



Week Gone/Ahead – 10th September 2021

Centre Academy London (CAL)

Dear Parents/Carers, Students & Staff,

Welcome back

May I start with a big thank you to you all! I have really appreciated your support during these challenging times and your forbearance as I take over the position as Head of School. May I also thank Rachel Maddison for her wonderful contribution to our school and personally, answering my endless questions about how this school operates under COVID-19 restrictions.

New staff

Welcome to our new members of staff. We are delighted to have you and we look forward to working with you further.

Ms Liesl Lobo	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Senior Management Team & English teacher
Mr Nikolaos Tompros	PE & Humanities teacher
Ms Sadie Gill	English & Humanities teacher

COVID-19 guidance

During the summer holidays I went through the new government guidance. I have updated the COVID risk assessment and raised a COVID-19: Major outbreak Management Plan. The good news is that we are moving through the next phase towards “normal” school life; however, sadly, our small school community has suffered during the holidays and members of staff have lost family members and friends, including myself. In addition, some of our staff and students have contracted COVID-19 and are recuperating. I know you share our concerns about keeping everyone safe and you have concerns about the students' learning.

To do this, we need your help.

To ensure that we stay open, we ask that you test your child(ren) on a regular basis. Guidance stipulates twice a week. I would also like to test the students' mid-week now they have returned. This will be until the end of September and we can then review the situation once we have examined the infection rates. Obviously, this will be with your permission and the tests will be conducted confidentially and under strict hygiene conditions. Please continue to inform us when your child has had a test via email. We are currently creating an online form for you to report testing and I will post details of this over the next few days.

I understand that in the past parents and students have chosen not to test. I respect your decision but equally encourage you to look at the figures published both locally and nationally. Our school only has to have **5 students or staff** who have been **in close contact** and are infected to start additional measures being put in place. Our school is small. It would be very easy for us to have a major outbreak and possible closure (please no!) and revert to remote learning.

Enhancing the environment

On a more positive note, the students' return to school has brought the school alive! We have done some maintenance work during the holidays and this will continue for several months to enhance the environment and improve our provision for our students. More details to follow in the next few newsletters...

Role models

You may have noticed the class names. Has anyone spotted the connection? **Spoiler alert!** The staff chose role models the students could aspire to. These are from many diverse backgrounds that reflect our school community. Most of these role models have additional needs or faced prejudice or disadvantages in their young lives:

Benjamin Zephaniah
Freddie Mercury
Michael Phelps
Albert Einstein

Leonardo Da Vinci
Shinkichi Tajiri
Bobby Fischer
Whoopi Goldberg

During the next few weeks, each of the classes will provide a biography and discuss why these role models are important to our school community.

Neighbours

Our neighbours are fantastic and very understanding of the amount of taxis and cars that arrive outside their homes at the start and end of the day; however, they respectfully ask you not to block their access. They too need to get to work!

Uniform

If you are missing some items from your child's uniform, do check with Janice in our office if we have anything in the cupboard before you go shopping. These items are brand new and are often donations from previous parents whose children are leaving the school. I know we have ties suitable for small frame children or middle school and some trousers. We also have some jumpers and a few shirts. Not many older sizes I'm afraid.

The children have asked me about PE kit and the issues they face changing in a small school. Over the next few weeks I will consult with the Principal, staff and yourselves about alternative arrangements that respect their dignity.

Improving communication

Ms Yar, our IT specialist and myself are trying to improve communication and reduce the amount of paper we use. We aim to use as many online forms as possible (so they don't go missing in book bags and rucksacks) and improve efficiency. We also welcome constructive feedback, so please feel free to email the school on Londonschool@centreacademy.co.uk.

Finally, homework has been assigned this week and again, we hope to do this digitally by the end of term.

Have a lovely weekend. Stay safe.

Kas Lee-Douglas
Head of School