



Friday 20 January 2023

Headteacher's weekly update for parents

Dear Parents,

Industrial Strike Action by the NEU

Please make sure you have read the letter sent yesterday ([here](#)) with details about the industrial strike action.

Uniform donations

If your child has outgrown their uniform, please donate their old uniform items to the academy so that it can be used to support another family in our local community. All items in good condition are welcomed.

LRC - Revised opening hours and author visit

The learning resource centre (LRC) is now open from 8:15 every morning. Students can use the LRC to complete homework or revision, take out or return library books or read quietly. It is also open after school until 4:30pm. This week the LRC welcomed author Anna James to talk to Year 7 about her books and how she got into writing. It was lovely to see so many students stay at the end of session to speak to Anna about their own reading and writing.

Year 9 Parents Evening and Guided Preferences

A reminder that Year 9 Parents Evening is on Thursday 2 February from 4-7pm. It is essential parents and students attend this to get the Jotform link to select GCSE and BTEC preferences. The timeline for selecting options is as follows:

- 25 January - Year 9 Guided Preferences Assembly 2
- 2 February - Year 9 Parents Evening (Jotform to select preferences opens)
- 10 February – Jotform to select preferences closes

Holocaust Memorial Trust: Survivor webcast

On Thursday 26 January Year 9 students will be taking part in a live webcast organised by the Holocaust Memorial Trust to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2023. This year's speaker is Ruth Posner BEM who will be recounting her experience. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions via an online chat. This event supports the history curriculum being delivered this half term by putting a human face to the histories students learn about and creating the opportunity to engage with one survivor's personal experiences during the Holocaust.

Matilda The Musical Screening

On Monday 6 February from 3-4.30pm students will have the opportunity to watch the recorded performance of our sold-out show that took place in December. Students will need to sign up for the screening via the PE and Performing Arts notice board in the Rosa Parks corridor. We look forward to reliving the wonderful performance from our incredibly talented students! Students attending will be dismissed from the Almack Rd gates at 4.30pm.

New Deputy Safeguarding Leads

We are excited to welcome two new members of staff to the academy Designated Safeguarding Team. Mr Norrington (Year 13 Academic Mentor) and Ms Begum (Year 11 Engagement Support Assistant) have taken up position as Deputy Safeguarding Leads alongside their usual roles.



Street Safety

In these winter months, with the early onset of darkness, we remind all students of the following street safety rules. Please support us in reminding your child of these rules as well. If you have any questions or concerns about street safety, please contact Mr Fyles (Designated Safeguarding Lead), or your child's Head of Year.

1. Walk home with a friend where possible.
2. Keep to main roads and streets you know.
3. If you need to walk home in the dark, arrange for a parent or older sibling to meet you.
4. Do not speak to people you do not know in the street.
5. If you are worried, go into a local shop and call home.
6. If somebody bothers you on a bus, tell the driver immediately.

Attendance, punctuality & reporting student absence

We continue to encourage all students to attend school on time every day. Students are reminded of the benefits of attending school every day and are made aware of the time that is lost at school due to absence or poor punctuality. The school gates open at 8.15am and all students should be on site by 8.40am. There is a free breakfast for all students between 8.15am and 8.35am. This offer now includes porridge.

If your child is absent, please report each day of absence **by no later than 9am**. You can send a text through the MyEd parent app or call our absence line (0208 985 6641 select option one). Please do not report absence to other staff as this information may not get to the attendance officer in time. When reporting absence please leave a short, clear message with the following information:

- Student's full name and tutor group and your relationship to them
- Reason for absence or lateness with some detail. Please do not report students as "unwell", we need more detail e.g. vomiting, headache, fever, cough etc.

Global Majority Parent Group reminder

The first Global Majority Parents Group meeting of 2023 will be on Tuesday 31 January 5.30pm - 6.30pm in the LRC. Everyone is welcome. Please come along to have your say and help to plan and continue the great work for this year.

From the Friends of Clapton

We sold refreshments at Matilda and raised over £500 - thank you to everyone who made this happen. We are working on getting charitable status so that we can start a regular giving scheme and we are seeking parents' views on how to spend the funds we raise. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 7 February online. Please get in touch at friendscga@gmail.com if you would like to attend or get involved in our activities. Everyone is welcome.

Letter from Councillor Bramble

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Antoinette Bramble has written a letter to all parents which is available to read [here](#).

Kind regards,

Anna Feltham
Headteacher