



**Friday 26 January 2024**

**Headteacher's weekly update for parents**

Dear Parents,

A big thank you to the parents that completed our recent survey. There will be an update in coming weeks about how we are using student and parent feedback to continually improve the student experience at CGA.

**Important dates for your diary**

Thursday 1 February	Year 9 Parents Evening & Guided Preference Information (4-7pm)
Wednesday 7 February	SEND Parent support meeting (5.30-6.30pm) in the LRC
12-16 February	Half Term holiday
Monday 19 February	Students return to school at 8.40am – breakfast club available from 8.15am

**Fire evacuations**

Unfortunately, this week we have had three unplanned fire evacuations. Two of these were caused by students using either an aerosol or vape on site in student toilets. Aerosols (including body spray and deodorant) and vapes are banned items at CGA. Students bringing these items in to school risk being suspended. Any students found to have deliberately set off a fire alarm will be suspended because of the significant impact this has on student safety and the disruption it causes to learning. Please ensure that your child is clear that these items are banned and must not be brought into school. As a result of these incidents, we are reviewing student access to toilets given the need to increase levels of staff supervision.

**Year 9 Parents Evening and KS4 Guided Preferences Information - Thursday 1 February – 4-7pm**

A reminder that Year 9 Parents Evening is an essential evening for both parents and students. Please confirm your attendance by consenting on the Evolve email which has been sent to you. Mr Murphy, Assistant Headteacher, will be in N04 throughout the parents evening to provide information, support and guidance on the GCSE preferences process to students and parents. This year's process will be launched on our website on 1 February, including the Jotform for GCSE subject choices. The Jotform will close on Friday 9 February. Final decisions on GCSE subject choices will be communicated to students by the end of April.

**Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January 2024**

33 Year 9 students attended the screening of My Father's Secrets at the Rio Cinema in Dalston, organised by UK Jewish Films on Wednesday as part of Holocaust remembrance. Their Head of Year, Ms Bennet, accompanied them and was incredibly proud of their behaviour throughout and their active participation in the question and answers session that took place after the film. The students thought the story behind the film was very moving, and found the animation with real historical clips inserted into it, a very effective method of storytelling. Thank you to UK Jewish Film for organising this event.

**World Hijab Day (WHD) – a message from our WHD planning group in Year 10 and 13**

CGA will be celebrating World Hijab Day on Thursday 1 February. This year's theme is 'Reclaiming the Narrative'. We will be having a special book display in the LRC, sharing a themed wall display and presenting



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Ms Anna Feltham: Headteacher

an assembly, answering questions that students may be asking about the hijab. As well as this on Thursday, we will be hosting Wear Your Favourite Hijab to School Day where students will be invited to wear their favourite head scarf to school. Those who do not observe the hijab will have the opportunity to try one on at break time in the Nightingale Hall. Throughout the week we will be collecting donations at the gates in the morning to raise money for Helping the Needy Muslim charity campaign, which aims to reduce maternity mortality rates in Asia and Africa. We also encourage parents to donate to this campaign [Honouring Our Mothers | Infant Incubators | Muslim Charity](#). You can learn more about WHD here: [World Hijab Day | Better Awareness Greater Understanding Peaceful World](#)

### **SEND parent support meeting – Wednesday 7 February (5.30-6.30pm)**

The SEND Parent Support Meeting will be an opportunity to meet other parents and share your experiences of raising children with SEND needs.

### **Kooth - free and confidential mental health support for young people**

Kooth offers self-help activities and resources as well as access to a team of mental-health practitioners that students can talk to. Kooth can also support students with immediate risk support, and advice or signposting. Access to Kooth is immediate, there is no need for a referral, and the service is available 24/7. 94% of children and young people that access Kooth would recommend it to a friend. Kooth can be accessed [here](#). Parents can find out more about Kooth [here](#).

### **Free School Meal vouchers for the February half term**

Edenred vouchers will be sent to parents on Monday 5 February. The voucher will come directly from [Noreply@edenred.co.uk](mailto:Noreply@edenred.co.uk) and will need to be redeemed in the usual way. If you have any problems accessing your vouchers, please email [cga@clapton.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:cga@clapton.hackney.sch.uk). Please remember to check spam/junk folders.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER: School Street at Clapton Girls' Academy (SS50)**

From Monday 22 January, Hackney Council introduced a School Street zone at Clapton Girls' Academy which included: Laura Place, part of Mayola Road and Almack Road. [More information, including a letter from Hackney council can be found here.](#)

### **Hackney Lunar New Year celebrations 2024 – Saturday 27 January (1-4pm) Hackney Bridge E15 2SJ [Map](#).**

Hackney's East Asian communities and culture are being celebrated in a special event at Hackney Bridge on Saturday 27 January to mark Lunar New Year 2024. The event commemorates the Year of the Dragon which begins on 10 February. The celebration will feature traditional dances and performances from Asian culture, including Lion and Dragon dances, an Umbrella dance, a Bell dance, flag rotations, plus live music, martial arts displays and a craft-making workshop for all ages. Full details can be found [here](#).

Kind regards,

**Anna Feltham**  
Headteacher