



## 16 October 2020 – Update for parents

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of this half term, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. These are challenging times for schools and I want to remind you that my absolute priorities are:

- Keeping your children safe
- Ensuring they get access to a high-quality education
- Keeping the academy open

All health and safety arrangements are constantly being reviewed and updated. We have also carried out extensive work to plan our recovery curriculum and are continuing to build and improve our capacity to educate students remotely.

However, what has become clear over this half term is the increased workload for school staff. The organisation of routine activities and events has now become highly complex and time-consuming, when you take into consideration bubbles, social distancing, additional cleaning and covering staff absence due to self-isolation. This will mean that for the time being non-essential activities, such as after school clubs will not be able to run.

### Arrangements for the half term break and next half term

School ends for all students at 2.50pm on Friday 23 October. We have a one week half term break as per the academy calendar. **Monday 2 November is a Professional Learning Day for staff and school will be closed to all students.** All students return to school on **Tuesday 3 November at 8.40am.**

Years 11, 12 and 13 will have pre-public exams at the end of November. The timetable for these exams will be shared with students and parents via satchel:one.

### Face coverings

Following yesterday's government announcement regarding Tier 2 restrictions, **from Monday 19 October** all students and staff will have to wear a face covering in areas outside classrooms where social distancing is difficult, such as corridors and communal areas. Students and staff can continue to wear face coverings in lessons if they choose to. Please ensure that your child has a face covering ready for Monday 19 October. We will use time during morning line up and Collective Time on Monday 19 October to ensure that all students are clear about where they must wear a face covering.

We will have disposable face masks available to give students from Monday 19 October. We have also ordered a supply of reusable black face coverings which will be made available to students from Monday 2 November.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing [face coverings](#). This applies to those who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability.
- speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading or clear sound or facial expression to communicate.

If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, please call or email us this week so that we can update our records. We will require evidence to support all requests for exemptions



## Expectations of students

To support students in their transition back to school, we have allowed greater flexibility than usual in relation to school uniform. We have taken the decision to extend the period for which students can wear their own choice of footwear up to the end of the autumn term. Students are still expected to be in full school uniform or school PE kit on the days when they have PE. Students are currently not allowed to wear coats, scarves or other outdoor wear in classrooms. We will continue to review this regularly in light of seasonal changes to the weather and the temperature in different areas of the school.

## Updates for next half term

**Intervention** will restart for a number of year groups after half term. This will include academic intervention and some peripatetic sports intervention from our two Greenhouse sports coaches. You will be contacted directly regarding any intervention that your child needs to attend.

**Peripatetic music lessons** will gradually restart after half term. GCSE Music students will have priority access to these lessons in the first instance. More information will follow from Mr Gustard, Head of Music.

**Detentions** will restart next week and will take place on Wednesdays after school and will run from 2.50-3.50pm with Heads of Year. Parents will be informed via text 24 hours before the detention is due to take place.

**After-school clubs** will not restart next half term. This decision has been taken following a review of our risk assessment. This decision will be reviewed again in December.

**Parents' evenings and reports** – In light of social distancing requirements, we will be trialling new approaches to parents' evenings and have also had to change dates for some evenings. The new date for Year 10 Parents' Evening is **10 December 2020**. Year 7 Parents' Evening will now take place the **week beginning 11 January 2021**. More information about parents' evenings and end of term reports for all year groups will follow next half term.

**Prayer Rooms** – We are still not in a position to provide prayer rooms for all year groups due to staffing and timetabling restrictions. We are prioritising identifying a suitable prayer room for students in Years 11, 12 and 13. More information will follow next half term.

## Support from parents

Please support the academy by:

- Ensuring you read all emails, letters and texts from us
- Ensuring we have up-to-date details for at least two emergency contacts for every student
- Following all Government guidance on Covid-19, including when not to send your child to school
- Ensuring your child attends school on time and in full school uniform (including a face covering)
- Emphasising to your child the importance of maintaining wearing a face covering, maintaining a 2m distance from staff and following all instructions, including during year group line ups, around the site and in lessons.

**For Information and queries**, please remember to use the [CGA website](http://www.clapton.hackney.sch.uk) and the contact points below:

Call: 0208 985 6641      Email: [cga@clapton.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:cga@clapton.hackney.sch.uk)

Kind regards,  
Anna Feltham  
Headteacher