



NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE

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Dear students, parents and carers,

I really hope you are all well and your family are healthy and safe at this very difficult time. It has been over a week since you were last in school and I wanted to touch base and reassure you that all staff at WSFG are thinking of you and are here to support you.

In these uncertain times, it is crucial for our school to stick together and to support one another. We have a safeguarding team on hand, so if you have any concerns please get in touch with me or your form tutor and we will contact you to ensure you are safe.

You know I am incredibly proud to be your SPL and it is very hard not to see you all each day and watch you develop further into confident, mature and enthusiastic members of our school community. Remember to look after each other. Minimising stress in times like these is vital for our mental health. Speak to each other on the phone, chat over social media, cheer up friends and family when they are having a down day and together I know we will all get through this situation.

I understand it must be very difficult to get used to this new way of working and I expect many of you are now starting to miss school, but we have to be flexible and adapt to the 'new normal'. You are all extremely resilient and I know you will be keen to continue with your learning and complete the work that has been set by your teachers. It is very important you have a routine to your day and do regular work but try not to get overly stressed and make sure you support each other.

I hope you are getting on well with the work-from-home packs (English, Maths, DT and Humanities) and these are keeping you busy. Make sure you enjoy other activities as well - daily exercise (I can highly recommend Joe Wicks PE lesson on YouTube & I have been doing these workouts every day), reading, keeping a diary, baking and doing whatever makes you happy. Be kind to your family, especially those of you who have siblings ... I know they can be hard work sometimes, but we are all in this together and have to look after each other.

You can access learning materials on Teams via the school website Student area, using your Office 365 account. Make sure you know how to log onto Teams through the school website (see attached document).

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/turn-in-an-assignment-in-microsoft-teams-e25f383a-b747-4a0b-b6d5-a2845a52092b>

We expect you to take a break from work during the Easter holidays, then **we will begin the new term working from home using our remote learning technology**. You should complete the work being set and let your teacher know you have understood an activity by using a 👍 (thumbs up) on the chat in Teams.

Please contact the school if you have issues with technology access at home. We know that some of you will have to share computers/laptops and that many of you will have to complete work using a mobile phone. Please phone the school and leave a message if you are concerned that you will not be able to access our remote learning technology (before or after the Easter holidays as no-one will be in school during the holidays) and we will get back to you.





We will be setting work for each subject, each week in the Teams Chat. You will submit work through the assignments section of Teams. You will be expected to check the work from each teacher and complete it by the end of the week, but they will not be sitting by their computer in the lesson time so don't expect an immediate answer!

Watch a video on how to submit work on Teams in Assignments if you are not clear:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_PD6u4w7iM

[Submitting An Assignment In Microsoft Teams For Education - YouTube](#)

A Complete Beginners Guide to Zoom (2020 UPDATE) Everything You Need to Know to Get Started - Duration: 36:57.
Ben Balden - live a happier, fuller life Recommended for you.

www.youtube.com

GCSEPod

In addition to the work set on Teams, all Year 9s will be getting information about how to activate your GCSEPod account. We use this currently with Year 10 and Year 11 students. This platform covers many of the GCSE subjects that you will study and is made up of lots of short films called 'pods' that cover subject content. You will be set a small group of 'pods' to watch by your teacher and be expected to make notes on in your exercise book (or on paper).

After watching the pods, you will have a short assignment to complete to show that you have understood the pods and we can see whether you have submitted work to ensure that you do not fall behind. These resources have been designed to use on smart phones and so should be accessible to most of you. You can also download the pods, so you don't use up data. In order to prepare, please follow the registration instructions when you get them. Play around with the website to see how it is organised and watch the introduction films that show you how to navigate the site if you need help.

Please check your school e-mail regularly and check the Year 9 SPL Team for whole year group posts and fun challenges.

I am already very proud of you for the way you have dealt with this incredibly difficult situation, and I know you will do your best to complete the work that we set for you in preparation for GCSEs, and that you will continue to make us all proud.

Remember to stay at home, reflect and be thankful for everything positive in your life, be kind and support those around you. I am missing you all and look forward to seeing you again when we are back in school.

Take care

Ms Warren
Student Progress Leader Year 9