



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

Thursday 28 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We are looking forward to the spring break and an opportunity to re-energise and reflect on what we have learned this term. There has been learning for students and staff alike; there always is.

The school newsletter, published today, showcases just some of the activities and opportunities which have been busying our students during the second half of this term. Some of these involve ongoing connections with external partners who offer a window onto a number of different areas of work and possible futures for our students.

I would also draw your attention to the end of the Newsletter where we list several contact details for safeguarding and mental health support during the break from school.

In October I wrote to you with information on the school's response to the conflict in Israel and Gaza, to ensure our community remained a safe environment for everyone. Intentional work to support that has been continuing and yesterday saw the completion of workshops delivered to all our students in Years 7 - 10, from the organisation Stand Up! Education Against Discrimination. Feedback was very positive from students; also from the organisation's team of facilitators who commented on the calmness of the school and how considerate all the students had been both toward each other in the sessions and in their participation. The sessions were tailored for each year group. Next term a different organisation, Solutions Not Sides, will be coming into school to work with different year groups, exploring themes and skill sets, for example, around holding useful dialogue and conversation that avoids antisemitic and islamophobic hate speech. Both organisations are promoted for schools by the local authority. We have worked with them in the past and know their workshops to be impactful in a positive way.

I know that our Year 11 and Year 13 students will be mindful of their public examination preparations this holiday. Please ensure that they also take some time for themselves. Over the coming weeks they will benefit from spells away from their books and digital devices.

A reminder that the summer term starts for all our students at the usual start time on Monday 15 April. We look forward to welcoming our students back on that day for their usual timetabled lessons for Week A.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff, I wish all our families well for the holidays and for any particular celebrations you may be continuing or looking forward to during the break such as Ramadan and Eid, Passover and Easter. Spring is the time of year when we can reflect and contemplate new beginnings.

Yours faithfully

Violet Walker
Headteacher