

## Headteacher's Newsletter - 17th Jan 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had restful and happy holidays. It has been lovely to welcome students back for a new school term and a new year. They have made a great start already. Thank you to those of you who supported our school production, 'Happiness is...', which was a fantastic show with over 150 students involved. We were also fortunate enough to host a visit by Wendell Pierce, the Hollywood actor, in the last week of term. Over 200 students were able to meet Wendell, perform for him and listen to a very inspirational talk by the actor, who is currently performing in the West End. If you are not already following us on Twitter or Facebook, I would really encourage you to do so as we are able to share lots of news, information and examples of excellent work from our students. It is an easy way to stay up to date with what is going on in school.

In November, I met with parents for my termly coffee morning. Some parents raised a concern that their children were complaining about the length of the lunch queues. We have now moved to a new system, which came into effect this week with three separate sittings for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9. The sittings will rotate each half term so that each year group has an opportunity to go to lunch first. This has already significantly reduced queuing time by over ten minutes. We will continue to monitor the amount of time spent queueing over the next few weeks. There are other plans in the pipeline to improve speed of service but the sittings arrangement is likely to have the biggest impact for students. Students have been informed about the timings in assemblies.

At this time of year, I update parents on the outcome of our annual curriculum review. We have made significant changes to our curriculum and the structure of the school day over the past two years so plan to make only small adjustments for September 2020. We had identified that a number of students and parents were uncomfortable with the Year 8 options process for Humanities, feeling that it was too soon to select between these subjects. The Humanities team also felt that they were under significant time pressure to cover the curriculum in both History and Geography. In response to this, we plan to increase the hours for History and Geography from one per week to three per fortnight. This is equivalent to half an hour a week but will be spread over a two week period to fit within the timetable. In order to facilitate this, we will remove one period of tutor time per week (the silent study period). This is because tutors felt it was the least effective use of time of the three current periods, since so much homework was now online. We are also going to remove the Year 8 options process for Humanities so that all students will study both History and Geography up until Year 9 with two periods per week in each subject. To facilitate this change, we have removed one period from Science (bringing them into line with English and Maths with four lessons per week) and we have removed the Tuesday Enrichment period for Year 9. To replace the Enrichment offer, we will instead deliver the Duke of Edinburgh Award for every student in Year 9. This will be free of charge and delivered through Character Days and tutor sessions. All students will take part in volunteering work and a camping expedition as part of the award and we feel it will be a really valuable experience for students before they embark on their GCSEs. We currently run this in Year 9 for a select group of students. However, given that it has been identified as the top rated extra curricular award by universities

and employers, we want to offer this to the full cohort. We offer the Silver Award to all Sixth Form students.

We have now had two out of six annual Character Days. These are days when we drop the curriculum to focus on PSHCE, Careers Education and Educational Visits. They are vitally important in allowing us to deliver the statutory national curriculum for PSHCE and to give students opportunities to learn about the jobs market and meet with employers. We also use these days to take students on educational visits which build confidence and cultural capital. Please do all you can to ensure your child is in school on these days, as being absent means that they miss vital content which may not be repeated on subsequent days. A full timetable of how the curriculum for these days is mapped across the year will be sent home this term to parents so that you can see exactly what will be covered.

Finally, a further plea about attendance and punctuality. Our overall attendance for the year to date is 93.4%, which is below national average. We know from our analysis that term time holidays are having a disproportionate impact on our attendance (Attendance fell to 88% in the final week of term before Christmas). We know that this has a detrimental impact on students' learning and progress (an average of one grade per subject for students with 98% attendance compared to those with 94%) but need parents' support to turn this pattern around. We teach up to the final lesson of each term, with no reduction in rigour and content delivery so every lesson missed counts. There are also important events which happen in the final week, such as celebration assemblies which are a critical part of our rewards system and our school culture and allow us to recognise the efforts students have made that term. Please ensure that your child is in school, on time, everyday, unless they are too sick to come to school or have been authorised to leave school for some other important reason. Please try to arrange medical appointments during the holidays or after school, wherever possible. We can only address this issue with your support and commitment, so that we are all working to safeguard children's education.

The Parent Communication Chart has been updated and I enclose a copy below of the new version. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Parents' Evenings which begin this term.

