



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

Dear Parents and Carers

23 October 2020

I hope my letter finds you well. I want to start by saying how proud of our students we all are here at school. This half term has presented everyone with challenges and our students have been remarkable at working through those with a positive mindset.

We have been able to make initial assessments of gaps in learning and have started English and Mathematics Catch-up. This is happening alongside adapted schemes of learning to support students to be where they need to be by the end of next summer term.

It is disappointing that we are unable to offer more sport provision at the moment but we are hoping to widen experience of games and activities early in the new year.

Our contracted improvement work to our mains water pipe system has continued and during the half term break, work will commence on the changing rooms in the Sports Hall. When we return to school we will be using temporary toilets instead of those in the Sports Hall. The temporary block will be positioned near that location. Successful bids to Government in recent years have enabled us to receive funds for specific projects within a Health and Safety brief. We are working towards a bid for 2021 in the coming months.

School activity outside of lessons has been recently focused on Black History Month. Students worked together with staff to create Assemblies and Form group activities around the central theme. This morning we ended with a whole school assembly in video form which celebrated some of that work. We are planning to add the video to our website so please do look out for that in the coming days.

We will also be posting a short film on the website early next week which promotes the school, its curriculum and its students. I am only sorry that COVID-19 arrangements kept us from filming more widely; something to look forward to when we are able to move forward from the current Risk Assessment.

Start of day arrangements will be changing after the half term break. Our staggered starts have two year groups arriving together until all are at school. Those arriving first have a longer Form time than those arriving next and so on. During longer Form times we are able to provide extra pastoral support to our students or specific intervention for Year 11 whose Tutors are all Core and Ebacc Subject Specialists. We will be rotating arrival times next half term to give different year groups an opportunity to benefit from a lengthened Form time. Should COVID-19 arrangements continue after the Christmas break, we will rotate arrival times for year groups again. I am attaching a document to my letter which gives the revised arrival times for each year group from Monday 2nd November. All other school day timings remain unchanged.

We have been fortunate that COVID-19 Positive cases have not been confirmed since we sent home our Year 9 Bubble. However, should we need to send home further Bubbles or be in a situation such as a circuit breaker or total lockdown, we will be providing remote education via Google Classroom and a variety of live lessons via Google Meet. Further information will be shared as necessary.



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Please be aware that all homework is now set via Google classroom. Your daughter ought to have her homework timetable to share with you and you are able to receive a summary email recording assignments set for her and her progress with completion of those assignments. The parent summary is via Guardian Summaries through Google Classroom. Parents were offered the opportunity to receive those summaries but if you have not signed up to receive them and would now like to do so, please contact the school and that will be arranged for you.

Our Year 11 students will be taking Mock GCSE Examinations after we return from break and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them well with these. I know they will be studying over the break but I also urge them to take some time for themselves too.

Indeed, I wish you all a good break with opportunity to rest and enjoy the company of your household indoors and of other family members and friends, outdoors.

Yours faithfully

Violet Walker
Headteacher