



Tuesday 8th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope my letter finds you and your family well.

Since my communication with you all last week, the term has continued with all students now on site. The school is settling into new arrangements, bespoke to this period when we are working to mitigate risk against Coronavirus. Throughout this period, we will be monitoring the logistics and effectiveness of our arrangements, reviewing them and making any necessary changes. We will keep you updated of any changes as necessary. Operating new systems always takes some getting used to and I am so far impressed with the response from our students and staff. We appreciate that the coming weeks will demand flexibility and resilience.

We were pleased that our Public Exam Entry students this summer, finally received Centre Assessed Grades which enabled them to progress onto the next stage of their education. We are delighted that so many who met our entry criteria chose to stay on into the Sixth Form. We are also proud of our students who achieved grades to support them onto University courses of their choice, many at Russell Group universities, reading a wide range of subjects including Law, Politics, Philosophy, Medicine, Midwifery, Biochemistry, Mathematics, Psychology, Nursing, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Computing, Geography, History and English. A full list will be available shortly on the school website. You will know from the news and other media, that courses were changing as Ofqual changed its mind on which grades students should receive. It is true to say that it was a summer of ups and downs!

We have some new staff this term, either replacing leavers or in addition to our usual staff body to support new arrangements. I am delighted to have recruited strong specialist staff in all areas to assure the continuation of high quality learning and teaching across the curriculum. I am taking this early opportunity to let you know the names of new staff this term. I hope you will soon have the opportunity to meet them, if only virtually, when we have Parents' Evenings. Your daughters will be able to let you know if they will be taught by any of our new staff. Their names and departments are as follows:

Miss Neelam Patel, Biology

Mrs Giselle Warrington, Business Studies

Dr Stavros Apostolou, Mathematics

Mr Michael Elmore, Mathematics

Miss Talya Pedro, Mathematics

Miss Paula Hevia, MFL

Miss Maryame Innocent, MFL

Miss Dzvina Stepanyak, Music

Miss Alice Cheverton, PE

Mr Harry Brackup, NMAPS Physics Trainee Teacher attached to the Science Department

Mr Shannon Stockdale, Science Technician

Miss Sarah Howarth, English Catch-up Tutor

Miss Naimh Fitzgerald, English Catch-up Tutor

Mr Josh Kerrigan, Mathematics Catch-up Tutor

Miss Abbie Nicholls, Mathematics Catch-up Tutor

Mr Samuel Pothier, Mathematics Catch-up Tutor

Assessment of individual learning gaps and catch-up will be taking place within lessons and with the added support of Catch-up Tutors as necessary. Heads of Department, Heads of Year and all Middle Leaders, together with the Senior Leadership Team, had specific training, ahead of the start of term, regarding Catch-up and teaching to ensure essential concepts from last year are learned. The aim is for all students to be able to apply these concepts with confidence to future learning and for the embedded concepts to act as secure foundations to this year's learning. It is our aim in this way, for all students to have gaps filled in a timely way by the end of the year, so that learning for all, is where it should be ahead of the start of the next academic year. These assessments taking place over the next couple of weeks will not be reported on; they will serve to support teacher planning. Progress reports, as scheduled for sharing with families, will follow the calendared assessment cycle. Your daughter will be able to share this with you in due course through her planner. When it is available on the website calendar too, we will let you know.

Lunchtime provision is currently limited. This is because the Catering company is assessing demand; some of its staff are still on furlough and the school's Risk Assessment requires staggered lunches, making the lunch break a little shorter. Food options all need to be available as take away boxes. These include jacket potatoes and pasta with choice of toppings/sauces, snacks and drinks. Students are able to buy items from the pod or canteen depending on their allocated social zone. Over the next few days, provision will match demand and students ought to be able to have their preferred food choice.

Mains Water pipes and changes to Water tanks began during the holidays. Work is continuing according to plan in ways which do not impact the life of the school. This work has been possible following a successful Bid for Government funds to carry out the project. At the same time, Affinity Water is replacing Mains Water pipes from Cockfosters to Barnet. This work impacts use of our grounds to a certain extent. The site of these works is securely cordoned off from unaffected areas of our grounds and there is a Works Security Team to manage access from Park Road and ensure that there is no impact to school, either to students and staff or our own necessary contractors such as Grounds teams. It is envisaged that these external works, through Affinity Water, will continue for some months into the New Year.

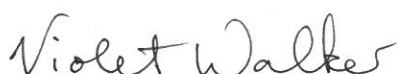
We replaced a Server during the holidays which raised some connectivity issues in the first couple of days of term. The whole site is now wireless which enables greater flexibility in learning and teaching. As I mentioned in a communication last term, homework this year, and going forward, will be set as tasks on our learning platform, Google Classroom. Families will be able to view tasks set and monitor their completion should they choose to opt for that facility. Further information as reminder or for new families, will be issued with the homework timetable in due course.

Regrettably our Parents' Evenings this year will all be virtual. Information on their organisation will be shared ahead of each calendared event. Families will be able to have a virtual meeting with each of their daughter's teachers. Should you find it helpful to have a conversation with a staff member at any other time, please do contact the school via email Office@qegschool.org.uk and the Office staff will arrange for any named teacher, or appropriate member of staff, to return your communication.

Information, news and all school updates are available from the school website www.qegschool.org.uk The Covid-19 page on the website is a one-stop page for all related information and school communications since 20th March. Letters and guidance are signposted there. You can easily access the page from the *moving ticker tape* on the website Homepage. You can also follow us on Twitter @qegsbarnet or @QEGirls6thForm. Many of our school departments are also on Twitter, as am I @VioletWalker13 The school Twitter feed is also available on our website Homepage; it is a good way to receive instant, brief news items about what is going at school.

I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible throughout the coming year, if only virtually for now.

With all good wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Violet Walker". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Violet" and last name "Walker" clearly distinguishable.

Violet Walker
Headteacher