

July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with important information ahead of the new academic year.

Firstly, the term ends on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** and students will be dismissed at mid-day. Over the summer holiday it is important that your child engages with learning, reading each day for at least 30 minutes and revising key subjects such as maths and science. Your child can access lesson resources on Google Classroom and at PRD we provided recommended reading and tasks to do ahead of the new academic year. All relevant information can be found on our website.

**Key dates for the new term:**

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September: Year 12 students return to school
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Year 7 students start. Parents are invited in at 2pm for a meeting with the Headteacher and we will serve tea and refreshments
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September: All students return to school
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October: Rewards Evening
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October: Progress Review Day
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October: October half term

**Student Leadership**

Last week the campaign ended for key student leadership roles and I am pleased to announce that Emaan Ali is Student President and our Year 11 Head Girl is Priscilla Olanubi and Head Boy is Harley Hines. Next term they will be presented with a special blazer before a first meeting with me, which will be a working lunch in Canary Wharf. Student voice and leadership are a key aspect of our school ethos and curriculum. Students have various opportunities to participate in shaping the future of the school and giving back to the community. This week our prefects have been supporting our new Year 7 cohort through their extended transition programme. We are the only school in Tower Hamlets that hosts an extended transition programme which was a great success mainly down to the brilliant work of the prefects.

**Summer Works and Catering Contract**

During the summer holidays we will be busy here at Langdon Park with various works taking place to improve and maintain the school site. You will be aware that currently the school is under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract which expires in 2027. The day to day running of the school site, maintenance and works are managed by G4S. We have raised concerns regarding working conditions in B Block (maths and science) on hot days and we are working to a solution and have made the case that G4S should rectify this. We are aiming to have a solution in the near future.

In September we will have a new catering company, Olive. They will be installing additional serveries plus a salad bar and we will see an improvement in the overall quality and quantity of school meals. A group of our students were part of the tendering process and they overwhelmingly selected Olive. It continues to be the mayor's promise that all school meals are free which, is a fantastic scheme. Do encourage your child to take up this offer as we want a minimum 70% uptake.

During the holidays our library will be refurbished with additional shelving, new books and study areas plus some new displays around the school.

### **School Day**

From September we have made a slight change to the school day which means that the day will now end at **3.00pm** we have slightly shortened lunch time and all lessons remain the same, students must be in school before 8.35am.

### **Home learning and Planners**

In September your child will be presented with their new planner. We have listened to some student and parent feedback and inside the layout has been changed in response to this. The expectation will be that your child will note down home learning tasks set for the week. This is in addition to a minimum of 30 minutes reading every day. We ask that you look at your child's planner and discuss their home learning with them. A reminder that the library is open each morning from 7.45am and after school. We also have Net 4 open at lunch time so students can complete study and research. Your child should be going back over prior learning which is all available on Google Classroom. In essence they always have something to do and study.

### **Uniform**

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.

### **Mobile Phones**

I have written to you previously on the matter of mobile phones and electronic devices. You would have seen much in the news regarding young people and the excessive use and reliance upon mobile phones and social media. The impact upon mental health and well-being is deeply concerning. **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.

As a school we have now taken the decision to ban smart phones for new students coming into Year 7 for the reasons stated and asking parents to think of an alternative phone rather than a smart phone. As you know I am at the DLR station on duty every morning and after school and I am frequently asking students to put away their phones as they are vulnerable to someone trying to take it. I also worry when I see students transfixed on their smart phone with head phones in therefore not concentrating on their surroundings and when crossing the road.

We encourage parents not to give your child a smart phone and instead a simpler phone on which you can contact your child out of school hours for safety reasons – which is totally understandable. We do need support with our policy and ask you to strictly monitor your child's use of the internet and social media.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Nationally the trend for attendance has dropped but at Langdon Park we have remained above the national average. Our target for every student is a minimum 96%. Students who make the best progress and achieve top grades have excellent attendance. So, by getting your child into school with attendance over 96% we guarantee they will make above expected progress and achieve great results in their public exams. It is the Department for Education Policy that we report attendance each day and the Local Authority will issue Fixed Penalty Notices accordingly. If your child is late to school they will have to sit a detention after school.

### **Enrichment Programme**

This year our data shows we have greatly increased attendance and participation in various enrichment activities. In September your child will receive the new term's programme and be expected to sign up. Again, the correlation between good attendance and participating in extra-curricular to good academic success is clear. We will have more Year 9 students starting the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and we will extend our Performing Arts offer. The enrichment programme at Langdon Park provides a variety of experiences and helps our students to be healthy both physically and mentally.

### **Parental Engagement**

I always say to parents it is important that we have a close working relationship, this is of course your community school. The staff here are fully committed to helping your child become the very best they can be. So, it is important you have a voice and work in partnership with us. That is why we are available at the gate every day and we offer various

workshops to you and my drop-in surgery. We expect every parent to attend Progress Review Days and Parents' Evenings.

There may be an occasion when you are unhappy with something or you have heard a rumour or misinformation; often the case these days with social media. I ask that you always maintain a professional and courteous approach when contacting the school and speaking with staff. I will address any matters with my colleagues in the right manner if needed. Staff that work in schools across the country are under a great deal of pressure – certainly more than I have ever seen. The staff at Langdon Park give so much to this school and I am very proud of them. Please be mindful of this at all times and do send them a note of thanks when appropriate – it goes a long way! Nationally there is a shortage of teachers and people coming into the profession. We are fortunate to be fully staffed with teachers teaching their specialised subject and in recent weeks we have attracted some fantastic new teachers to add to the many we already have here.

So, I do ask all parents to uphold school policies which are the foundation for the right and professional attitude for school and future careers. Do come and speak with us or join our parent group as we are all working with a common goal – to help your child be happy and successful.

If there are any particular workshops you wish to see or help run then please contact us we will circulate a programme in September. My Headteacher Surgeries for next term are:

- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9.00am-10.30am – Byron Street Reception
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 9.00am – 10.30am – Byron Street Reception

I will be writing to you in September with updates and to share some fantastic news and stories regarding A-level and GCSE results. This year we have moved our Reward Evening to the autumn term, so we can invite students to attend before they go off to university, the event will also celebrate achievements for students in all year groups.

Finally, may I wish you all a wonderful summer break I hope all the students have an enjoyable holiday and I very much look forward to seeing them in September.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr N. Langham**  
**Headteacher**

