

12th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: End of term and start of the new school year

End of Term

Friday 16th July will again be a non-uniform day, with student donations (suggested £1 per student) going towards the *Newham Food Bank* charity chosen by our Student Leadership Team. Please ensure that your child is wearing clothing which is appropriate for the school environment (we have shared guidelines on this with students) and that they bring their school bag and equipment as usual. Students will be dismissed to go home at 12.20pm.

Start of New Term

The new school year will start again on Wednesday 1st September, with year groups starting at the following times:

Year Group	Start Time
Year 7	10.15am
Year 8	13.00pm
Year 9	13.00pm
Year 10	12.45pm
Year 11	12.45pm

Summer School

If you have a child starting with us in September and have received an invitation for them to take part in our Summer School, please ensure you have returned your confirmed attendance form. We are really looking forward to welcoming them to SSA for two weeks in preparation for their official start in September.

Removal of Covid Restrictions

The latest government advice is signalling the complete removal of Covid-related restrictions by September. Therefore, most aspects of school organisation will return to a pre-Covid normal. Students will take two lateral flow tests when they return to school (as they did after the last lockdown), we are currently finalising our plans as to how these will

be organised, and we will update you nearer the time. Students, their families, and staff will be encouraged to continue to take two lateral flow tests per week up until the end of September when this will be reviewed.

Wednesdays start at the normal time

Following consultations with all stakeholders we have taken the decision to bring Wednesdays into line with the other days of the week. As a result, from Wednesday 8th September, school will start at 8.40am and finish at 3pm on Wednesdays.

Rewards

Following parent, students, and staff feedback, we will be relaunching our rewards system from September allowing students to earn achievement points and be rewarded based on these at points throughout the school year. More information will be shared with students and parents in September.

Uniform Expectations

You can find detailed guidance on uniform via our website (including photographs of which types of shoes are appropriate): www.stratfordschoolacademy.com/pupils/uniform

Some key points to consider when buying uniform for your child are:

- Coats must be plain back. Hoodies are not acceptable.
- Shoes should be black leather school shoes. Trainers are not acceptable. Please look at the pictures on our website for guidance and contact the school if you are unsure about which shoes to buy.

Equipment

Again, there is a comprehensive list of what students need to bring to school each day on our website: www.stratfordschoolacademy.com/pupils/expectations-and-the-way-we-do-things-here. Ensuring your child has an appropriate bag for their equipment is vital, students should also always carry a reading book with them.

Behaviour Expectations

We will recap our key expectations around behaviour with students at the start of the year. It would be helpful if parents and carers could revisit the home-school agreement and reiterate the importance of good behaviour to maintain a safe and orderly environment conducive to learning.

Key reminders are that:

- Chewing gum is not allowed in school
- Headphones are not allowed in school
- Mobile phones are only allowed to be used in the Purple Zone and outside and only during social times

New School Website

We are currently in the process of creating a new website for the school which we plan to launch in August. The web address will remain the same, but the functionality and

formatting will be much improved. One key enhancement is the provision of a translate function.

Year 11 Results

Year 11 will be able to collect their results from 8.30am on 12th August. I have written a more detailed letter to Year 11 parents and carers about this.

Food

After a recent retendering process, we have a new food provider in school, starting with us soon. Their name is Innovate. They provide delicious, visually appealing and, most of all, healthy food. When our students return in September, they will see a new-look cafeteria on both sites and our new food menu, which will also be live on the website for parents to see.

Finally

This has been another uniquely challenging year. However, the way in which students have met these challenges has been truly impressive. We know there is still much work to do to ensure all our students are reaching their potential. Year 10s, who we anticipate taking their GCSEs in the traditional format next summer, are our highest priority group and we will be providing some guidance on what they can do over the summer to maintain the momentum of their learning. However, most importantly, all students should get some rest over the summer break, along with lots of fresh air, healthy food and exercise and spend some time with their families and friends.

We look forward to welcoming them back well-refreshed and ready to learn in September. In the meantime, thank you for your continuing support of the school and have a pleasant summer.

Best wishes,



Craig Hewitt
Headteacher