



# Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

*Educating Women of the Future*

Friday 4 April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I know the whole school is looking forward to the spring break and an opportunity to re-energise and reflect on what we have learned this term. For students and staff alike, there is always learning and the opportunity for growth. I hope for all of you there may be an opportunity for relaxed starts to the day and opportunity to engage in more family and outdoor activities.

As a school that banned smartphones and similar devices in 2017, your response to the school's continuing drive to ensure smartphones are left at home, has been positive and that is welcome. The local authority campaign launched at the end of the spring half term in support of all Barnet schools being smartphone free has proved to be a firm step forward towards improving the wellbeing of young children and adolescents.

The school newsletter which is being sent to you with mine today, showcases just some of the activities and opportunities which have been busying our students, particularly our sixth form, during the second half of this term. I hope you enjoy reading the pieces written there and that they give you a sense of the vibrant community that the sixth form team always fosters. The Tudor Rose newsletter also summarises some available podcasts from ICGS. There is a library of these available on many engaging and relevant topics on educating girls and supporting and understanding their development during adolescence. I hope you have already started to enjoy listening to some thought provoking ideas and research that is often shared on the ICGS platform.

I know that our Year 11 and Year 13 students, all of whom have been working with focused purpose, will be mindful of their public examination preparations this holiday. Parents and carers of our public examination cohort, please ensure that they also take some time for themselves over the holiday. Over the coming weeks they will benefit from spells away from their books and digital devices. Research shows a balance of work and relaxation is beneficial. This is true for all our students whom I would encourage to read for pleasure during the holiday and also engage in activities outdoors, and any which enable them to pursue their passions; all of this supports wellbeing. Should families require any specific wellbeing support while school is closed, please be aware that staff have provided several contact details for safeguarding and mental health support and resources accessible during the break from school. These are listed at the end of the newsletter.

A reminder that the summer term starts for all our students at the usual start time on Tuesday 22 April. We look forward to welcoming our students back on that day for their usual timetabled lessons for Week B.

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

Yours faithfully

Violet Walker  
Headteacher