



Assembly notices

Monday 11th October 2021

Reflection for the week

When you walk around London you should remind yourself of how lucky you are to live in this wonderful, great city: seeing so many different people from different backgrounds, speaking different languages and hearing their different dialects.

Watch and see the churches, mosques, synagogues, temples. Look at the new glass buildings. Notice the Georgian houses, gothic buildings, palaces, castles, tower blocks. There is every type of shop and restaurant serving food from every single country in the world.

Feel the vibrations of the trains in that underground maze beneath your feet. Watch the water pour into the miles of tunnels tens and hundreds of metres below you. London truly is an amazing city.

The London of 2021 hasn't just come to exist; it has come about because of what has happened before and because of the people that have inhabited this great city.

When you walk home from school, look at the skyline – see the blocks of flats that surround Stockwell and Brixton. Consider why they are there. All similar in design, all concrete. Scattered amongst other smaller homes and businesses.

When you cross over the River Thames, and you look along the river, consider why there are red brick factories with tall chimneys and cranes among the many new houses and flats that have been built.

When you walk along Clapham High Street or through Brixton consider why there is so much to choose from in terms of food and drink – Lebanese, Italian, Indian, Chinese, Caribbean - the list goes on and on.

When considering the buildings we see, the diverse population around us, the waterway that cuts London into two and the businesses that operate, we should remember that there is a reason for why London is and has so much diversity.

The blocks of flats that many of us will call home were most likely built in the 1950s and 1960s. A result of an emergency housing crisis that happened after the Nazis blitzed and bombed South London. The older looking houses survived the bombardment. Where the blocks of flats stand are on the graves of demolished houses devastated by World War Two.

At the end of the Second World War there were labour shortages in Britain. The government began looking towards immigrants. Many men from the West Indies had fought for the "mother country" but returned to civilian life with few opportunities. Their sense of patriotism, coupled with the need to find work, steered them towards the UK. On 22 June 1948, the Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury in London, delivering hundreds of men from the West Indies. The day marked what would become a massive change to British society - the start of mass immigration to the UK and the arrival of different cultures. From war – diversity was introduced to London. It has grown and transformed London into a multicultural hub where millions of people want to be.

London was once small but grew massively in the 1800s during the Industrial Revolution. People flocked to London from all over Britain to find work in the many businesses and factories that opened up. These factories wanted to use London because of one vitally important transport link that could move goods half way across the country and to other countries easily. The River Thames allowed businesses to trade and make money and allow the city of London to become one of the wealthiest places in the world. Many people who lived in London in the 19th century did not benefit from this wealth. They lived in poverty and caught diseases like cholera and tuberculosis because of poor hygiene, malnutrition, lack of proper sewage systems and because medicine was so expensive.

It wasn't until the Second World War that people from across the nation saw how unfit and unwell people were, when children were evacuated from their homes and separated from their families to live with foster families to protect them from the German bombs. The outrage of the nation seeing children with cracked skin, unbrushed teeth and malnutrition put huge pressure on the government to improve the welfare given to the poor.

After the Second World War the NHS was introduced and more pressure was put on schools to look after those children who didn't look cared for. From this, we still have the NHS, a welfare system and schools do a lot more than educate children. We are most certainly luckier than most other countries.

This History month we will look to celebrate the city that we live in and the people who have gone before us to allow us the opportunities we have today.

We can be forgiven for letting the business of London life get in the way of remembering that we should not take life for granted. Think about all of those around you that you care about and think of all that you are grateful for. For they are who make us who we are.

Please see the assembly notices for this week:

Senior Prefects 2021-22

Congratulations to our new Head Boy and Head Girl Team, and to our new Senior Prefect and Prefect Team. All pupils went through a rigorous application process and will now look to contribute to the running of our school:

Head Boy & Head Girls
Sihan Ahmed 11A1 (Head Girl)
 Asmaa Otmani 11A1 (Deputy Head Girl)

Reuben Bowes 11A1 (Head Boy)
 Ramey Mitchell 11A3 (Deputy Head Boy)
 Levaan Baiden 11A1 (Deputy Head Boy)

Senior Prefects

Sofia Pires 11A4
 Kaelee Daley 11A1
 Yoela Rios 11A4

Keyana Richards 11A4
 Emily Teixeira De Aveiro 11A2
 Fatama Fofonah 11A1
 Fatama Timbo 11A2
 Aryanna Jahanbani 11A2
 Honour Bailey 11A1
 Khiara Jarrin Herrera 11A3
 Chukwuebuka Olisaedu 11A1

Prefects

Melek Gulen 11A4
 Eliie Hopkins 11B1
 Tego Porcu 11A3
 Benjamin Adubofour Jnr. 11A1
 Victoria Amanda Myers Neal 11B2
 Paul Da Silva 11A4
 Thalia Aguilar Ramirez 11A4
 Victoria Amanda Myers Neal 11B2
 Nada Said 11B1
 Ondre Xavier-Foster 11B2
 Kanye Nyambe 11A3

Health and safety

Our Covid-19 Health and Safety structures continue. The partial 'bubble' system continues, meaning that you will move around the school when you have your lessons in specialist subjects, for example, Art, PE, Drama, Photography, Graphics and for Science experiments. However, you will not move for every lesson.

