



Thursday 17th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope my letter finds you well. We are at the end of this autumn term, an end to this extraordinary year, with everyone at school having worked tremendously hard to keep our doors open for our students and to deliver high quality remote learning. I am proud of all of our students and equally proud of my staff who have continued to give of their best throughout the term.

In his letter to Barnet families, the Leader of Barnet Council explained the differences in schools' responses to confirmed school cases. We have not enjoyed having to ask our students as year group bubbles to self-isolate, following each case's risk assessment with the DfE and Public Health. Our learning session arrangements are exemplary and if we only had a site with larger useable social areas in autumn and winter, very few students would have been required to self-isolate; we are a victim of our restricted old site, with little space for social times which has made track and trace during both break time and lunch, an impossible task. Students have not been able to identify all their close contacts during break and lunch. This is why Public Health advises the whole year group to isolate.

In total to date, we have had 13 student cases and 5 staff cases within our community. The staff have been two supply teachers, two support staff members and one asymptomatic teacher. The fact that teachers have been little impacted demonstrates that arrangements are successful. Teachers have remained healthy and able to teach whether students are on site or off site. That is a remarkable statistic compared to other schools. One school in Barnet has regrettably sent three whole teaching departments home.

Happily, in our school, remote learning is a strong alternative to on-site learning. Impact on education and well-being is a global issue. Now more than ever, young people need to be supported to understand that the impact of the pandemic will be countered over time. We all need to be patient and calm so that understandable anxieties are not passed on to children and not overly inflated as insurmountable issues.

It is important for all families to be vigilant of their health and to err on the side of caution. Should a family member exhibit a symptom of ill health, please seek medical advice before sending your daughter/s to school. That will support the whole school community. I am expecting an update from the DfE regarding arrangements for the opening of schools in January. As soon as there is clarity, we will message our families in the usual way and add an alert on the school website.

I am including with my letter, a schedule of staggered start and end arrangement changes for the start of next term. You will be aware from previous communications that this supports all students to have shared benefit of extra Form time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Parents for their kind donations to the School Library. Should others wish to contribute, the list is still available from Amazon as a *wish list* using the following link:

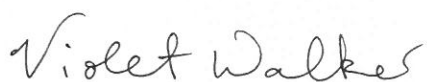
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/27T6HJOTNWPWO>

We are saying goodbye to Ms Price in the Art department, who is retiring after 22 years of excellent service at our school, to Ms Davis, also in the Art department, who is leaving to pursue commercial art projects, to Ms Ward, Acting Head of Year 7 and Geography teacher, who is relocating to Dubai, to Ms Gregoriou, Mathematics teacher, who is taking up a new role and to Ms Armstrong, Physics teacher, who begins her Maternity Leave. Ms Knott, currently Joint Leader of Catch-up English, will be taking up the post of Deputy Head of Sixth Form here in January. Ms Bunce will become the sole Leader of Catch-up English. We wish them all well in their new ventures.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so very much for your emails, telephone calls and letters throughout the term, sending your kind wishes and expressing your thanks for our care of your daughters. We have all been sustained by your sincere appreciation.

Finally, I wish you all a restorative break over the Christmas holiday period and a happier new year for us all.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Violet Walker". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Violet Walker
Headteacher

QEGS School Day January 2021

Week A	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12&13
8:30am	-	-Arrive/reg (Meadway)	-	Arrive/reg (Gordon Way)	-	-
8:40am	-	Form time	-	Form time	Arrive/reg (Meadwa)	Arrive/reg (Gordon Way bottom)
8:50am	Arrive/reg (Meadway)		Arrive/reg (Gordon Way)		Form time	Form time
9:00am	Form time		Form time			
9:15am-10:10am	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1
10:10am	Break - canteen Sports hall if wet Sports hall toilets	Period 2	Break - pod Gym if wet Toilets by medical	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
10:30am	Period 2		Period 2			
10:50am		Break - canteen Sports hall if wet Sports hall toilets		Break - pod Gym if wet Toilets by medical		
11:10am	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Break - canteen Sports hall if wet Sports hall toilets	Break - 6th form
11:30am- 12:25pm	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
12:25pm	Lunch - canteen Sports hall if wet Sports hall toilets	Period 4	Lunch - pod Gym if wet Toilets by medical	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4
1:00pm	Period 4	Lunch - canteen Sports hall if wet Sports hall toilets	Period 4	Lunch - pod Gym if wet Toilets by medical		
1:35pm		Period 4		Period 4		
2:05pm	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5
2:55pm	Depart (Meadway)		Depart (Gordon Way)			
3:05pm	-		Depart (Meadway)	-		
3:15pm	-	-	-	-	Depart (Meadway)	Depart (Gordon Way bottom)