



Friday 3 February 2023

Headteacher's weekly update for parents

Dear Parents,

Key dates for your diary

Friday 10 February	Last day of half term. School ends at 2.50pm.
Monday 13 February – Friday 17 February	Half term holiday
Thursday 23 February	Year 10 Parents' Evening (4-7pm)
Monday 27 February	Year 11 and 13 Pre-Public Exams begin
Thursday 2 March	Planned NEU strike action – update to follow
Monday 6 March – Friday 10 March	Careers Week
Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March	Planned NEU strike action – update to follow

Please note: The planned strike action will affect Year 12 Parents Evening. We will confirm a revised date for this in next week's letter.

Parent Survey feedback

A big thank you to all the parents that took the time to complete our recent parent survey. Your feedback forms a really important part of our ongoing school improvement process.

We are aware from your feedback (and School Council feedback) that there are ongoing concerns with the quality and value for money of some of the food items on our lunch menu. I have shared all student and parent feedback with the regional manager of the catering company and am hopeful that we will see an improvement soon.

Please also be aware that students are currently using disposable plates and cutlery at lunchtime because of a delay in the delivery of a new industrial dishwasher for our kitchen. We are doing everything we can to get this delivered as soon as possible.

Year 9 Guided Preferences

It was brilliant to see so many parents at last night's parents evening. A reminder the Year 9 Guided Preferences form is now live. Students must select their preferences by **Friday 10 February**. Allocations are not done on a 'first-come, first-served' basis so please take the time to discuss your child's preferences with them before the deadline.

[Key Stage 4 guided preferences 2023 – Clapton Girls' Academy \(claptongirlsacademy.com\)](https://www.claptongirlsacademy.com/key-stage-4-guided-preferences-2023)

Free School Meal vouchers for the February half term

Hackney Education have confirmed they will be providing Free School Meal vouchers to the value of £25 per eligible student for the February half term. The usual Edenred vouchers will be emailed to parents by Tuesday 7 February. The voucher will come directly from Noreply@edenred.co.uk and will need to be redeemed in the usual way. If you have any problems accessing your vouchers, please email cga@clapton.hackney.sch.uk. Please also remember to check the "junk" folder of your emails if you have not received your vouchers.



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Ms Anna Feltham: Headteacher

Community Liaison Leads

Please ensure you have read the letter [here](#) which introduces our new Community Liaison Leads, who will be working to develop links with parents and the wider community.

LGBTQ+ History Month

This month, CGA will be joining many schools and workplaces across the country by celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month. This is recognised in the UK each February and is an initiative started by Schools OUT in 2003. It will provide staff, students and parents with a great opportunity to engage with histories that have not been heard before and continue our work to promote inclusivity. The theme of this year's campaign - 'Behind the Lens' - will focus on the lives and accomplishments of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people who work in the fields of photography, film making, TV and fashion. Students will have tutor time activities and an assembly on this theme.

'Cut Your Carbon' campaign

CGA is working towards achieving its Eco-Schools Green Flag, an initiative that encourages young people to work together on projects that have positive impacts for our planet. Students participating in the Eco Committee aim to make CGA a greener, energy-saving and sustainable place! As part of this, we are participating in the 'Cut your Carbon' national campaign, from 6-10 February, that inspires students to take action and raise awareness about carbon emissions. Look out for all the resources shared during the week-long event and take on the energy-saving challenge!

Information for parents: National Sleep Helpline

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (rising to 80% for those with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with sleep. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely. The National Sleep Helpline is free and run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. They can talk to young people directly, or parents about their sleep issues. The helpline is open 7-9pm on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Thursday evenings and 9-11am on Wednesdays. The number is 03303 530 541. You can read more [here](#).

Kind regards,

Anna Feltham
Headteacher