

Message to parents from Elizabeth Kitcatt 24th June 2020

I do hope that you and your family are well. We have enjoyed seeing small groups of Y10 and Y12 students over the past week, and we know the students themselves have welcomed the opportunity to come back into school to see their friends and teachers. We are also seeing more eligible children across the year groups coming in each day, so the school does feel a little more normal.

Students adapt well to social distancing in school

We have been incredibly impressed with how well our students have adapted to the experience they have in school at the moment. Their desks are 2 metres apart in the classrooms and the dining hall, but they are still managing to socialise with each other as well as enjoying the face-to-face support from teachers. They are being conscientious about using hand sanitiser and considerate towards others.

Friday News

We are also impressed with the work being produced at home by our students, and I hope you have had a chance to look at the items sent in for the Friday News this week.

Record number of headteacher commendations this summer!

It was also very heartening to see more than 260 commendations being given out this term - a record! Teachers are reporting excellent engagement with home learning by most of our students and they were keen to give students the recognition they deserve for completing work independently. The commendations will be sent out in the post.

Black Lives Matter

As a school we continue to take on board the messages from the Black Lives Matter movement, thinking about it particularly in relation to our current development planning and equalities. We are determined to tackle racism and to promote equality in our school in every possible way, and we know that Camden Learning (the education department at Camden Council) will work with schools to strengthen these actions across the borough.

I have attached a document called 'A Parent's Guide to Black Lives Matter' which provides helpful ways into discussing the movement with children.

DFE catch-up funding announcement.

The government has announced that it will allocate funding to a programme of catch-up support across the country to enable students to complete learning they have missed due to lockdown in the global coronavirus pandemic. We welcome this as we know that, despite the best efforts of teachers, parents and the students themselves, it is extremely difficult to replicate the pace and intensity of learning in school while being unable to have the usual school experience.

Further information on the coronavirus (COVID-19) catch up support package can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-covid-catch-up-plan-to-tackle-impact-of-lost-teaching-time>

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson announced in his briefing last week that the DFE would provide more information about the catch-up support offer as soon as possible. In the meantime we will start planning in school on the basis of the feedback we have from teaching colleagues about the kind of additional support that is needed by our students.

The DFE has also updated its general guidance for parents; please find the link below.

The DFE's updated guidance for parents can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

INSET day on 7th July

The school has postponed the INSET day that was due to take place this Friday until 7th July. This training day for teachers is a particularly important one as it will be spent reviewing the curriculum and planning how each subject department will meet the needs of students who have been out of the classroom since 20th March. We are very aware of the challenges students will face after such a long period of time and the training day will enable teachers to plan appropriate learning in these circumstances.

No online learning will take place on 7th July, but it will resume as normal on 8th July.

The children of eligible parents and vulnerable children will still be able to come in for supervised learning, and the Y10 Geography face-to-face sessions will still take place on 7th July.

I hope you and your family have been able to take advantage of the slight easing of restrictions over the past few days and that you are all staying well.

With best wishes

Elizabeth Kitcatt
Headteacher
Camden School for Girls