



Thursday 19th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Summer is here! It is a very different experience in terms of weather at the same time last year, when I was writing to you and talking about the thunder and lightning of the previous night. So much can change in any amount of time. I am therefore pleased to be writing to you, able to talk about this year's consistency of student progress and personal development, the consistency of professional development for our staff and the consistency of application throughout the year of our policies and procedures. We have been embedding changes to our practice and curriculum, implemented over the course of the last three years, notably through cohesive planning which has enabled us to broaden our curriculum at a time in education when the majority of schools are narrowing theirs due to constraints of the National Curriculum and constraints imposed by Government funding changes. We look forward to our first cohort of students who from September, will be able to study Sociology at GCSE, Photography, Economics and Government and Politics at A Level and Health and Social Care at BTEC Level 3 (a vocational, A Level equivalent), a clear pathway from the same course already on offer at Level 2 (a vocational GCSE equivalent).

Our summer works start later today; these include the projects for which we secured funding through a Government Bid earlier this year, to remove asbestos for certain areas of the site and also to upgrade our Fire Alarm system.

Of course, I cannot end the year with a letter that does not credit the myriad of sporting activities, opportunities and competitions in which the girls have given a strong account of themselves, earning certificates, awards, medals, trophies and prizes along the way. In the final assemblies this morning, students were particularly delighted to hear that our school is the Barnet Athletics Champion School 2018. Our teams and individual entrants came first in every year group out of all 23 Barnet secondary schools. The final summer edition of *QE Girl*, our magazine for students, by students, with a little help from Ms Hanley, our Chair of the Board of Trustees and more recently this year by Ms Bunce, has been uploaded to the website for everyone to enjoy. As usual this term culminated with the Private View of Examination work in Art and Design and Technology; a showcase for the talent, flair and entrepreneurial skills of our students and their teachers. Everyone who was fortunate to see the exhibition commented on the very high quality of work produced this year. We were all pleased to meet our new, incoming Year 7 families again recently, in a social setting provided by QEGSA, our School Association that develops community, raises funds and models for our students, the important value of service to others. QEGSA committee members and family volunteers ensured a wonderful Summer Fete when we resurrected the tradition for students, staff, families and friends who all enjoyed our 29 acres of beautiful grounds, a wide selection of musical performances from students supported by Mr Verma and numerous stalls and sideshow activities. We were particularly determined to enjoy the school in that way this year, when we are marking 130 years since its foundation.

On Tuesday this week we celebrated International Day. Students and staff really joined in the spirit of the day, experiencing diverse cultural activities such as Peruvian dancing and listening to music played on an instrument from the Lute family originating from Mesopotamia. Yesterday Year 8 visited Boulogne, an annual trip organised again this year by Ms Brett. A good time was had by all and as with every visit, we are indebted to the staff that accompany the students. Ms Barral is currently in Equador and the Galapagos Islands on a Camps International school trip and next week, we have a group of students visiting the Dordogne area of France for an action-packed activities holiday, accompanied by Ms Patsikas, Mr Haines, Ms Piper, Mr Green and Ms Brady. I have said this before but that makes it no less worthy of mentioning, that these examples of the wealth of activity that goes on in our school, supported by our dedicated staff, ensures the curiosity of our students which is key to their personal development and their academic progress.

As ever, in all schools at this time of year, we say *Goodbye* to some staff members and look forward to welcoming new colleagues in September. We have recruited high quality staff who will enrich our team of dedicated professionals. I am pleased that leavers have secured posts that bring promotion or enable staff to achieve a better work-life balance by relocating to schools nearer home or for one staff member this year, to find the right time to contemplate retirement from working. I know you join with me in wishing them all well in the future.

The covers for the next academic year's Student Planner, for KS3 and KS4, have been designed again by our students. Hazel Kenny Y9 has designed the cover for the KS3 planner and Amy Li Y9 for KS4. Remember the Planner contains much of the information you will need to support your daughter in her daily timetable and is also the first line of contact with school, via a note to your daughter's Form Tutor in the appropriate space for each week. By signing the Planner on a weekly basis, you support a dialogue with School that can raise early awareness of any matters you wish to bring to our attention and vice versa. All school letters are available on the School Website together with the School's News and Events Items, Twitter Feeds, the School Calendar and much more besides. Please take the time to visit the Website at

<http://www.qegschool.org.uk/>

I look forward to seeing our students who took Public Examinations on Results Days in August. Please check the Website regularly for information and any updates on arrangements for collection of results. I look forward to welcoming Year 11 students into our Sixth Form in September and I wish all our leavers, the very best of everything in the future. As usual, to all our families, I wish an enjoyable and restful summer break with your daughters, other family members and friends.

Yours faithfully



Violet Walker
Headteacher