

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **October 2020 Half-Term Holiday**

Please be reminded that school will be closed for the half-term break from Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2020. School finishes for students on Friday 23rd October 2020 at the normal time. School will re-open for all students on Monday 2nd November 2020 at the normal time 8:30am

We will be inviting students to “Wear It Red” on Friday and donate a £1 to the “Show Racism the Red Card Charity”. In our drive to become a more overtly anti-racist community, this half term we have launched our ‘Let’s Discuss Diversity’ tutorial programme, audited our KS3 curriculum to recognise and identify opportunities for teaching directly or indirectly about race equality and cultural diversity, introduced a whole staff training programme in negotiation with the charity Show Racism The Red Card, organised a staff Diversity Forum and Student Diversity Group and established a whole school Raising Awareness group where each half term we commit to reading or watching an influential book or documentary. This half term we have been reading ‘The Good Immigrant’ by Nikesh Shukla. Next half term we will be watching and discussing David Olusago’s BBC acclaimed history TV series ‘Black and British : A Forgotten History. Any parents, carers or guardians who would like to join our Raising Awareness Group, please let us know.

### **Covid 19**

Parents may already be aware that new London-wide restrictions have recently come into force as a result of a rise in Covid-19 cases across the capital. At this time, there is no change to our planned operations at the school for students and we shall continue to be guided by Public Health England’s guidance for schools. Thank you for your ongoing support at this demanding time. At the time of writing, we are anticipating the school will open as usual on Monday 2nd November 2020 at 8:30am.

### **Changes to lunchtimes for Key Stage 3**

After half term we will revert back to our normal shorter break and lunch times for **KS3**. This means that break will run from 10.40 – 11am; lunch will run from 12.40-1.10pm  
Year 7 will be escorted down to lunch at 12.30pm

(As KS4 and KS5 will have no morning break, they will keep their 45 minute lunch time. Lunch will remain from 11.15-12.pm)

### **First Mock Exams Yr 11**

The first set of Year 11 Mocks will start on Monday 2nd November and then will continue into the second week of next half term - week beginning 9th November. Due to social distancing restrictions, exams will take place under controlled conditions in classrooms.

The results from the first set of mocks will be emailed home towards the end of November. A Parents Evening will be arranged in January, prior to the second set of mocks scheduled for February. More information will follow.

Please support your child by encouraging them to revise thoroughly and prepare for these exams as seriously as possible. In light of what happened post lockdown last year where the GCSE and A Level exams were cancelled and staff were expected to make judgements based on prior assessments and tracking, it is imperative that we gather accurate assessments of students' achievements, gaps in knowledge and progress since Year 10.

### **Summer Examinations Yr 11 and 13**

We realise that this is not an easy period for our students and particularly so for our Year 11 and 13 students who currently face uncertainty as to what their final assessments in the Summer 2021 cycle may actually comprise. At the time of writing, the government remains committed to ensuring that students take their external examinations, albeit with some refinements to specification content, assessment approaches and timings. This includes a very recent confirmation that the Summer 2021 GCSE examinations will now start later than originally planned on or around 7th June 2021, although it is also suggested one Mathematics and one English paper may take place before the May half-term break which starts on Monday 31st May 2021. There does however, continue to be much speculation in the press and wider media regarding potential and possible changes to this approach. Please be reassured that we will continue to monitor the situation very carefully and will alert both students and parents as soon as we become aware of any additional changes to assessment plans for the Summer 2021 season. We will be sharing the examination timetable for both GCSE and A Level in due course.

### **Up and coming Parents' Evenings**

By the end of this Autumn term, we will have made sure that any year group that missed a Parents Evening due to lockdown last year has been offered an alternative date. Thank you for your understanding and patience with this. Evenings over the next half term are as follows;

Yr 8 Thursday 26th November

Yr 9 Thursday 3rd December

Yr 12 Thursday 10th December

Letters advising you on how to book your appointments will be sent out after half term. All parents evenings will now be virtual, we will be using the 'School Cloud' system - information and guidance on how to book and how to attend the meetings can be found on the website under the parent's tab - [here](#).

### **Student Travel To and From School**

We would also ask that all parents take time to remind their child/ren of the high expectations we have for their conduct when making their way to and from school each day. Students should be reminded of the need at this time, to wear a face-covering when using public transport such as buses and trains and to ensure that they behave in a safe and responsible fashion. When arriving at school, any face covering used on public transport should be placed in a sealed bag and a separate covering used by the student on site when moving in communal areas. At Norwood and particularly at this time, we are actively encouraging our students to use sustainable forms of transport, including cycling, which remains very popular within our community. However, students who cycle to school must be properly equipped, particularly as we enter the winter months, with basic safety items such as high-vis clothing, visible lights and a cycle helmet. Bikes must be roadworthy. Students must also ensure that they lock their bikes securely in our assigned cycle storage areas.

### **Face Masks and Hand Sanitisers**

Now that the wearing of face masks is mandatory in corridors and communal areas, we would like to remind parents that we recommend students use their own reusable mask. We are not in a position to be able to continue to hand out masks to children on their arrival to school ad infinitum. All children should also have their own small bottle of hand sanitiser with them to use frequently throughout the day.

## Uniform Expectations

During this current period and in line with the amended timetable which is in operation at the moment, we have been allowing our students to wear their PE kit to school on the days that have PE lessons. Parents are asked to remember however, that this permission applies only to the standard school PE kit. Non-uniform items such as hooded tops, sports tops and other unauthorised sportswear is **not permitted** on site at any time and may be confiscated. We would like to thank parents for their support with this matter - [please follow this link to the Uniform PE expectations that can be found on P 16 of our Student handbook.](#)

A polite reminder too, that as the winter months draw in, school coats must be plain black. Patterned, plaid or checkered oversized scarves are not allowed, again, please refer to [Pages 14 - 17](#) of the student handbook if you need clarity.

## Safety at the end of the School Day

When signing our Home School Agreement, as families, you have promised to make sure that your child; *'Go straight home at the end of my school day and not loiter or congregate in the local community at the end of school, including, for example, Norwood Park, Crown Point or Crystal Palace,' thank you for your continued support and cooperation'*

## Fireworks

We will be reminding students about the importance of remaining safe during the up and coming firework season. We have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to students who endanger their own and others lives with the misuse of fireworks.

## Homework/Independent Learning Projects

Year 7 and 8 will have received their independent learning booklets by the end of this half term. They will be up on the website too, along with instructions - [here](#).

## Communications

Please ensure that we have your up to date contact details. In our current circumstances, this is more important than ever. We frequently email and text important messages and letters home and are only able to send it to the details saved on the system. We would urge you to check your spam and junk mail from time to time. Important messages will also be posted on the landing page of the school website. **In the event of a possible circuit break or lockdown, we may need to be able to communicate to you at very short notice - so your support with this is particularly appreciated.**

## Remote and Blended Learning and Google Classroom

Whilst the expectation is that the vast majority of our students are in school, there are a small number of children who are currently self-isolating at home. We continue to offer these students access to their education remotely via their Google classrooms (also known as Blended Learning) which comprises work set for them for each class that they would usually have on their timetable. It is imperative that your child has logged into their google classrooms for EACH subject that they have on their timetable (including their tutor group). This is also the platform that teachers will set homework (Yr 9, 10 11 and Sixth Form) and will post any additional notices.

We would like to thank you all for your patience and continued support throughout this very challenging first half term. We have been proud of the way that staff and pupils have risen to the challenge, have continued to work incredibly hard and make such wonderful progress. We hope that the half term brings a welcome break for you all and that your families remain safe and well,

Best wishes,

**Denise Webster**  
Headteacher