

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

As Spring now seems to be arriving, it really sinks in that we are two-thirds of the way through the school year already. **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, is our last day of term and school reopens** after the Easter break **on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** at the normal time. This Friday is also our annual Multicultural Day, which is a fantastic day each year and an opportunity to talk about and celebrate the amazing, diverse community that we have in our school. The students have been working up to this day through activities in form time – so please talk to your daughter(s) about what they have been doing and how they will be taking part on Friday. The theme for this year is about pride and unity, encouraging the students to ‘Be the World You Want to See’. Earlier this term, we sent out the spring edition of Levenshulme Life, and I hope that you have had a chance to look through that and get a flavour of all that has been going on.

Although Spring does, now, seem to be emerging we have had some very wintry weather during this term. Thank you for your support in still sending your daughters to school as we stayed open throughout the snow, even though a number of other schools closed. We are very lucky that most of our staff live quite close to school and so still manage to get here, and the site team do a fantastic job of making the grounds safe for us all when it is snowy and icy. As you know, we value attendance very highly so that our students can make the most of every day in their learning and so we make every effort possible not to shut the school.

Careers events and guidance have been a huge part of the activity in school this term. Year 10 had a fantastic week of work experience earlier this month, across a huge range of employers and types of role and they were a credit to the school while in the workplace. They have come back into school really positive and enthused by their experience. We have had a wonderful range of speakers in school giving students an insight into some of the career paths available in a range of sectors – such as publishing, health and engineering. It is really important that young people get to see that each type of industry contains a vast range of types of jobs, not just the ones that we think we know about. For example, that is a lot more in the engineering industry than hard hats and metalwork and the health sector is very much wider than doctors and nurses.

Over half of our Year 8 students took part in a great 2 day residential and outdoor activities experience earlier this term. They showed great commitment and enthusiasm, throwing themselves into each challenge and also demonstrating our values in how they supported each other when they found it hard. The girls who stayed at school took part in an Enterprise Challenge, run by our partners at the Manchester United Foundation – coming up with some fantastic ideas for merchandise for Manchester United Women’s team and showing great presentation skills at the end of the day. The Foundation also gave a group of our girls the opportunity to go on an army residential with a group of girls from Whalley Range. This was a huge, physical challenge, but the girls showed great team spirit and had a fantastic time. We are very grateful to the Foundation for the work that they do with us and the benefits that it brings to our students in many different ways.

There are now just six weeks (including the Easter break) left until the beginning of the main block of GCSE examinations for our Year 11 students – for many there also GCSE modern foreign language oral examinations, Art and Design examinations, photography and the GCSE PE practical examination before. As ever, it is a very busy time. You can help your daughter to revise by ensuring that she has a quiet space in which to study; she is eating healthily and drinking lots of water and not spending too much time on social media. A good night's sleep and regular exercise are also ways of making sure she is in the best possible physical and mental state to be able to prepare for her examinations. You can find further information on how to support your daughter with her academic studies on the parents section of our website. We are very proud of the commitment to their learning and personal development that students in every year group show, and the support that they give each other – both in academic studies and their personal development - is a wonderful feature of their solidarity and kindness.

When we return to school after Easter, please ensure that your daughter arrives promptly by 8.25 and that her uniform matches our expectations. We would ask for your support in reminding your daughter to come to school in the correct footwear – which should be plain black, including the sole. School trousers should be tailored and made of the right material, jeans and leggings are not permitted.

Coming up in the summer term we have Progress Evenings for Years 7 and 8 as well as events such as the Sports Presentation Evening – students and staff all value family attendance at school events really highly so please do come and join us wherever possible.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you to consider everyone's safety when dropping off or collecting students around the school gates as it gets very busy. Careful and courteous driving is very important to protect your daughters and show respect for local residents and the environment. Please do not bring your car onto the school site in the morning as it makes that area crowded and unsafe for students and staff. This is a good time of year, with lighter mornings and evenings, to encourage students to walk more – so if you drop off or pick up your daughter why not take this opportunity to do so further away from the school gates? Or if you live within reasonable walking distance, encourage her to walk all the way. Reducing the amount of traffic on our roads, especially around schools, will also help to make the air that our children are breathing cleaner and healthier – we know that air pollution is a growing health concern in Manchester and beyond.

Thanks for your support throughout this term, including of the charity fundraising that is such an important aspect of our school life. Each House has an adopted charity, chosen by the students, as the focus for their fundraising and inter-house competition is flourishing.

Please accept the good wishes of the staff and governors for a restful break and a happy and healthy summer term.

Yours sincerely



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Academy Headteacher



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