

## Headteacher's Newsletter - 6th June 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

The summer term is always an intense period in schools as students embark on their public examinations. We are very proud of the way Year 11 and 13 are conducting themselves. Balancing their revision workload and personal wellbeing is a challenge but they are showing great maturity and resilience. We look forward to celebrating their achievements at their respective graduation ceremonies and know the results they receive in August will reflect their hard work and commitment.

The rest of the school are also preparing for their end of year assessments which will form the basis of their final report for the year. These begin on the 17th June and will run for two weeks. Your support in establishing a revision routine at home in the run up to these tests is invaluable and allows students to develop the habits and routines that they will need when they come to their own public examinations. There are many other exciting events to follow this term, from Sports Day to rewards trips, the Summer Sharing and Sports Awards Evening. Key dates are all listed below and I look forward to seeing students and parents celebrating the successes of this academic year.

I do need to draw your attention to an issue which I have been increasingly concerned about this year. We have noticed a drop in our attendance as the year has gone on and an increase in requests for students to travel abroad during term time. Even a small drop in attendance has a big impact on a child's learning. Statistics show that students who have 96% or above attendance have an 84% chance of achieving 5 good passes at GCSE. This percentage drops to 75% for students whose attendance is between 90% and 96%. Below 90% attendance and the chances of getting 5 good passes falls to 55%. This evidences the importance of students being in lessons, making progress day in, day out. Exam results are determined far less by natural ability than most people believe. The most powerful indicators of achievement are regular attendance to school and positive learning habits, which include homework, reading and good routines around sleep. For this reason, we do not authorise any absence in the first or last week of each term to reduce the numbers of students taking early or late holidays. As a parent myself, I understand the financial challenges this presents for families but we cannot compromise on our responsibility to ensure children's education is prioritised and that they develop good attendance and punctuality habits which will support them to be successful in the workplace when they leave school. Please do seek support from school if you are struggling with this issue for any reason.

Inevitably, the summer term is also a time when we look ahead to next academic year. I am pleased to report that we have been fortunate to recruit some excellent staff and will be fully staffed in September. We are also investing a significant amount of money to upgrade our IT facilities this summer and have some exciting developments planned to improve students' access to high quality resources to support their learning. The most significant change for students will be the change to the school day. I have included the new timings with this letter and they are also available on the school website. We are very much looking forward to the improvements this structural change will provide; the key elements are listed below:

### **1. Tutor time will move to the end of the day into extended blocks of time.**

**Why?** To allow more time for Assemblies, independent reading, pastoral support, character education and developing study skills through 'prep' time.

**How you can support?** Please ensure your child is at school and ready to learn from 8.30am. Our free breakfast provision will continue next year from 8am and this is a great way for students to prepare for the day in a relaxed environment. Lesson one will now begin at 8.45am so it is imperative that students are here on time so that they don't miss out on learning time. Please also ensure that your child has the right equipment, including a reading book. As we are investing more time in the school day to reading, this will be even more important next year and students will receive corrections if they do not have one. The library is open before and after school and during break-times so students can also make use of this resource to access books.

## **2. Students will have six 55 minute lessons on Monday to Thursday finishing at 3.30pm and five 55 minute lessons on Friday, finishing at 2.35pm.**

**Why?** To increase the number of periods available to allow more time to be devoted to Science in the upper school and more time for personal development (including Enrichment/tutor time) in the lower school. To maximise students learning by ensuring lesson times fall in the most productive hours of the day and week and to support student wellbeing.

**How can you support?** Making sure your child has a regular bedtime and morning routine. The National sleep foundation recommends 8-10 hours of sleep per night for adolescents to ensure healthy physical and mental development. You may also need to adjust your childcare routines around the new day. However, the school library will be open for students until 4pm on Fridays, so they are welcome to stay if they wish. As always, clear agreements with your child about their route to and from school and the time they are expected to be home continue to be important for student safety.

