



**Friday 10 November 2023**

**Headteacher's weekly update for parents**

Dear Parents,

We had a fantastic first Focus Day this week with students engaging very positively in their trips to museums and the trampoline park and with onsite activities to support guided preferences and university applications. Please do ask your child about these experiences.

**Dates for your diary**

Monday 13 November	Years 11 & 13 Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) & Anti-bullying week begin
Monday 20 November	Friends of CGA meeting (5.30-6.30pm) in the LRC
Thursday 23 November	Year 7 Parents Evening (4-7pm)

**Year 7 Parents' Evening – Thursday 23 November – 4 - 7pm**

Year 7 parents have been emailed [this letter](#) by our Evolve system which explains how parents' evenings work at CGA. Please click the box at the end of the Evolve email to confirm you will be attending. Please ask your child to make appointments directly with their teachers from Monday 13 November using page 156 of their student planner.

**Year 11 and 13 PPE update - Monday 13 November**

Year 11 and Year 13 Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) begin next week. Please find the Year 11 PPE timetable [here](#) and Year 13 timetable [here](#). Guidance on how to support your child with revision can be found [here](#). Please note that Year 13 A-Level students have study leave from 13 - 28 November. During this time, unless specifically asked by staff, students are not expected to attend Collective Time or their usual A-Level lessons. Students can revise at home or use the LRC to study. Year 13 BTEC students are expected to follow their normal timetables unless they have a public exam and they have been informed that they have study leave by staff.

**Impact of crisis in Israel and the Palestinian territories on the CGA community**

The news and images from Gaza and Israel continue to shock and sadden us all. We understand that students want to help the victims of this crisis and are proud of the compassion and commitment they have shown. As a school community, we are going to show our support for the victims of this crisis. The charity chosen by students via the LRC feedback box was **Children in Gaza Crisis Appeal – UNICEF UK**. We will start the fundraising for this charity by:

- Setting up a JustGiving page to collect money from the CGA community e.g. students, staff, parents and trustees.
- The School Council organising a bake sale at break time on Thursday 30 November.

More information will follow about how students and parents can support this fundraising. If students have other suggestions or ideas, they can share these via the LRC feedback box.

We are also aware from student feedback how much this crisis has affected their wellbeing and emotional health. We will be offering a talking session for students. This will be a safe space to talk



about their feelings and to explore strategies for managing challenging emotions. Students can sign up with Ms Begum in room R01. The date, time and number of sessions will be confirmed next week once we know how many students would like to take part.

We also recognise that you will be discussing the ongoing events with your child and have collated some guidance [HERE](#) on talking to children about war and conflict. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or safety, please call us or email [cga@clapton.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:cga@clapton.hackney.sch.uk)

### End of term trips to Hackney Empire for Year 7, 8 and 9

To celebrate the achievements of Year 7, 8 and 9 this term, we will be taking them to the Hackney Empire to see the pantomime Aladdin in December. If your child is in Year 7, 8 or 9, we will be sending you an Evolve email to get consent for this trip. The cost of the trip is £11 per student ticket or £13.40 for a student ticket and an ice-cream at the theatre. Parent contributions for this trip can be made on ParentPay from this afternoon. Thank you in advance for your support with trips as we would not be able to run them without your financial contributions.

### Walking home safely

Now that it is getting darker much earlier, it is a good time to revisit walking home safely tips with your child:

- Make sure they know parental contact numbers by heart or ensure they are written in the back of their planner. If they find themselves without a phone this will be hugely important!
- Remind them about road safety - especially when with their peers, students might not be as vigilant in terms of looking for cars, crossing at safe points etc.
- Remind your child to keep their location hidden on apps such as Snapchat ghost mode. You are the only people who need to know where they are at all times!
- Remind them that if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable, they can call you or a trusted adult.
- If they ever feel they are in immediate danger, they should call the police straight away on 999.

### Reminder: Debate Mate

Our weekly Debate Mate club restarts on Thursday 16 November at 3pm. Debating is shown to improve students' critical and creative thinking, confidence, teamwork, leadership, aspirations, resilience and self-management. Interested students can speak to Ms Evans, Assistant Headteacher.

### Reminder: Anti-bullying week (13-17 November)

This year's theme is 'Make a noise about bullying' and is focused on encouraging students to report bullying and speak up! We will be asking students to wear odd socks on Monday 13 November to show their support for the campaign. All other normal uniform rules will apply. We will also take this opportunity to remind students how our anti-bullying systems work encouraging them to 'make a noise' if they see bullying happening to them or others. If you have any concerns about bullying, please contact your child's Head of Year or Ms Garvin (DSL).

Kind regards,

Anna Feltham - Headteacher