

Friday, 17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is my last communication of the current academic year. It has certainly been a challenging few months and the strangest of experiences leading a school since March with very few students on site.

It was lovely to see our year 6 families in school last week. I know that the parents/carers found the opportunity to come in a useful one. It was also really great to see our year 9 students on site for their 1:1 meetings with their parents/carers. I know from conversations I had that they were appreciative of the time we took to arrange and carry out this event. I have to admit that I had to stop myself from saying to some of the students, "My, haven't you grown!".

I look forward to September with optimism and a sense of excitement. The new build is nearing completion and will provide a fantastic place for our staff and students to work and thrive. I am hopeful that the plans we have put in place in response to the Government guidance will enable us to return in September with there being a degree of normality, albeit with revised ways of working.

End of term details

Year 7 and 8 students are being signposted to activity-based work linked to curriculum areas and wellbeing resources for them to focus on over the holiday period. Year 9 students will now be in receipt of introductory work in English, maths and science plus materials from pathway subjects following their on-site meetings and any families who could not attend in person have received this via post. Year 12 students have been given bespoke work from their teachers to support them in being ready to begin year 13. All of our summer homework is available via our school website: <https://www.rgtrustschool.net/secondary/home-learning>

The school site will close to all students as from today and the work will begin in preparing to take over the new wing and move into the new spaces. Year 13 results' day is on Thursday 13th August and Year 12 enrolment commences on Thursday 20th August and more details on this will be available on our website <https://www.rgtrustschool.net/sixth-form/exams>

Without the efforts of the staff, who give so freely of their time to support our students, much of the work undertaken within the school could not happen. My thanks to all of them for their continued commitment to the students in our care. We say farewell to a number of colleagues who are moving on to pastures new; Mr Kwarteng, Mr Sachdev and Mr Kyranides. We wish them all well for the future and thank them all for the contributions they have made during their time here. A special mention goes to Ms Cleary who has undertaken a sterling job in being our designated safeguarding lead over a number of years. Her expertise will be a loss to us and we are very grateful for the work she has done supporting our students and their families.

Our response to the Government guidance on reopening in September

Our revised risk assessment has now been quality assured by the Trust Executive team and approved by the Trustees. We have also held briefing/consultation sessions with our staff to communicate our intentions around September reopening. Whilst there were some aspects of the risk assessment which are now redundant, there were many areas which will only require an expansion in practice or adjustment to be fit for purpose in September.

Throughout the planning process, we have endeavoured to be sensible and proportionate in our approach and, whilst we have tried to mitigate risks, we cannot necessarily remove these completely. It will be essential for every member of our school community to act in a responsible manner and be kind to each other. We will be asking parents/carers to reinforce the key messages with students so that they understand the importance of managing themselves and complying with our new habits and routines. A shared responsibility around this will be essential and I know that we can rely on your support.

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We will be releasing the update parent/carer guidance towards the end of the summer break but in the meantime, you can review our risk assessment on our school website: <https://rgtrustschool.net/about-us/coronavirus-information>

Start of term arrangements for September 2020

As previously communicated to parents/carers, we will be having a staggered start to the autumn term to allow for adequate staff INSET and student induction. All schools in Greenwich will be having two additional INSET days in order for staff to be properly trained in relation to the full return of all students.

The start of term plan is as follows:

Monday 31 st August	Tuesday 1 st September	Wednesday 2 nd September	Thursday 3 rd September	Friday 4 th September
	Staff Inset	Staff Inset	Staff Inset	Staff Inset
			Year 12 Induction	Year 12 Induction

Monday 7 th September	Tuesday 8 th September	Wednesday 9 th September	Thursday 10 th September	Friday 11 th September
Year 13 Induction	Year 7 start date (10.00am)	Year 10 Induction (10.00am – 2.00pm)	Year 8 Induction (9.00am – 12.00 noon)	All students in school
Year 12 lessons begin	Year 13 lessons begin		Year 9 Induction (12.30pm – 3.30pm)	

During their induction sessions, all students will cover core elements including:

- Habits and Routines – new ways of working
- Behaviour for Learning
- Organisation – planners/timetables/equipment/uniform
- Wellbeing
- Orientation – new build/one way systems/hand washing/unstructured time/evacuation drill

We will be having a staggered start and end to the school day which will be in operation as from Friday 11th September. This will involve students arriving on site at the designated time and using their allocated entry/exit points:

Year Group	School entry time	Dismissal Time
7	9:00 am	2:50 pm
8	9:15 am	3:00 pm
9	9:00 am	2:50 pm
10	9:15 am	3:00 pm
12	9:25 am	3:15pm
13	9:25 am	3:15pm

Students will be encouraged to walk or cycle to school if at all possible, the alternative being for parents/carers to drop them off/pick them up. The use of public transport should only be where absolutely essential. We have been contacted by TfL who have highlighted RGTS as being a school who could add an unnecessary burden to the transport system so

they have asked that we raise awareness of this with you in the hope that you will be proactive in reducing the use of buses/trains.

Students must not loiter around the school gates or within the local community and should make their way calmly and in an orderly fashion to and from school.

Preparing for the new academic year

A reminder that all students will be expected to be in full school uniform when we return in September. For a full uniform and price list please visit the uniform page on the RGTS school website

<https://www.rgtrustschool.net/secondary/uniform>

To ensure that your child can access all of their learning, the following equipment is considered essential at RGTS:

- A RGTS embroidered school bag
- A plastic water bottle
- A pencil case containing:
 - Black pen(s)
 - Red pen (s) for self-assessment
 - Pencil(s)
 - Ruler
 - Rubber
 - Sharpener
 - Highlighters
 - Coloured pens/pencils
- A scientific calculator
- A reading book

We are also recommending that parents/carers provide their child with an individual hand sanitiser and tissues to keep in their school bag. All students will be provided with a school planner which needs to be with them every day and on the desk in all lessons. PE kits only need to be brought in when there are timetabled lessons or extracurricular activities taking place. Parents and carers are reminded that it will not be simple for us to loan equipment to students. We will have pencil cases with basic items in and individual stationery items for students to purchase on the school site via the library or student services.

Communication over the summer holiday period

As stated in my previous letter, we will be continuing to review our plans over the summer and may need to amend these in line with any updates from the Government. Parents/carers are advised to check their emails and the school website for updates. We will be communicating with you all during the week 24th August to confirm exact arrangements and timings.

Our school reception staff will be on site during the holiday period so if you have any questions or requests, please contact info@rgtrustschool.net or call 020 8312 5480.

I wish you all a relaxing summer break and thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Caroline Longhurst
Headteacher