 2 10:10 - 11:10

Break 11:10 - 11:25

Period 3 11:30 - 12:30

Lunch 12:30 - 1:15

Period 4 1:15 - 2:15

Period 5 2:15 - 3:15

We want to do everything we can to keep our school community safe, so in addition to the lateral flow tests we will be asking all students to follow our Covid safety procedures. Some of these have changed slightly as a result of updated Government guidance so please do read them carefully.

* **We now ask that students wear face masks when in lessons and when moving around the building**. Make sure your child has plenty of washable masks to use. Students may remove masks when taking part in PE lessons, when outside, and when seated in the dining room.
* Entry times, lunchtimes and exit times remain staggered for different year groups to prevent the mixing of bubbles. Students should go straight home after they leave the school building at the end of the day.
* Students will not be allowed inside the building during lunchtime unless the weather is very bad. They must bring appropriate outerwear and an umbrella.
* On days when students have PE, they must continue to wear PE kit to school as there will be no changing room facilities. Students must still wear their blazer and lanyard. Black leggings, hoodies and sportswear with large logos/stripes are not part of our school PE kit and should not be worn.
* Students will have specific toilets allocated to use within lesson time to avoid the mixing of bubbles.

Year 9s have demonstrated incredible resilience, determination and maturity during this lockdown and many members of staff have told me how impressed they have been with the students. I know year 9 teachers are looking forward to meeting with you virtually at **our parents/carers’ evening on Thursday 25th March.**Make sure you book appointments with subject teachers.

I am extremely proud of the students and am confident they will continue to make me proud when they return to school next week. I cannot wait to welcome the year 9s back on Thursday! Thank you once again for all your support and if you have any questions, please contact us at [info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk)

Yours faithfully

Ms Desbenoit

Year 9 Student Progress Leader and Diversity Coordinator