

December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As a reminder the new term for students starts on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026. All students are expected to return at the normal time in full, correct uniform, fully equipped and ready for the new term. In tutor time during the final week, we will be sharing reminders to students around personal safety, online safety and how to access any support if needed during the holidays. Spotlight will be open during the holidays and the school is in contact with our colleagues there throughout the holiday.

Whether celebrating Christmas or not the holidays provide a good time to relax, spend time with family and friends and reflect upon the year and set goals for the coming year. We have provided students with their overall attendance for the academic year so far and achievement and behaviour points.

Attendance is very high on the agenda for the Department for Education and attendance is now central to Keeping Children Safe in Education. We have a target for every student to be above 95%. Missing just a few days of school can have a significant impact upon academic progress. I have stated before that our internal analysis shows that students with good attendance achieve the best GCSE and A-level outcomes.

As you are aware we have started the new school year with a new catering provider and the numbers of meals served has been significant which is really pleasing and the overall student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. A reminder that we do have a breakfast service each morning before school and students can use the library too. Our new librarian Ms Nessa is now in post and we will begin new initiatives around reading and extending subject knowledge. In the new term Ms Warren (Assistant Headteacher) will return after her maternity leave and she will be working closely with Ms Keaveny (Associate Assistant Headteacher) to create new home learning packs and revision materials. These will allow students to work more independently at home and develop greater revision skills.

We have now started tendering for the new Management Information System (MIS) and have had three companies present to the school and this will go to the Governing Body before a final decision is made in January. We will then start the plan for changeover before the end of the academic year. If you are a parent who would like to be part of the consultation, find out more and contribute to the decision around the new MIS then please do contact me at the school and we would very much appreciate your input.

I have mentioned uniform and again want to reinforce and give clarity on the expectations at Langdon Park. We believe in uniform at Langdon Park School. Good school uniform gives students a sense of belonging, a source of pride and is a sign of respect to the school community. By insisting on high standards of uniform we are preparing students to play a positive role in school, their local community and beyond. We have made a few clarifications in our uniform policy (available on the school website). These are:

- socks and/or tights should be plain and un-patterned. They should be dark grey, navy or black.
- Jilbabs must be plain navy blue, un-patterned and untextured with fitted sleeves

- In cold weather plain, dark grey, blue or black winter coats may be worn over blazers. A winter coat is one that is lined or quilted and that can be worn comfortably over a blazer. No hoodies, denim, leather jackets, gilets/body warmers, cagoules and wind breakers are permitted. Outdoor clothing must be removed before entering any of the school buildings.
- extremes of fashion must be avoided. These would include non-natural hair colouring, eyebrow slits and faded hairstyles. The school's judgement will be final in this area.
- students coming to school with incorrect uniform will be sanctioned and then lent replacement items
- students coming into school with false eyelashes, nails, heavy makeup will be required to remove them at the start of the school day

Trainers are not permitted unless there is a medical reason and this must be evidenced with a GP note. Heads of Years will be contacting families if uniform is not correct. We can of course support families with uniform if needed, so please contact us.

We have started a ban on smart phones for Year 7s and encourage all parents to consider providing your child with a smart phone before at least Year 9. This is certainly something many schools across the country have done and I am now aware of some other secondary schools in Tower Hamlets also introducing a ban. Modern technology provides a wealth of opportunity, access and communication. However, it is clear that online safety and misuse of social media does very much negatively impact upon children's well-being and mental health.

As a reminder our policy is clear mobile phones must be turned off and out of sight for the school day. If they are seen or used staff are instructed to confiscate them and parents will need to come to school the following day to collect. Parents must not contact their children on mobile phones during the day and important messages should go via the main office. We need your total support with this policy.

At this stage of the term all staff across the school are very much in need to a good rest as they have worked tirelessly and with great dedication. I do always say this that as a society we should celebrate our teachers but also our support staff, especially those that work behind the scenes. A school cannot function without the premises staff, technicians, admin staff, cleaners and I know many of you hugely value our exceptional teaching assistants. Please do if you can send them a message of thanks it goes a very long way.

I very much look forward to welcoming the staff back on the 5<sup>th</sup> January for a CPD day and the focus will be the moderation of Year 11 and 13 Pre-Public Exam papers and setting predicted grades. Year 13s have been busy with UCAS applications and we will share news of the various university offers in the new year. The on the 6<sup>th</sup> we all very much look forward to welcoming the students back for the new term.

Next term my parent surgery dates are:

22<sup>nd</sup> January at 9.00am – 10.30am – Byron Street Reception

12<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00am – 10.30am – Byron Street Reception

Finally, I hope you all have a wonderful holiday. A Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2026.

Yours sincerely  
**Mr N. Langham**  
Headteacher