



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

6th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who has completed the Parents Evaluation Survey so far. In order to gain a greater understanding, we do need more parents to contribute, so I would be grateful if you could spend a few minutes having your say:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TB_FoE7fSEaBU6Ls4yHOSx675inFTgtJnmJsmHohjcRUNVpWNTZEVOUwN1RVOEFYMjFERDRYNFpXVS4u

The Way Forward

Over the last few weeks we have been looking at ways in which we can adapt the school to reflect the easing of restrictions imposed as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic. As the Year 11 and 13 students stop coming on-site for lessons, it gives us some room to move around. Each of the following are dependent on the national and local prevalence of the virus and we will update our risk assessment accordingly, but we hope to put in place the following:

- Face coverings will be voluntary for pupils and required for staff in areas in which they cannot be socially distanced.
- Y7 - 12 can begin to use some specialist classrooms; music rooms, the Drama Studio and science labs that are outside their zones. Only one year group to use the space within the space of a day to maintain COVID security.

We want the girls to get used to the 'normal' way of life, so **from 7th June:**

- **Year 8 will start the day at 8:45 a.m.** and have registration at the start of the day.
- School gates will open from 8 am and all year groups, except Year 9, can wait in their outside areas. Unfortunately there is not a suitable place for Year 9 to wait on-site. All year groups can enter the buildings at 8.35 am.
- Year 7 will bring in their PE kit and change before their lesson. **Year 7 must wear their normal uniform every day.** The girls need to get used to changing and will be the only year group using the changing rooms.
- Girls cannot wear coats in lessons.

The girls will remain in zones however and we continue to promote the frequent cleaning of hands.

Over the next few weeks we will review all the changes that have been made because of the pandemic and decide which we keep, which we adapt and which we stop completely. Online Parents Evenings are currently proving very popular.

Conflict Resolution

This week the theme of the assembly is about conflict and resolution: <https://youtu.be/5aWdvl23ZDU>. Our girls are curious and have access to social media, as well as the news, and so it is inevitable that conflicts around the world find their way into the school. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is having a significant impact on the many of the girls and we are emphasising that WCGS needs to be a safe place for all staff and students. As a school we hope to work with a charity that will deliver workshops that seek to give the girls solutions and not sides.

As a child I experienced the hate directed towards Irish nationals during the IRA campaign in mainland UK; my Irish mother found this particularly difficult to navigate. My Chinese father has experienced hate during the coronavirus pandemic. I lived in Botswana while the AIDS pandemic was blamed on Europeans and as such I have learnt that complex global events can be used to direct anger towards a particular groups or group. Watford Girls reflects the diversity of our community and if we are to create the society in which we all wish to live, with our children able to grow up in safety, all of us must take the responsibility of finding a way out of conflict. It is my hope that you would share that message, that there are many view points and we must promote the values of understanding, kindness, forgiveness and compassion.

Reminder of Days Girls not in school

Further to the Parentmail that was sent previously the school has had to make the hard decision to close the school for two days to allow the teachers to focus entirely on the moderation of the GCSE and A level assigned grades. The school will therefore be closed to all pupils on the 27th and 28th May. I am loath to close the school, especially given the lost days in school this year, however there has been a considerable burden placed on teaching staff to assess, assign, moderate and then review the grades by JCQ. This could not be achieved if the girls were to remain in school. I dearly hope this process will not be repeated in the future.

Congratulations to LAMDA students

Well done to all the girls who completed their LAMDA qualifications. They took their exams just before Easter, when many had had lessons remotely, so this is an impressive achievement.

Sakina Dhirani	Sadie Vincett	Shreya Kaveeshwar	Samvrutha Dhamodharan
Elodie Cockerell	Grace Trundle	Marah Ali Lauzzana	Hannah D'Cruz
Krishna Makwana	Prisha Nirav Patel	Tanisha Maheshwari	Penelope Lozada Rodriguez
Shruti Agarwal	Avni Dogra	Shivangi Parashar	Ariela Christopher-Chambers
Katrina Stewart	Ella Foster	Umandi Siriwardana	Khaya Ninvalle-Michelo
Sarayu Nalla	Mya Jollyman	Sophie Oyesola	Sylvie Lenox

Also to Poppy in Year 12, who has been accepted into the National Youth Theatre.

Well done to Raqayya in Year 8

Ruqayya (8A) is a member of the 1st Harrow Scouts group and was nominated by her group leader for the Jack Petchey Award as she has shown maturity and demonstrated great leadership skills as a patrol leader. We are all so proud of her efforts and achievement. Here is a link to the Jack Petchey Foundation if you would like to read more about it: [Home | Jack Petchey Foundation](#)

Changing Habits Workshop

I would like to draw your attention of the 'Changing Habits' workshop being offered by beezeebodies. A leaflet has been included in the Parentmail batch today.

Best wishes,

Sylvia Tai