

28th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all have had a good week so far, it seems to have flown by at school!

I want to start this week's letter with a further special plea from our residents on Carlton Avenue East. Whilst the change to the school day at the Upper School has made the traffic at the end of the day a little more fluid, we are still getting reports that some parents are parking cars across driveways. This is affecting our neighbours at both entrances and on one occasion earlier in the week, an elderly resident was unable to leave in order to get to a hospital appointment. I am sure you can appreciate how frustrating and upsetting this was. Can I please ask that everyone refrains from parking cars that obstruct driveways and entrances to our neighbours' properties. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

When I wrote to you last week, I mentioned in detail the changes that were being made by the Government and a return to 'Plan A' which meant that face coverings in classrooms were no longer needed as well as from today, face coverings were no longer needed in communal areas. Whilst I appreciate that this announcement has been made, as a school we do still strongly recommend that face coverings are worn. Brent, amongst a few other authorities, has a high infection rate of COVID-19 and a continued cautious approach to everyone's safety is the approach that we still want to take. My own personal approach will be to still wear a face covering whilst I am in and around the school.

In the Upper School Parent Partnership meeting last week, a few parents raised a concern about homework and the frequency that it is being set. The Upper School Leadership Team have been looking into these concerns and inconsistencies and whilst there is still some work to do in this area, the main points are as follows:

- Due to unforeseen absences mainly due to COVID - there have been a number of lessons that have been covered by other staff. This has affected the consistent application of our approach to homework and there has been some homework that has not been set. This is an unavoidable outcome.
- In the majority of cases where homework is being set, there are a number of students who are not recording the homework in their planners and many pages appear blank. When analysing student planners through an in depth audit, students are saying that they just didn't write their homework down. We are addressing this and will continue to work on this over the coming weeks. If parents could please ensure that all of our Upper School students are encouraged to ensure that their planners are with them every day - this would help immensely as some students are 'forgetting' planners.
- When used effectively, the planners are an excellent example of home-school dialogue.

As I said, there is still some work to do in this area, but I must thank you for the feedback we have received so that we can work on a solution together for the benefit of our young people.



On Wednesday of this week, some of our students were privileged to listen to a webcast from the Holocaust Educational Trust where a truly remarkable woman, Eva Clarke, told us her story of her parents, her family, and actually how her mother gave birth to her in a concentration camp at the end of the Second World War. The webcast was watched by thousands of people to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day across the country. Her story was heart-breaking, harrowing and inspiring. To listen to the plight of people who had suffered, been murdered and discriminated against was a stark reminder that our generation of adults, the ones that we are educating across our school, are the ones that will hopefully make a difference.

I will leave this week's newsletter with one word - *Shalom*.

Yours faithfully

Russell Denial
Executive Headteacher