## **3. One hour of Enrichment for Year 7, 8, 9 and 12 students and one hour of intervention for all Year 10, 11 and 13 students will be built into the school week on Tuesdays from 2.35-3.30pm**

**Why?** To give students a rich curriculum offer where they can choose what they learn based on their interests and talents. To ensure all Upper School students have access to high quality intervention and to build sustainable approaches to knowledge acquisition rather than focusing solely on the period immediately before public examinations.

**How can you support?** If your child is in Years 7, 8, 9 or 12, they will soon be bringing home information about the co-curricular options which will be available and will need to select their elective options for the next academic year. Intervention groups will be determined by students individual needs and will change termly. Please support them to select the best co-curricular options for them and ensure they return the form before the deadline so they have a good chance of being allocated their choices.

To help you plan ahead for next academic year, I also attach with this letter the Uniform Guide. There are some small changes so please make sure you and your child have familiarised yourselves with the expectations before making any purchases. You may notice that we have removed the references to gender from the policy; this was in response to a request from our student Equality Society to ensure the policy is fully inclusive. Our uniform is an important aspect of our identity as a school and an outward indication of the pride students feel in being part of our school community. We are very grateful for your support in ensuring that your child is wearing the uniform correctly and smartly.

Finally, our social media presence is growing and is increasingly being used by parents for communication purposes and to keep up to date with school news. Next week, we will text all parents a link to the Friends of Haggerston School group on Facebook. This is a closed group run by parents for parents and you are all invited to join. We are also excited to see our new PTA developing over the next year. There are already some excellent fundraising ideas and community events being planned and we look forward to publicising these over the coming months.

Kind regards



Ciara Emmerson

Headteacher

## Key Dates for your Diary:

Event	Date	Time
Sports Day	Tuesday 11th June 2019	All Day
Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition	Friday 14th - Saturday 15th June 2019	All Day
Incoming Year 7 Induction Meetings by appointment	Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th June 2019	3.45pm - 6.00pm
Assessment Weeks	Monday 17th - Friday 28th June 2019	
Year 12 Work Experience	Monday 24th - Friday 28th June 2019	All Day
SEND Transition Morning	Tuesday 25th June 2019	9.00am
Head Teachers Coffee Morning	Tuesday 25th June 2019	9.00am - 10.00am
Year 11 Graduation	Tuesday 25th June 2019	4.30pm
Year 11 Prom	Thursday 27th June 2019	
Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition	Friday 28th - Saturday 29th June 2019	All Day
Art Exhibition	Tuesday 2nd July 2019	4.00pm - 7.00pm
Year 10 and 12 Drama Performance	Wednesday 3rd July 2019	4.00pm - 5.30pm
Incoming Year 7 Transition Day	Thursday 4th July 2019	All Day
Sports Award Evening	Friday 5th July 2019	5.00pm - 6.00pm
Summer Sharing	Friday 12th July 2019	6.00pm - 7.00pm
Haggerston Speech and Language Festival	Tuesday 16th July 2019	6.30pm
Open Morning for Year 5 parents	Thursday 18th July 2019	9.00am - 10.00am
Last day of Summer Term	Friday 19th July 2019	Early Closure 1.20pm

