

Dear Parents and Carers,

Black Lives Matter

The impact of the death of George Floyd in the United States has been felt throughout the world, within the town of Watford and Watford Girls itself. It has sparked a range of emotions and stimulated difficult and complex debates as to how we treat each other and our girls, past and present, have asked questions of themselves, of others and of us. I believe that our response as a school cannot be short term, an immediate reaction that fades as other global events come to the fore. The far-reaching impact of racism, the inequalities caused by deeply held prejudices and the fear that rises when frustrations spill over into violence, must be addressed through education and this can only be achieved if it is embedded in the fabric of the school.

I think that WGGs has a positive history of supporting our students to understand and challenge racism and prejudice. Study and commemoration of the Holocaust teaches how being a bystander can have catastrophic consequences; the History curriculum already asks the girls to consider topics that members of the Black Lives Matter Campaign are asking us to address and our wide range of societies and clubs allow the girls to express and celebrate diversity, from the Afro and Caribbean Society to Fusion. However, I do know we cannot be and are not complacent and the process of answering the questions posed by the Black Lives Matter Campaign will be part of the school's development as we seek to respond to the society in which we live - but only once we have successfully brought the girls onto the site safely.

A Busy Week

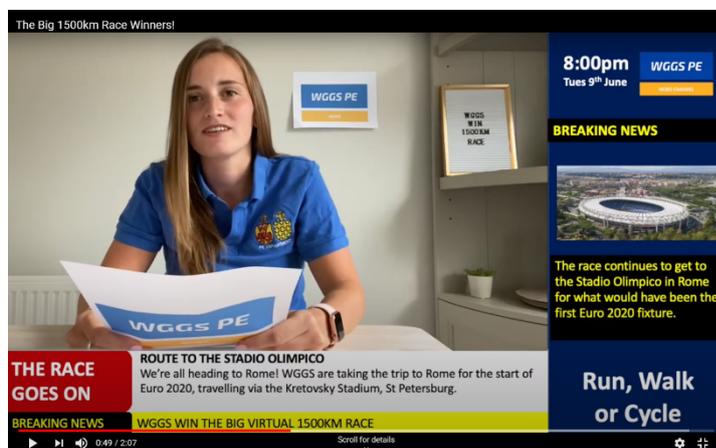
I have to admit it has been a busy week. The Senior Leadership Team has been preparing the timetables, guides and support systems that are needed to bring the Year 10 and 12 girls onto the site from Monday June 15th. Teams of support staff have been reconfiguring the school to provide for social distancing and we have reinstated some of the planned improvements to the site. Teaching staff have continued to deliver remote learning, assess your daughters' work and now they are planning for the face to face sessions, learning new skills such as using Microsoft Teams and recording onto PowerPoint in addition to planning for teaching in the next academic year. I hope that your daughters are also keeping busy and that they can empathise with all those people working under conditions that are neither planned nor desired. It is these moments, when the journey has been long and we cannot see our destination, that our motto is most needed: ***we can do it and we will do it.***

A PE Challenge

I am particularly delighted to congratulate the PE Department and the Fusion team for their extraordinary efforts to keep the school spirit alive and keep us active. If you have followed the PE Department on Instagram, YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wt46kExpEcw&t=49s>) or via your daughter's email, you may have been aware of the 1500km competition. Girls, staff and parents joined in to contribute towards the distance needed and we won! Well done to all who took part.

Undaunted by the cancellation of Fusion, Miss Mughal and her team decided to move the event online. Their 'Virtual Fusion' is dedicated to the close friends and family who have

died during the coronavirus pandemic and they are trying to raise money for the West Hertfordshire Hospital Charity, and especially £1800 towards the cost of three memorial benches. You are invited to watch their Fusion show <https://youtu.be/rDSbDwmLQ1k> and to donate, please click on this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fusion-2020-wggs>



Good luck to all the girls who will be taking part in the **Junior Maths Challenge** online from June 26th.

Second Hand uniform: if your daughter is in Year 10 and you have any uniform that is no longer used please can you donate this via the box that will be in Reception.

Best wishes

Miss Tai