

PDH/LDD

July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As the break for the summer holiday is approaching, I am writing to let you know of the arrangements for the last day of term on **Friday 20 July 2018**. School finishes at **1:15pm** and students are expected to go home as normal using their usual form of transport. The school buses have been re-arranged to pick students up from the school at this time.

If students choose to go out for the afternoon they should only do so after they have first returned home. Students who do not live in Dalston will be instructed to leave on their normal buses and we would appreciate parents/carers reinforcing this message with students to avoid potential conflict.

I also felt it was important that I took the opportunity to write to you all to make you aware of my expectations of students in the new academic year. There are a few occasions when we find ourselves in the position where parents/carers are unaware of some school rules and events and the following is for clarity so hopefully no misunderstandings occur:

### **Uniform**

Please note that for September there are some changes to the uniform policy. In general our students adhere very well to our uniform code and look very smart. Our uniform policy is clear and I would like to draw attention to the items that most often cause conflict:

#### ***School Blazer***

We will be introducing a blazer as a compulsory item of uniform from September 2018 and this is to be worn by **all students in Year 7, 8, 9, and 10**. This academic year we have seen a large number of students choosing to wear the optional school blazer instead of a school jumper. This not only looks smart but has proved to be more practical. In warmer months students have found it is more comfortable to wear than a jumper and they do not need to bring a coat.

The school blazer is available from The Uniform Shop and is priced in line with the cost of blazers for other local schools.

- Size 28-36 - £33.50
- Size 38-40 - £38.50

For **students in Year 11 from September 2018**, the blazer remains an optional item of uniform. Year 11s who choose not to wear a blazer must wear a school jumper.

#### ***School Jumpers***

These will now be optional.

#### ***Skirts***

These must be black and at least knee length, A line or pleated style. They should not be tight and no Lycra tube skirts should be worn.

As stated in my previous uniform letter in March, we had considered introducing a Caldew school skirt to overcome the increasing numbers of students who are choosing to wear Lycra tube skirts or skirts that are too short, in line with other local schools. However due to the additional cost for

parents/carers we have decided that we will not be changing the school skirt this year, but if we continue to have an issue with students wearing Lycra skirts we may introduce a Caldew school skirt in the future. I would ask parents/carers to support us on this issue and ensure students wear the correct skirts as this will be reviewed again next year which may lead to change.

### ***Trousers***

These should be normal school trousers. They should not be in the style of jeans, made from denim or any other heavy cotton or cotton-type material. They should not hug the leg or be “skinny” in design. Some girls have taken to wearing trousers very tight to the leg and these will not be allowed next year as they are not appropriate for school.

We have become increasingly aware of gold zips, logos etc. that adorn both trousers and skirts. Can I clarify that plain black trousers and skirts mean just that and logos, zips etc. should not be noticeable in any way.

### ***Shoes***

They should be **black** and **proper formal shoes** (*polishable*) with no colour or logos at all, which includes the heel, side or upper of the shoe. They are not to be boots or black trainers. We advise you not to purchase any footwear manufactured by sportswear companies as these may not meet our uniform policy and students may be required to change them. If in doubt please contact the school to ask prior to purchasing.

### ***Shirts/Blouses***

They must be blue and have a collar which is fastened by a top button as they are expected to be worn properly. This means that ties are done up and buttons always fastened. They can be long or short sleeved.

### ***Hair and Make Up***

Hair should be in a style acceptable to the ethos of the school. Students should not have patterns or logos shaved into their hair, and it should not be of a colour which could be described as unconventional. Hair accessories should be discreet.

No make-up is to be worn in Years 7 to 9 while Years 10 and 11 are allowed to wear subtle make-up to school. Coloured nail varnish and nail decorations are not permitted. Over the last term we have been working hard to enforce the school rules but unfortunately there are a very small number of students who do not comply with this basic rule. I would like to make it quite clear that any student wearing what we consider to be excessive make-up will be required to remove it fully. The school rules have not changed on this matter for several years and every student who joins our school is obliged to follow them. It is something that will be closely monitored over the next half term and if no distinct improvement is seen then we will have no option but to introduce a complete ban on make-up being worn.

### ***Jewellery***

No jewellery except for one stud earring per ear lobe may be worn. No other piercings are allowed (watches are not counted as jewellery).

### ***Mobile Phones***

As a school we allow students to bring phones to school to use before and after school but also at break and lunch times. We do not want to see or hear phones in lesson time or at lesson change over as they are a significant hindrance to learning and to student progress. Please can you support us in this and discourage your child from using phones at school to contact home or receive calls/texts from home (apart from at break or lunch). If you need to contact your child in an emergency, please contact Student Services.

### **Village Before School**

Students are not allowed to go into the village once they have been dropped off at school. The students are discharged into the care of the school once they arrive here and under no circumstances should they be going into the village at this time. They will be turned back if a member of staff on duty sees them.

### **Clothing Vouchers**

Free school meals and clothing vouchers are available for your child(ren) if you are receiving one of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- An income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that as of April 2012 does not exceed £ 16,190. Note: From 1st May 2009 where you are entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment ceases, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week, your children are entitled to Free School Meals, this may be extended.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- Universal Credit

From 1 April 2018, the government introduced a Universal Credit earning threshold of £7,400 per year for free school meal eligibility. This means that some families who are eligible now would not be if they apply after 1 April 2018. Also, children eligible for free school meals by 1 April 2018 will continue to receive them until at least 2022, without the need for further eligibility checks while Universal Credit is rolled out across the country.

You can apply online at

[https://emsonline.cumbria.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FCitizenPortal\\_LIVE%2F](https://emsonline.cumbria.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F)

Students who currently receive free school meals and clothing grants do not need to apply each year.

### **Term Dates 2018/19**

Term dates for 2018/19 are attached to this letter, and are also available on the school website.

It leaves me to wish you all a lovely summer and thank all of you for your support. It is by working together that we ultimately achieve the best for our students. The relationship between parents/carers and teachers is fundamental to students achieving their potential and I am very much looking forward to working with you to ensure the best outcomes for your children over the coming years.

Yours sincerely



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