



28 November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Safeguarding update November 2017**

### **Attendance**

As you are aware, as part of our safeguarding procedures we regularly monitor students' attendance. Our expectation is that all students should have a minimum attendance of 96% unless we have medical evidence to support lower attendance.

We have noticed that some students' attendance dips before or after a school holiday. We adhere to the Barnet Educational Welfare Officer's guidance on term time absences around holidays. If a student is absent in the week before or after a school holiday then families will need to provide evidence to show that students were not on holiday. If such evidence cannot be produced then a fixed penalty notice can be issued by the Borough of Barnet. Please remember that in exceptional circumstances you can ask the Headteacher, Mrs Walker for permission to take your child out of school during term time.

### **Anti-Bullying**

Last week our assemblies focused on anti-bullying and in particular being kind to one another. Students are being asked to reflect in registration on instances when they acted with kindness or they received an act of kindness from another person.

Key Stage 3 Students have watched the video **Spot it and Stop it** and discussed what they would do if they saw somebody being bullied. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyn022bDplw>)

### **Shelter in place**

Following on from our shelter-in-place walk through in the summer term we have updated our procedure and improved our safeguarding of students by installing (RFID) electronic doors and a new claxon. This was outlined in July in the end of year letter, which can be found at the following link <http://www.qegschool.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1213&type=pdf>

Year 7, 12 and 13 have all had the shelter-in-place drill presented to them in assembly and later this term we will do another practice walk through so all students are aware of what is expected .

### **Vaping and Your Teen: What Parents Need to Know**

Research shows that some teenagers are experimenting with vaping as they believe it is not harmful.

Silver Hill Hospital has produced a useful guide for parents on how vaping affects teenagers. <https://silverhillhospital.org/community/blog-post/vaping-and-your-teen-what-parents-need-to-know>

## **Sickness**

Recently there has been an increase in the number of pupils at school with vomiting consistent with symptoms of Norovirus. This often occurs at this time of year.

Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, headache and fever. The condition usually resolves within 24 to 48 hours.

Norovirus is very infectious. If your child develops these symptoms (and to prevent further cases in school) we would ask you to keep your child at home for at least 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting in accordance with Health Protection Agency guidance. [http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance on infection control in%20schools poster.pdf](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance%20on%20infection%20control%20in%20schools%20poster.pdf)

Hand washing is important to help prevent the spread of this infection. Encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. If you are concerned, please contact your GP or NHS 111.

## **Medical and Well-being**

Students will receive a letter and a form later this week requesting updated information for any medical conditions or allergies. Students can develop conditions over time and it is vital to their well-being in school that we keep this information up to date.

## **Staff Training**

On November 8<sup>th</sup> all QEG staff took part in a three hour Safeguarding Training session led by Education Child Protection (ECP). This training updated all staff on the four types of abuse and the signs to look for when working with children.

## **Student E-safety sessions**

On December 4<sup>th</sup> ECP will be coming into school to deliver one hour E-safety sessions to years 7 - 10 and the Sixth form students. This builds upon the Information Evenings for families (see below) that outlined how parents could support their daughters' online.

Years 8 & 9	Information Evening (+online safety)	Wednesday 4th October 2017
Year 7	Introducing Assessment (+online safety)	Wednesday 11th October 2017
Year 10	Information Evening (+online safety)	Thursday 19th October 2017

Yours sincerely



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Safeguarding Lead