

19 May 2020 - Message to Parents from the Headteacher

This time last week, we had just heard the announcement from the Prime Minister that the government was planning to bring more students back into schools in June and July. Since then, a great deal more information has been made available to schools by the DFE; quite a bit of it relates to primary schools but the general guidance is relevant to secondaries as well. At the time of writing we have been told that there will be more detail soon about the statement that the government expects secondary schools to provide some face to face support for students in years 10 and 12 during the second half of the summer term. We have also received advice from Camden Local Authority and we are looking carefully at the implications of the materials we have received.

As you would expect, the highest priorities in all documents from the DFE and from Camden are health and safety. We are currently completing a very detailed risk assessment of our provision which will help us with our future planning. This risk assessment involves careful scrutiny of adaptations we need to make to the buildings, and the ways in which staff and students need to work while in school in order to keep everyone safe. We are also looking at circulation around the school with a view to minimising proximity to others.

We will let you know when we have agreed a firm outline for the remainder of the term on this basis, including any possible support for Y10 and Y12 that we may be able to offer if it is safe to do so.

### **Feedback from students and parents**

Thank you for the feedback you and your children have given us about home learning. This is a new way of working for all of us and we are keen to adapt and improve our offer as much as is possible. I have explained in my message to students that the timetables we have put in place for years seven, eight and nine are a response to that feedback and are a way to help students to organise their time and to make sure they are spending the right amount of time on each subject.

We are carefully monitoring students' learning and the overall picture is extremely good, with the vast majority of students responding fully to the work that is set. I know that you as parents are absolutely crucial in making this happen, no matter what age your child is, so thank you for everything you are doing to keep your child or children learning.

### **Half term**

The school will be closed over half term and I have advised staff that they must have a rest. In addition to setting home learning, teachers have been calculating grades for years eleven and thirteen and coming into school regularly to provide supervision, as well as maintaining all our pastoral systems. So no home learning will be set next week. Please encourage your child to access some of the resources we've listed in this week's assembly - there are plays, art galleries, cookery ideas and much more - this has been sent out as an email to all students.

## **Mental Health Awareness Week**

It is timely that the theme for Mental Health Awareness Week this year is kindness (see link). We have all witnessed exceptional acts of kindness over the past few weeks, and I'm asking students to respond to these in a creative way or to tell us about any act of kindness that has inspired them. We'll include their work in the Friday News.

## **Mental Health Awareness Week 2020**

With best wishes to you all,

Elizabeth Kitcatt  
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Camden School for Girls