

5th April 2019

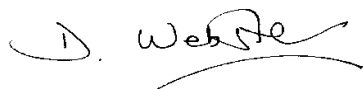
Dear Parent or Carer,

As the Spring Term comes to an end and we look forward to a well-deserved two week Easter holiday, it is timely that we write to parents about the steps that the school will be taking to ensure our students are both informed and responsible citizens with regard to their personal safety.

As you will be aware, there have been a number of serious incidents reported in the media involving young people and knife crime. Sadly, these incidents have been on the rise since the start of the year, and reported nationally, as well as locally in London. We have continued to remind students of the importance of their prompt and direct journeys home, and the need to avoid loitering in public spaces like Crown Point, West Norwood, Norwood Park and Crystal Palace, and have always placed great emphasis on students' individual and collective responsibility in ensuring their safety outside school. Please continue to talk to your child about their personal responsibility in ensuring their safety outside school. However, we feel that in the current climate it's important to extend our work on the education around the issue of knife crime, involving external agencies and organisations, as well as continuing our work with our Safer Schools Officer and Metropolitan Police. We acknowledge the complexity of these issues, and the need to maintain open dialogue with students in order to address the fears, concerns and questions they might have about this challenging issue. We would also urge you to talk to your children about this issue and together we can ensure that they understand the importance of such issues. We will also be organising information-sharing events for parents and carers, in order to support families outside school. As part of this programme, and in partnership with our Safer Schools Officer and Metropolitan Police, we will be bringing in temporary search arches, in order to conduct random screenings of year groups. This will involve the Lambeth Safer Schools Officer team educating and challenging students' thinking, to raise awareness on the consequences of carrying a knife, and to ultimately prevent them from becoming a victim or an offender in the future. Like other schools locally, we believe this to be an open and transparent way to protect students and members of our school community. This will be carried out in a positive and educational way, with opportunity for discussion with the Lambeth Safer Schools Officer Team and Norwood staff as part of the process.

The Summer Term sees the traditional start of the exam period. GCSE, 'A' LEVEL and BTEC examinations will take place throughout April, May and June whilst years 7 to 10 will have their end of year exams during May and June. It is never too early to start revising but sometimes too late. Over the holiday period and on Saturdays in the run up to their exams, revision sessions will be running for students in Years 11 and 13. Please encourage your children to attend if invited and make sure that they come on time. Please be aware of your child's exam schedule and support them in their preparation, organisation and revision, whether they are aged 11 or 18. End of year exams are a time to celebrate what students do know and have learned during the year. They provide opportunities to demonstrate how much progress has been made, so please encourage and support their independent learning and home study. Limiting the use of and access to mobile phones and social media is a 'must'.

School will begin at 8.30am on Tuesday 23rd April. Happy Easter to you all and thank you for your continued support.



Denise Webster
Headteacher