Kind regards



Ciara Emmerson  
Headteacher

## Upcoming Dates for Your Diary:

Event	Date	Time
Year 13 Drama Performance Mock Exam	Friday 24th January 2020	All Day
Barbican Project: Kitty Finer visit	Friday 24th January 2020	Periods 1 and 2
Attendance and Punctuality Week	Monday 27th - Friday 31st January	Throughout
6th Form Parents' Evening	Tuesday 28th January 2020	5-7pm
Character Day	Wednesday 29th January 2020	All Day
GCSE Drama Performance Mock Exam	Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th January 2020	All Day
Year 11 Spanish Speaking Mock Exams	Monday 3rd - Friday 14th February 2020	By allocated times throughout
<b>February Half Term and Spanish Residential Trip</b>	<b>Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2020</b>	<b>All Week</b>
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 25th February 2020	5-7pm
Assessment Weeks	Monday 24th February - Friday 6th March 2020	Throughout
A-Level Spanish Speaking Mock Exam	Thursday 27th February 2020	By allocated times
<b>Inset Day</b> <i>School closed to students</i>	<b>Monday 23rd March 2020</b>	<b>All Day</b>
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 24th March 2020	5-7pm
Speech and Language Festival	Thursday 26th March 2020	5-6pm
Year 8 Residential Trip to Belgium	Sunday 29th - Monday 30th March	All Day
Head Teachers' Coffee Morning	Tuesday 31st March 2020	9-10am
<b>End of Spring Term</b>	<b>Friday 3rd April 2020</b>	<b>School day ends as normal: 2.35pm</b>

## Parent Evening Dates - 5 - 7pm

Year 11	Tuesday 14th January 2020
6th Form	Tuesday 28th January 2020
Year 7	Tuesday 25th February 2020
Year 9	Tuesday 24th March 2020
Year 8	Tuesday 28th April 2020
Year 10	Tuesday 19th May 2020

### SPRING TERM

START	HALF TERM	FINISH
Monday 06 January 2020	Monday 17 – Friday 21 February 2020	Friday 03 April 2020
INSET DAY: Monday 23 March 2020		

### SUMMER TERM

START	HALF TERM	FINISH
Monday 20 April 2020	Monday 25 – Friday 29 May 2020	Friday 17 July 2020 Early Closure 12.45pm

### OTHER USEFUL DIARY DATES

#### (BANK HOLIDAYS & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)

26 December 2019	01 January 2020	10 April 2020	12 April 2020
Boxing Day	New Year's Day	Good Friday	Easter Sunday

13 April 2020	08 May 2020	25 May 2020	31 August 2020
Easter Monday	May Bank Holiday	Spring Bank Holiday	Summer Bank Holiday

