



15 December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

The Autumn term has come to an end today. In September the weeks ahead seemed far away, as they always do while we become used to shorter days and colder weather, making us want to be increasingly wrapped up and protected from the elements. It now seems like the last term has raced past us all. I am pleased to say that despite the issues of managing the site during the roof project, and the recent inclement weather, the excitement of the news of the school's rise up the rankings this term has seen the students continue to seek and meet new challenges while the staff body has been enriched by its new members. Minor works around the school, mainly as an adjunct to the roofing works project, are helping us to refresh the fabric of the building. As one might have expected, the roofing works have not gone to plan although I can report that they are due to end next week. I will have more information to share next term. The programme was delayed by the time taken to process the planning application for the roof safety handrail system and issues connected with the quality of work on the original roofs that had been in place for some time. The completed work will improve aesthetics, energy saving levels and safety for those requiring roof access for maintenance purposes for many years in the future. The school is preparing another Condition Improvement Fund Bid for next year and I will be writing to let you know of the bid's progress next April when bid outcomes are announced by the Government.

Year 11 students have just completed their first round of Mock Public examinations which seem to have served their purpose of supporting students to identify gaps in their learning. Sixth Form students are preparing for their Mocks straight after the holiday.

This term saw the opening of the Cafe in the Sixth Form Common room, serving speciality coffees and other hot drinks, fresh grilled panini and home baked cakes and pastries. Open all day, it is proving popular with staff as well as students.

There have been numerous sporting and other successes, a myriad of achievements to make girls, school and family equally proud. I would not want to single any out here, preferring to guide you to our school website which has regular updates of the activities, visits, journeys and events in which our students involve themselves: <http://www.qegschool.org.uk/>

I have been delighted to hear about the activities that girls get involved with outside of school too. We have amongst us national golfers, ice skaters, ballerinas and athletes, TV and stage actresses. A number of our students are Young Carers and they deserve accolades for their resilience and organisational skills which enable them to support a family member and continue their studies so that they achieve at the same level as their peers.

The school is currently preparing for its production of Peter Pan and rehearsals are supporting the students and staff involved to hone their craft; definitely a performance worth waiting for. I will write to you with more information next term.

Talent abounds here at school and was clearly visible in the Christmas Carol Service at St John's, Barnet, last night and again during our marathon final assemblies this morning. The message from our new Director of Music, Mr Miller, who started with us in September, to all girls was patience, practice, perfection.

Music is again playing a prominent part in school life for which I am grateful. I hope you will be able to join us for a Winter Concert in January to enjoy the efforts of the students and the Music Department. I will write to you with details at the start of next year.

Thank you for your good wishes and congratulations following publication of the school's progress results; your support is valuable and valued. Thank you for your daughters; they are all charming and we are privileged to teach them, support their personal development and tend to their every need while in our daily care. I was speaking with a group of girls before school yesterday and asked them what they would be doing over the holiday period. One of our younger students replied that she was going to hibernate. I was impressed that she used that word. How astute to recognise that she needed to be dormant, to return to school after the holiday recharged for the New Year ahead. On behalf of myself and all our staff, I very much wish you all a little hibernation opportunity over the holiday. The staff and I will be doing the same and look forward to continuing to support your daughters to make the best progress possible in the New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Violet Walker".

Violet Walker
Headteacher