

Headteacher's Newsletter - 10th May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Exam season is upon us and we are impressed everyday by the efforts of our Year 11 and 13 groups in preparing for these important public examinations. Apart from the master classes and intervention sessions which are running after school and on Saturdays, students are also making use of the early morning and lunchtime study clubs to help maximise every minute of their day for revision. Years 7-10 and Year 12 are also preparing for summer exams and this week, school teams will send home revision guidance to families about how to structure your child's independent study time and make sure that they are using the most effective revision techniques. Self-quizzing, for example, is a key strategy which helps the brain to retain knowledge and expose knowledge gaps. We will be training all students more rigorously in this technique next year by providing them with knowledge planners and self-quizzing workbooks which they will use for homework and during study time at school. From September, school leaders will cover any staff absence in a designated study centre and students will be expected to use this time to for independent study, including self-quizzing. As well as developing students' revision skills, this will also minimise the amount of day to day supply teachers students will encounter and allow us to make sure that the high standards of the school are evident in every lesson, every day.

I am delighted to also share with you some exciting projects which are coming up this term and over the summer holidays. Firstly, we are having a complete refurbishment of our Science block. This building work will begin in the Summer and continue into the early part of next academic year. When completed, it will give us state of the art Science facilities which will enable us to develop this area of our curriculum further. We have recently become a STEM Partnership hub school and will be able to use this programme, and our new facilities, to share Science expertise with other London schools.

We are also in the process of redesigning our library. The new-look library will be completed by September and will include teaching spaces and recreational reading and social zones as well as a designated ICT suite. This paves the way for the launch of the Accelerated Reader programme in September which will allow us to monitor, reward and intervene to support students' reading habits and make reading a routine part of every students' day.

In addition, we are making some significant changes to our catering facilities, including refurbishment of the existing canteen and new menus and meal options. There will be an emphasis on fresh, healthy ingredients and creating an improved dining experience which also educates students about diet and lifestyle choices. The changes will be overseen by a new chef manager and will be launched to students as 'The Haggerston Kitchen'. As part of this improvement, we will also have a new coffee and snack pod in the atrium, for staff and sixth formers. Parents will also benefit from this at school events and parents' evenings.

We are almost at the end of our recruitment of new staff for September. We have been very fortunate to have recruited a number of excellent, well-qualified teachers to join our staff team and are on course to be fully staffed in September. This is such an important strategic aspect of school improvement as stability of staffing is fundamental for achieving consistency of high quality teaching and learning.

Finally, we will soon be sharing a questionnaire with parents about behaviour systems in school. This will form an important part of our consultation on behaviour changes for September. We are determined to safeguard learning and eradicate low level disruption and have devised some improvements to current systems to enable this to happen. Your views are crucial in our planning process so please do complete the survey and ensure your voice is part of the discussion on how we can best achieve outstanding behaviour for learning across the school.

Yours sincerely,



Ciara Emmerson - Headteacher

Notices from the Senior Leadership Team:

<p>Hannah Turbet: Curriculum & Achievement We are coming to the end of the Year 9 Options process for this year. . A copy of the options booklet is available on the school website for any families who want more information about this. It has also been exciting to offer Y8 students the chance to specialise in History or Geography and D&T or Computing as they move into Y9, which will be their 'Preparation Phase' for GCSEs. This is the first step towards implementing the curriculum changes that families were consulted about earlier in the year. Further information will follow about additional literacy and numeracy which will be offered to some students.</p>	<p>Brian Lynch: Culture & Ethos We have launched Gmail for staff accounts and will launch Gmail for student accounts later this year which will allow us to enrich the learning opportunities for students beyond the classroom.</p> <p>The Jack Petchey Speak Out Final was held at Haggerston last week. As the reigning champions, the pressure was on. Although we didn't win, our Year 10 students did us proud with their intelligent and confident speeches.</p> <p>Year 10 students are preparing for their Duke of Edinburgh expedition later this term - a great challenge which will develop their independence and resilience.</p>	<p>Donna Moran: Year 11 Year 11 begin their GCSE examinations on Monday 14th May. This is an extremely important and also stressful time. It is essential that students are making the most of all of the extra revision and study sessions that are on offer to them. During this time is also important that they take time to rest, get enough sleep each night and that they eat a balanced diet.</p> <p>Later this half term I will be sending out information about the school Graduation on Tuesday 26th June and the Haggerston Prom on Thursday 28th June. I wish all of the year 11 students the very best of luck in their final GCSE examinations.</p>
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<p>Nicholas Taylor-Mullings: Behaviour/Safeguarding Unfortunately we have had a spate of mobile phone thefts in school this term. Students have been advised not to bring their mobile devices into school as there are times in the school day (e.g. during PE and Drama) when bags and blazers are left unattended. We have improved our CCTV coverage in those areas. However, please do encourage your child to leave their phone at home.</p>	<p>Rachel Ray-Choudhuri: Teaching & Learning In preparation for the start of the examination season students have had an assembly focusing on knowledge acquisition and retention. These key skills support all learning across the key stages and the changes we are making to cover. We are working to develop our students' independence by embedding revision techniques, self-quizzing and use of a knowledge planner in core subjects.</p>	<p>Andrea Pomphrey: Sixth Form As Sixth Form students begin exams on Monday, we are conscious of the stress and anxiety that students experience. Students have had assemblies and hand outs on managing stress and are encouraged to share these ideas at home. As well as continuing to work very hard, be organised and address targets, students also need to eat, rest and sleep. We believe in their ability to achieve and wish them the best of luck in their examinations.</p>	<p>Louise James: Engagement Monday 30th April was final Attendance and Punctuality Week for this academic year where students had the chance to set one final ambitious target for the term. With 45 school days remaining, it is crucial that your child is here every day and capitalising on that time to benefit their learning.</p>
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Upcoming Dates for Your Diary:

Date	Time	Event
Monday 14th May 2018	-	Main GCSE and A-Level Exams Begin
28th May - 1st June 2018	-	Half Term
Friday 15th June 2018	All Day	Sports Day
Tuesday 19th June 2018	4.00pm - 7.00pm	GCSE Art Exhibition
25th - 29th June 2018	-	Year 12 Work Experience
25th - 29th June	-	Year 7 and 8 Exam Week
Tuesday 26th June 2018	-	Year 11 Graduation
Thursday 28th June 2018	-	Year 11 Prom
2nd - 6th July 2018	-	Year 9, 10, 12 Assessment/Exam Week
Monday 2nd July 2018	-	6th Form Graduation
Thursday 5th July 2018	All day	Year 6 Transition Day
Monday 9th July 2018	-	Year 8 HPV2 Immunisations
Friday 20th July 2018	-	End of Summer Term - Early Closure 1.20pm
Thursday 16th August 2018	All Day	A-Level Results Day
Thursday 23rd August 2018	All Day	GCSE Results Day

Useful Articles for Parents:

Online Safety and Technology use:

[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/mar/15/meet-the-tech-evangelist-who-now-fears-for-our-mental-health?CMP=Share AndroidApp Gmail](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/mar/15/meet-the-tech-evangelist-who-now-fears-for-our-mental-health?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Gmail)

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/default.aspx#home>

Information on GCSE Examination Reforms:

<https://www.ascl.org.uk/download.69F56F50-EB1B-4E8B-BEE6C8F67A32C9A9.html>