## Messages from the Senior Leadership Team:

<p><b>Behaviour and Engagement - Ms Moran</b></p> <p>It is important as we move towards the end of the academic year that the high standards of behaviour and uniform are maintained. Any necessary changes to uniform that need to occur when temperatures increase will be communicated to students through tutor time. Uniform expectations are outlined later on in this newsletter.</p>	<p><b>Teaching &amp; Learning - Ms Ray Choudhuri</b></p> <p>With six weeks left before the summer holiday it is important to remind students that learning will continue up to and including the last day of school. Teachers are planning lessons for challenge and progress as we prepare students for their end of year assessments. Some of these exams will take place in the sports hall in order to begin preparing students for public exams in year 11.</p> <p>Practice makes perfect.</p>	
<p><b>Behaviour, Inclusion &amp; Safeguarding - Dr Taylor Mullings</b></p> <p>Thank you to all the parents and carers who completed the mental health and well-being survey. We will use the feedback, along with that provided by students and staff, to plan how we continue to make available the best possible support for our students.</p> <p>On Monday 10th June, we will be launching the mental health and well-being section of our website. You will be able to find a wide range of information and resources on how you can promote good mental health and well-being and keep your child safe.</p>	<p><b>Assessment (DPR), Homework &amp; Attendance - Ms James</b></p> <p>As we approach the final assessment for the academic year, I would like to thank parents and carers for their support. In the lead up to the final assessment weeks please ensure that your child is spending sufficient time revising to ensure they are fully prepared.</p> <p>As you know homework facilitates your child reviewing, consolidating and learning new information in preparation for a topic. I would be grateful if parents and carers would continue to monitor and ensure that this is being completed and to a high standard. If you are unsure about what homework your child should be completing please refer to pages 26 and 27 in the school planner.</p>	<p><b>Options &amp; Enrichment - Ms Lewis</b></p> <p>In early July, students in Years 7 to 9 will be making their enrichment choices which will form part of the new school curriculum for September. As you will be aware, enrichment will become an entitlement rather than an option from September 2019. This is a very exciting and significant change at Haggerston enabling all students in KS3 to broaden and enhance their knowledge of the wider world.</p> <p>The current Year 9 students will be receiving their options choices towards the end of June/early July. Year 8 students have already received theirs. Please contact me if you have any queries or questions.</p>

## Changes to the School Day - Starting September 2019

### Timings of the School Day:

Current School Day:	School Day Sept 2019 Onwards
	8-8.30am Free breakfast club
8.40am Bell rings for line up	8.35am Bell rings for line up
8.45-9am Registration	8.45-9.40am Period 1
9-10am Period 1	9.40-10.35am Period 2
10-11am Period 2	10.35-10.55am Morning Break
11-11.20am Morning Break	10.55-11.50am Period 3
11.20-12.20pm Period 3	11.50-12.45pm Period 4
12.20-1.20pm Period 4	12.45-1.40pm Lunchtime
1.20-2.15pm Lunchtime	1.40-2.35pm Period 5
2.15-3.15pm Period 5	2.35-3.30pm Period 6 Monday - Thursdays only. (School will finish at 2.35pm on Fridays)
3.15-4.15pm Intervention/Clubs/Extra lessons	

## Uniform Expectations

<b>Haggerston Blazer</b>	To be worn in the building at all times unless permission given by a member of staff. School issued badges only.
<b>Haggerston Skirt/ Haggerston Trousers or Haggerston Salwar Kameez</b>	School design only. Skirt worn to the knee.
<b>Plain white school shirt with reverse collar or plain white school shirt with collar and Haggerston Tie</b>	Short or long sleeves acceptable. No T-shirts to be visible under shirts. Tie should be worn to the waistband, in line with smart, professional dress.
<b>Haggerston Jumper or Haggerston Tank Top</b>	To be worn in the building at all times unless permission given by a member of staff.
Plain, flat, polished black shoes	No canvas or suede. No trainers, boots or logos.
Grey or black socks or black tights	Ankle or knee high socks only. Tights should be opaque.
Haggerston School bag - Year 7, 8 and 9 Rucksack - Year 10 upwards	Suitable for carrying A4 books/folders
Piercings – small gold or silver studs only	One pair of earrings. Maximum 5mm diameter. No jewelled piercings to be worn. No other jewellery permitted.
No make-up or nail varnish	No false nails or eyelashes
Black or navy hairband Haggerston School headscarf (if worn)	No extreme hair-cuts or hair colour. No lines/patterns cut into hair or eyebrows.
Black or navy plain outdoor coat, hat and gloves (suitable for cold or wet weather)	No logos or patterns. No hoodies/sports tops. Beanie style hats only.
PE Uniform: Haggerston tracksuit Haggerston polo shirt Haggerston PE Socks Trainers/Astroturf shoes	Any colour. No plimsolls.

**Items in bold should be purchased from our uniform supplier: Crossbow Schoolwear, 31 Broadway Market, London E8 4PH Telephone: 020 7923 9313**