

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you and your loved ones are well and staying safe.

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continuous support during these uncertain times and be rest assured that as a school, we are working hard to try and meet the needs of all our students through compassion and care.

'Learning to Learn from Home' remotely is certainly a very new experience for many of us and for our students to experience. We are aware that many students will face difficult challenges in the current climate and would like to reassure you that we are doing our upmost in planning for their future to ensure our students are not disadvantaged with their next steps within the world of education or work.

### **Routines**

We have put together a **suggestion of a timetable** that may support your child with organising their day. The subjects listed are just suggestions, your child may want to substitute the subjects for others that are more key to them.

We are hoping that this timetable will give some routine, a sense of normality and a feeling of still being connected as a community. The rest of their day is for family, for physical activity, for mindfulness activities or acts of kindness.

### **Transition**

It is imperative we work together in supporting our Year 11 students with their transition for their next steps. The Year 11 Director of Learning has started a bespoke programme, which is being emailed each week to students, that focuses on transition work including:

- Transitioning from GCSE to Further Education
- How to study smart and bridge the gap between GCSE and Further Education
- GCSE pods 'how to learn' specific transition activities bridging the gap between GCSE and A-level subjects
- Subject specific transition at the Westgate 6th Form
- 'Keeping Healthy' playlist

On our website we have the 'Summer Transition Tasks' available for students to access and start to work towards:

<https://www.westgate.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Summer+Transition+Tasks+2020&pid=389>

### **Exams Results Day - 20 August 2020**

We will still be going ahead with an exam results day in August and more details will follow in the coming weeks. The arrangements for that day will look a little different than what we have done in the past, however we want to assure families that our information, advice and guidance in supporting your son/daughter with their Post 16 pathways will remain our top priority.

### **Unifrog**

This is an excellent website to browse and learn more about the different career pathways and opportunities available, with activities to help prepare students for their next steps. By accessing UniFrog students can:

- Complete free online courses found in the 'MOOC' section -a wide range of courses are available based on interests and age.
- Create a personality and interests' profile.
- Learn more about core competencies employers are looking for and record how they have met each competency.
- Use the CV tool available, to review and update their CV.

## **Life Skills**

To encourage your child to develop their life skills for the wider world, <https://barclayslifeskills.com/young-people/> has a wide range of useful activities and tools including:

- Virtual work experience
- Preparing for interviews
- Understanding phishing and types of fraud

In addition, worksheets are available to Year 11 students via the one: drive folder 'Money skills'.

As a school we are continuously looking into 'Learning to Learn from Home' and how we can support our families. We are currently developing a new area on our website dedicated to 'Learning to Learn from Home' which we will continuously update on a regular basis, the following resources are available for your households and children to use:

- An example of a Year 11 'Learning to Learn from Home' student timetable
- A blank editable Year 11 'Learning to Learn from Home' student timetable
- GCSE Pod Guide: 10 things to do to prepare for A Levels
- GCSE Pod Guide: 10 things to do to prepare for A Levels in English, Maths, Biology, Chemistry & History
- Passport to Success: Fly around the world remotely developing 'Study Skills'
- Online Learning Platforms\*
- #Coping young person's guide
- #Coping 5 ways to wellbeing
- Top Tips for dealing with anxiety
- 60 Day Wellbeing Challenge for families
- Top Tips for positive wellbeing
- Stay Active, Relax & Distract Wellbeing Pack

*\*Currently under construction on our website*

*Please ensure steps are taken to safeguard your child learning safely online, the following link has some advice:*

<https://www.westgate.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Learning+Safely+Online&pid=443>

We know our Year 11s are trying their very best to navigate through a new way of communication, home learning as well as thinking about their next steps. We would like to reassure you #TeamWestgate are here to support and if your child is experiencing difficulties, we would like for them to communicate this with in the first instance their tutor and then their Director of Learning if further support is required.

We are all on a learning curve with remote learning, please remember, you are all doing an extraordinary job in extraordinary times. We need to keep working together to make the best of a difficult situation.

We want to as a school ensure we provide you with support where possible, if your child needs guidance on any of the areas including their Post 16 options please do not hesitate to contact Mr Clark - ric@westgate.slough.sch.uk or Mrs Ashraf - sta@westgate.slough.sch.uk by email and they will endeavour to help where they can.

We have enjoyed sharing our Year 11's journey within The Westgate School and miss not having our end of year celebration, we are still keen to plan a celebration and will be in contact with you soon with further details.

We appreciate your continued support, we miss our students and send you our very best wishes, keep strong, stay safe.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs M Sandhu**  
**Assistant Headteacher**