## Messages from the Senior Leadership Team:

<p><b>Behaviour &amp; Safeguarding - Mrs Moran</b></p> <p>A successful learner is a well equipped learner. The school planner identifies all of the essential equipment that students are required to have every day. This includes knowledge planners and blue exercise books. Please can I ask for your support in checking that your child has this every day so that they can be as prepared as possible for every lesson.</p> <p>In order to ensure the safety of all of our students we insist that when they leave school they go directly home and do not loiter in the parks or local area. It is also important that they safeguard themselves by being aware of their surroundings, particularly when crossing the roads and that they do not walk home with mobile phones in their hands so that they are visible to others.</p>	<p><b>Curriculum - Mr Lynch</b></p> <p>We are continuing to develop our curriculum to ensure all students experience a rich, broad education during their school career. Students will receive their updated knowledge organisers for the second term shortly. These are created to provide students with the key knowledge which underpins their learning in each subject. Students are taught how to learn and revise these materials and have opportunities to do this independently in the Study Centre as well as part of their home learning. It is essential that they commit this knowledge to memory as they will be assessed on this knowledge in lessons and their termly DPR assessments.</p>	<p><b>Sixth Form - Ms Harry</b></p> <p>Year 12: Over the next few weeks we will be asking students to carefully consider their next steps, as we begin to introduce them to the UCAS application process. We would ask parents to support us by having these conversations with their young people and encouraging them during their research.</p> <p>Year 13: As the final deadline for UCAS approaches (15th Jan), students are confirming with university they wish to attend. This process highlights just how close the summer exams are. We would ask parents to support us in encouraging their young person in their continued preparation and revision for these exams in the coming months.</p>	<p><b>Inclusion - Ms Turbet</b></p> <p>The inclusion department have been reviewing and updating the SEND (Special Educational Need and Disability) register. The SEND register includes all students in school who may need additional help accessing the curriculum. It is used by all staff to ensure that students are getting the right support in lessons. Following analysis of progress made in DPR 1 and the completion of some screening tests, the SEND register has been updated. Parents will be informed by letter over the coming weeks if their child has come on/off the register and any relevant next steps.</p> <p>We are delighted to announce that Miss Barclay has been promoted to Inclusion Manager.</p>
<p><b>Personal Development - Ms Lewis</b></p> <p><b>Enrichment:</b> Confirmation of the enrichment activity which has been allocated for this term for Years 7 to 9 will be coming out next week.</p> <p><b>Attendance:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Please try to keep medical appointments for after school as these taken in the school day decrease your child's attendance.</li> <li>2) If your child is ill, please ring the school every day until your child returns.</li> <li>3) Year 11 same day punctuality detentions start from next week 20th Jan 2020. These are being used for academic catch up work.</li> <li>4) All children must be on site by 8.30am ready to start lessons at 8.40am.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Achievement &amp; Exams - Mr Larini</b></p> <p><b>Y11 Parents Evening:</b></p> <p>Thank you to everyone who has attended the Y11 parents evening on Tuesday 14th January. We received a lot of positive feedback from parents who recognised the enormous value in the conversations they had with teachers. We hope that the meetings have created a real sense of urgency for students in the build up to their GCSE examinations. Parents who could not attend the event are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with subject teachers and/or members of the Senior Leadership Team so they have the opportunities to discuss the strategies they can put in place to support students for their revision.</p> <p><b>Y11 Attendance and Punctuality</b></p> <p>It is absolutely crucial that students in Y11 come to school on time so they can access all content being delivered in their lessons. Y11 students arriving late to school will now receive an hour long detention after school on the same day.</p> <p><b>Intervention Sessions on Character Day on 29th January</b></p> <p>Y11 and Y13 students will have intervention classes during the next Character Day. It is essential that all students attend those sessions to be prepared for the upcoming examinations.</p> <p><b>Next Mock Exam Cycle will start after the February Half Term (week beginning 24th February).</b></p>	<p><b>Teaching &amp; Learning - Ms Ray-Choudhuri</b></p> <p>Happy new year! The start of the year is an excellent time to reflect and make decisions about the future.</p> <p>A good starting point is your child's DPR, which was available before the Christmas holiday. If you have not already done so we would encourage you to spend some time looking at the report and celebrate the progress that has been made. It would also help to have a discussion with your child about areas that need to be worked on. These will be highlighted in red or anything that is not a 1 for self-regulation and effort.</p>	

## Parent Communication Chart

### How we will communicate with you:

What?	How?	When?
Achievement Reports	Student data reports sent home	Termly (3x per year)
Parents' Evening	Face to Face appointments with subject teachers	Annually
Parents' Information Evening	Presentation from key staff. Year 7 parents will meet their child's tutor	Annually in Sept
Headteacher's Newsletter	Published on website. Text message reminder	Half termly (6x per year)
Haggerston Recorder	Magazine celebrating events and student achievements	Termly (3x per year)
Social media pages - Twitter and Facebook	News, events, reminders and useful links published regularly	Regular weekly updates
Website	Regular updates and letters, including weekly parent bulletin of upcoming events.	Updated weekly
Letters about specific events/information related to your child	Emailed or posted home, often with a text message reminder	As required
Reminders/notices/detentions	Text message home	As required

### How you can communicate with us:

What?	How?	When?
Messages to teachers/tutors	Notes in student planner or direct email	As required. You should expect to receive a response within 48 hours.
Queries or Concerns	Contact the Head of Department (email addresses available on the website) or class teacher for curriculum related issues. For all other issues, email your child's tutor in the first instance or a member of their pastoral team. School office staff will be able to advise on who best to contact about any other issues.	As required. You should expect to receive a response within 48 hours. We do try to respond to urgent issues within 24 hours.
Views, comments and suggestions	Parent survey will be sent out via email Head-teacher's Drop-in mornings	Annually in Spring Term Termly - dates published on the website
Complaints	See Complaints Policy on the website for details.	As required