Please be reminded that you no longer have to wear a mask in lessons or around the school; however you may wish to do so if you feel more comfortable.

The previous lunchtime arrangements continue - this is so that you can have more space to eat your lunch and more space outside.

We are strongly insisting on the following:

- You must respect other people's space when lining up, in the corridors and in the playground.
- Be aware of what you touch – avoid touching handrails or door handles. You should sanitize your hands after touching handrails or door handles – consider this especially when using public transport
- Wash your hands regularly and properly – for at least twenty seconds – especially when arriving to school, before and after lunch and when leaving school
- Please continue to be vigilant and reflect on the seating plan of the canteen and main hall at lunchtime. Tables are in rows facing forward. This is in place purposefully as when people face each other when they eat there is a greater chance of the spread of saliva spreading involuntarily when talking or eating and hitting someone's face. This means that germs are more likely to spread. Therefore, when eating lunch you should sit forward.
- You must be mindful of your noise levels when being escorted from your classroom for an option subject, lunch or at the end of the day. Excessive noise causes anxiety for many people and it

disrupts lessons that are going on. Pupils who make excessive noise around the school will be sanctioned.

Finally, please be assured that all areas of the school will be extensively cleaned throughout the school day.

Formal Examinations

Formal examinations for years 7, 8 and 9 are this week. You should ensure that you are continually revising for these examinations.

Formal examinations for years 10 and 11 will begin on Monday 8th November 2021. You will now have received your formal examination guidance and timetables this week.

- Start you revision early – this will mean that you can spread out your revision and avoid last-minute panic
- Find a quiet place to revise – avoid listening to music with lyrics, and ideally leave your phone in another room to avoid distraction
- Have regular breaks – give yourself regular rewards for revising and give your brain a rest
- Find a revision method that works for you – active revision is important – just reading information will not help you to recall information or skills – try mind maps, mnemonics, past papers
- Test yourself – what have you been able to remember?
- Teach someone else – a parent/ carer, aunt or uncle, or even your sibling
- Look after yourself – have at least 8 or 9 hours sleep a night and ensure that you have breakfast, lunch and dinner. Try to complete at least 30 minutes of rigorous exercise a day
- Try to stay calm – if you feel as though you are panicking or if you are experiencing brain freeze – stop – focus on your breathing – slowly breathe in for 10 seconds and release for 10 seconds – get oxygen into your brain. Also, ground yourself – focus on what you can see, hear, taste, smell and feel – remind yourself of your sense experiences.

Uniform

You are reminded of uniform expectations:

You must have the correct uniform. **This includes haircuts which should be of a straight forward style – natural colour without lines or patterns. Lines cut into eyebrows are not allowed.**

Boys are not permitted to wear earrings. Girls are permitted to wear a small stud in the lobe of each ear. **No other piercings are permitted.**

Uniform includes: school blazer, school tie in house colours, formal white collar shirt, grey or black trousers (not denim), black or grey skirt for girls, black or grey socks, school shoes (not boots/ canvas shoes/ trainer style shoes).

Hair colour must be natural

For girls who wear a hijab this must be only plain dark blue, plain black, plain white or plain grey. Pupils who have breaches of school uniform will be sent home until corrected.

Taking pride in your environment

The school has spent nearly £1million over the Summer holidays on important repairs to the school building, decorating, equipment and making sure that the school is a wonderful learning atmosphere for you. Please respect all parts of the school whether it be the classroom, corridors, toilets, canteen, main hall or playground. This is your school. Look after your school.

Additionally, please be reminded that germs spread in toilets – when you use them properly and carefully, this reduces the amount of germs that can infect you.

The Local Community

Please remember to be considerate to our neighbours in the local community.

In particular you should not loiter in the area and you should go straight home after school. Please remember that you are a part of a wider community – so please be very mindful of your noise levels and behaviour in the local area. You should not be congregating in the estates unless you live there. We respect our neighbours so, therefore, if any pupil brings the name of the school into disrepute because of their anti-social behaviour in our community, they will be sanctioned with a fixed term exclusion, in line with our discipline and behaviour policy.

Punctuality to school

It is compulsory to attend school on time. This is for many reasons, but one of the main reasons is health and safety. At school we are in loco parentis – in other words we act on behalf of your parents/carers – and as such, we need to know where you are and that you are safe.

In addition, being punctual is a quality that is important in having now and in the future:

- Punctuality shows that you are organised
- It shows that you are dependable
- It reflects professionalism and attention to detail
- It shows respect for your teachers and other pupils.

