

June 8th 2021

Good morning Parents and Carers,

I hope that everyone had a pleasant and restful half term break, it made such a difference to have such beautiful weather didn't it?

As we start our last half term of the academic year we would like to take this opportunity to remind you all of our mobile phone policy, [a copy of which can be found on our website here](#). We would like to politely remind families that this is an agreement that you and your child signed up to on arrival at Norwood School and that it is a policy that was developed with the support and input of the School Council. To clarify and avoid confrontation or confusion;

The Norwood School has a 'No See, No Hear' policy. This means that whilst on the school premises, phones must be switched off and placed at the bottom of a bag (or inside blazer pocket) and cannot be taken out. If the phone is seen on site, it will be confiscated for a minimum of 48 hours. A parent/carer will need an appointment with either the Headteacher or Senior Deputy Headteacher to collect it on the child's behalf at the end of the school day. If a phone is confiscated for a third time, it will be kept until the end of the half term. The school will take no responsibility if anything happens to your/ your child's phone whilst on the school premises.

Thank you for your continuing support and cooperation with this matter.

### **Summer Uniform**

Following on from some recent student voice, we will be trialling smart, tailored, **knee length** black shorts for those who wish to wear them. The trial will run for the duration of the summer term. 'Short' shorts, or combat style shorts with oversized side pockets will not be acceptable. Appropriate styles can be purchased at all the usual school uniform outlets - for example here from [Marks and Spencer](#). If your son or daughter wants to wear smart shorts, they will still be expected to wear proper school shoes. With the warmer weather - we do not expect to be reminding students about their coats - which must be removed whilst in the building and we have reminded the boys that 'double trousering' in this weather is not smart or hygienic.

### **Uniform Shop**

Please see the website for an updated price list and bookable opening times for appointments in the summer [here](#).

### **Thank you**

We wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone who has generously contributed to the Rocket Fund, set up by Ms Robjant in the Design and Technology department. So far, with just a few days to go we are a couple of hundred pounds short of our £10,000 target! We have been bowled over by the kindness of so many of you, your friends and family - thank you so much.

## **Parent Teachers Association**

Just prior to lockdown we had a small, but very determined team of parents who were keen on setting up a PTA. With new families joining us in September, we were wondering if there was still interest in setting up a PTA. Please do email me if you think you would like to take part, with your contact details and the name and year group of your child.

## **Covid Testing and Continual Awareness**

With the prevalence in the news of the new variant, we would like to continue to stress the importance of making sure your child tests twice weekly using the lateral flow tests that were issued prior to half term. We will be expecting a new delivery that will be distributed shortly. Although masks are no longer mandatory in school, we encourage those who wish to wear them to continue to do so - and we are very mindful that students must, wherever possible, maintain social distance, frequently wash their hands and use sanitiser. [Guidance and information on testing and when and how to get a PCR test can be found here.](#)

## **Allyship Week**

As you know our whole school focus this year has been working towards becoming an anti-racist school. Despite Covid 19 interruptions, lots of work has taken place across the school to decolonise, diversify and discuss the issues surrounding race and racism. However, we have yet to look closely at the transition from talking anti-racism to being anti-racist (taking action). The week beginning Monday 21st June will be our Allyship Campaign. We want the whole community to reflect on everything they have encountered on race, within the school, the local community as well as globally, in order to make anti-racist pledges. We refuse to allow a pandemic to define our school year. We know that this event will help to bring the community together so we end the year on a positive note.

## **What is Allyship?**

Allyship is showing support to marginalised groups through visible actions as opposed to just words. Norwood Allyship is active rather than inactive.

## **Activities will include;**

### **Borrow a copy of Anti-Racist Ally by Sophie Williams (2020)**

Sophie wrote the handbook to enable people to understand how to support marginalised groups, in this instance, black people, by creating safe and supportive spaces. She clarifies terminology and makes suggestions regarding the practicalities of allyship socially, in the workplace and in the community. Her book is central to the campaign. We have been encouraging staff and pupils to read the book and have five copies that we would like to lend to interested parents, please email me if you would like to borrow a copy.

**Poets in Residence** We will be welcoming performance word artists/poets Mr McGee and Jamelia from [Apples and Snakes](#), and have invited the amazingly talented Mahalia Morgan in Year 8 to be our Poet in Residence for the week. She will shadow the performers and work alongside invited groups of creative writers and performers each afternoon to make a creative record of the week.

**Podcasts** recorded with authors Sophie Willimas and Candice Brathwaite, (journalist, TV presenter, and founder of Make Motherhood Diverse) will be shared with the school, put on the website and emailed home.

## **Halo Collective**

We will be adopting and sharing the [The Halo Code](#) with students, which explicitly protects students and staff who come to school with natural hair and protective hairstyles associated with their racial, ethnic, and cultural identities. By adopting the Halo Code, we recognise that Norwood is proactively taking a stand to ensure that no member of our community faces barriers or

judgments because of their Afro-textured hair. Your thoughts would be very welcome on this approach.

Other activities will include:

- The opportunity for staff, students and parents to reflect on the journey we have made this year and what we need to continue to address in our efforts next year and beyond
- Student Diversity Group running information stalls at break and lunchtime
- Cookery sessions
- Staff vs student debate
- Creative writing masterclasses
- Film Club - watching, creating or responding
- Art Exhibitions
- Illustration workshop
- Musical performance (staff and/or students)
- Lessons that could explicitly focus on race or the black experience
- A Special Edition 'one year on' school newspaper/magazine which will be published in September
- Competitions

### **Up and Coming Dates**

Yr 11 Transition into Sixth Form Week Beginning Monday 21st June

Yr 13 Transition into University and the World of Work Week Beginning 28th June

Yr 12 Academic Review Day Tuesday 20th July

### **Sports Days**

We will be contacting you in due course about arrangements for Sports Day at Tooting Bec on Monday 19th July. We are all really looking forward to what will be the first whole school event in a very long time. Internal Fun Sports Day will be Tuesday 20th July.

**End of Summer Term** Wednesday 21st July. (Half Day)

Thank you all for your continuing support and cooperation,  
Please stay safe,

With kind regards,

Ms Nicholas  
Senior Deputy Headteacher