



Friday 01 April 2022

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you are all well and I apologise for not being able to get a weekly update out to you last week.

Covid-19 Updates

Covid-19 cases are rising in London again, and recently we have had a number of staff who have tested positive over the last 10 days. As a school, we have not been given any further data in regard to regional figures within schools as these cases are not receiving the same coverage as before.

Please note, that should your daughter test positive or display symptoms she must isolate for the 10 day period; however if after 5 full days you test negative on day 5 with a lateral flow test and then again on day 6 your daughter can return to school but she should continue to test themselves on day 7, 8, 9 and 10. You should also register the result on NHS track and trace.

Calendar events

- We are going to have our whole school photo taken on Thursday 07 April 2022. Students can only be included in the school photo if they are in the correct school uniform.
- We close school on Friday 08 April 2022 at 1.15pm to allow students to get lunch between 12.15pm and 1.15pm. This means students have access to the canteen from 12:15pm.
- We have our year 10 wellbeing conference on 18 May.

Assessments

Year 10 midterm exams take place the first two weeks after the Easter holidays. Students will be issued with an exam timetable before they break up and should be already collating their revision lists from their class teachers in preparation for their exams.

Year 11 students will be attending school throughout the next half term. This is in accordance with government directives that students should not be sent on study leave. Students will be required to attend school until 27 May after which we will move to a remote learning model to facilitate the final exams. Year 11 and 13 students' final end date is 30 June so please do not book any holidays until after that date.

School events

International Dress Day was held this week on Thursday 31 March, and it was lovely to see so many cultures represented through dress by the students and staff. Thank you to the Student Executive Team for organising the event.

Ramadan 2022

Ramadan is expected to start approximately 02 April 2022.

Eid-ul-Fitr (the festival marking the end of Ramadan) is expected to start on the evening of 02 May until the evening of 03 May.

Parents may request leave of absence for their daughter(s) on the specific holy day of Eid-UL-Fitr by writing to me at their earliest convenience. Please note that it is only 1 day authorised absence. Requests for students to wear Henna need to be put in writing 2 weeks prior to your daughter's head of year. Please also note that exam dates cannot be changed so if an exam falls on the date your daughter would need to attend the exam and then they would be permitted to leave straight afterwards.

Students will not be exempt from PE and music, but the teachers have been made aware to make adaptations to the lessons to accommodate students' observance of Ramadan.

Behaviour

After numerous warnings and reminders to students in school and parents via my weekly update, a number of our senior students have ignored

expectations and continued to flaunt the mobile rules and have their mobile phones on them rather than locked away in their lockers. One year group in particular had 37 phones confiscated alongside other prohibited items such as non-prescribed medications and eyebrow blades.

Students who use their phones during the school day have created Tik Tok videos and others have become 'keyboard warriors' which has led to all sorts of problems and arguments. Additionally, some students have covertly filmed or taken pictures of others that they do not have permission for. Our no mobile phone rule keeps everyone safe and allows your daughter to fully concentrate on learning.

This is a reminder that mobile phones should be switched off at the school gate, placed into locked lockers and only retrieved again at the end of the school day. Mobile phones should not be turned off again until students leave the school gate. If students need to contact home through the school day they should visit reception or their pastoral office to discuss what is required. Students found with their mobile phones are required to hand them over for **5 school days (not including weekends)** and detentions will be served. If students do not want their phones confiscated they should not have them on their person.

In addition to this, uploading posts on social media about the school or where the school can be identified without permission is excludable behaviour as it brings the school into disrepute.

The consultation feedback on the current behaviour policy did not raise changing the rules on mobile phones. Students who had their phones confiscated were all fully aware of the rules and have received a consequence for making the wrong choice.

I am disappointed that a small number of parents no longer accept the rules because it now applies to their own daughter. The rules must apply to all students, not just some. The school rules regarding uniform, expectations and sanctions can be found in your daughter's planner. Can I ask you to remind your daughters to abide by the school rules because sanctions will be applied if they are broken.

We have, unfortunately, had a series of incidents where fire alarms have intentionally been set off. The latest one disrupted a GCSE practical exam.

This unacceptable behaviour and those students who were caught on CCTV have been excluded from school for the maximum number of days.

Deliberate setting off of the fire alarm without due cause is a significant health and safety risk to the school as well as disrupting teaching and learning. Any such instances of such behaviour will receive a 5 day exclusion and any further negative behaviours will lead to permanent exclusion. Please discuss the importance of only using the fire alarm when a fire is occurring.

A reminder that lip gloss is deemed to be make-up and should not be worn. Any lipgloss seen will be confiscated and not returned. Vaseline or alternatives are acceptable.

Because the school is firm and consistent in its applications of rules whilst factoring the student's circumstances that can place us at odds with a small minority of parents. I make no apologies for being strict as I have high expectations for all of our students, I want them to be well rounded women who can be leaders in whatever career they wish to take. I expect all students to treat each other and staff how they would expect to be treated and to follow the school rules and will take action against anyone who falls short of that expectation.

I want to take the opportunity to thank the majority of parents for working with us and ask those who are at odds with us to think again about what you have agreed to by sending your daughter to Norbury High School for Girls, We are by reputation and outcome one of the best schools in Croydon and in the top 10 nationally for progress using the last recorded national data.

I hope that you and your daughter's have a good weekend and I look forward to seeing your daughters in school next week for the final week of term.

Best wishes
Mrs Hayden