Again, you are reminded that:

- All pupils in Key Stage 3 should be in school no later than 8.40am.
- All pupils in Key Stage 4 should be in school no later than 9.40am.

If you are late to school, you will be issued a Late Detention, served at lunchtime.

Booster Classes and Extra-curricular clubs

Extracurricular timetables are available in form rooms and on the school's website.

Please note that we need your parents/ carers' permission for you to attend a before or after school club. Booster clubs take precedence over extra-curricular clubs and are compulsory.

Letters for clubs can be collected from reception.

There are many clubs that you can get involved with:

- *GIRL'S FOOTBALL*
- *BOY'S FOOTBALL*
- *NETBALL*
- *BOXING FITNESS*
- *BASKETBALL*
- *TABLE TENNIS*
- *DEBATE MATE*
- *HISTORY CLUB*
- *ROBOTICS CLUB*
- *CHRISTIAN CLUB*
- *READING CLUB*
- *CCF ARMY CADETS*
- *ST JOHN AMBULANCE*
- *SCOUTS*
- *GIRL GUIDES*
- *MFL HOMEWORK CLUB*
- *STEM CLUB*

SAFEGUARDING, WELLBEING AND HEALTH

Staying safe online

- Never give out your real name to a stranger on the internet
- Never tell anyone you do not know where you go to school
- Never give out your address or telephone number to someone you do not know
- Tell an adult immediately if someone makes inappropriate suggestions, makes you feel uncomfortable online, or asks you to send something to them online, for example photographs
- If someone you do not know does any of the following – these are danger signs – you should tell your parent or carer immediately!
- If they insist on having your address or phone number
- If the person emails you pictures which make you feel uncomfortable and which you would not want to show to anyone else

- If the person wants to keep their chats with you secret
- If the person tells you that you will get in trouble if you tell an adult what has been going on
- If the person wants you to email or send pictures of yourself or use a webcam in a way which makes you feel uncomfortable
- If the person shares information with you and tells you not to tell anyone else about it
- If the person wants to meet you and tells you not to let anyone know

Cyber-bullying advice

Social media sites, including messaging apps, claim to have a zero-tolerance approach to cyber-bullying, however in a recent survey, 91% of people say that they were not satisfied with how the reports were dealt with.

All apps/ sites allow you to:

- Report abuse
- Block users.

If cyber bullying affects you speak with your parents or carers and it can be reported to the police – cyber bullying is a criminal offence. If the police were to investigate they can find the culprit pretty easily – especially as every post, message, picture or video added to the internet leaves a digital footprint – even if the person who has added the post deletes it, the post still exists somewhere. However, some things should be considered:

- It is easier for cowards to write something abusive behind a computer screen than to say it in person
- Any post that is uploaded can be shared or screenshotted and sent to anyone
- Cyber bullying is a criminal offence. A cyber bully could therefore get a criminal record
- Cyber bullies can have their accounts deleted.

E-Scooters

Electric scooters (e-scooters) are banned on our school site this academic year because:

- Of complaints from the local community about pupils riding the scooters unsafely after school
- The riding of scooters on the pavement in Clapham Road is hazardous to pedestrians
- Some pupils had been seen riding scooters while leaving the school site.

Therefore, pupils who attempt to bring e-scooters onto school site will be asked to return their scooters to their homes and return to school on foot or by public transport.

Keeping safe – stranger danger

We live in a community that is, generally, caring and supportive of each other. However, as in any part of the world there are people that we cannot trust and that we need to be wary of. Therefore, it is important that everyone – especially children and young people – is wary of strangers.

- When travelling to and from school, or even just socialising with your friends at the park or a playground:
- Be alert to what the things happening around – have the confidence to know when something is not right and be strong enough to seek help when needed
- Never approach or talk to strangers who are in cars or vans and never get into a car or van with a stranger
- Don't be afraid to say 'no' to a stranger. If a stranger makes you feel unsafe, always 'yell and tell'
- If someone makes you feel unsafe then run to a safe zone – a place where there is someone who you can trust and talk to – maybe a school, a shop, a police station or a friend's house
- Never give your name, phone number or address to a stranger – whether in person or online
- Never follow a stranger – keep your distance from them – and do not accept any gifts from them
- Look out for one another.

This week's safeguarding question...

This week's question is:

Why do you tell you to walk on the left-hand side?

This is a big school with narrow corridors. At any one time, hundreds of people may be moving around the building. In order to ensure that there is safe movement around the building we ask you to walk on the left-hand side and have yellow dividing lines on the floor to separate corridors in two.

Additionally, if you are walking in a stairwell, by keeping to the left-hand side you ensure that you will not bump into someone when turning a corner.

In short, we ask you to walk on the left to keep everyone in the school safe and free from harm.

Attitude Determines Altitude