



Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College

Crownhill Road, Willesden, London, NW10 4EP

Headmistress: Mrs L McGowan, BMus(Hons) MA NPQH FRSA
Chairperson: Mr D Finnegan

Tel: 020 8965 2986
E-mail: office@ejmlc.co.uk

27th April 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

As we begin our final term of the school year, I write with some news and updates for your information.

Non Uniform Day

On Friday 4 May we are holding our final fundraising non uniform day of the year which is in aid of the Lourdes fund. All students are invited to contribute £1.00 for the privilege of wearing their own clothes that day.

American University Programme

We are very fortunate to be in the unique position of having an Oxbridge and University Mentor on our staff at the Convent. This is very rare for state funded schools. One of the recent developments led by Mr Colley who holds this role, is to work with the Fulbright Commission who offer 6th Form students the opportunity to apply to study in a university in the USA. This Autumn we will be sending two of our year 13 girls to live and study in America on fully funded scholarships and I am delighted to report that we have just been given confirmation that one of our Year 12 students has been accepted onto the Summer school programme at the prestigious Yale University in America this summer. In such a competitive world it is essential to grasp every opportunity that arises. I hope this good news will inspire some of our younger students to wish to follow in their footsteps.

Changes to the school day

From September 2018 we will be piloting a change to the lunch break which in turn will lead to the end of the school day moving from 3.20 to 3.10 pm. Currently the lunch break is 50 minutes and from September this will be reduced to 40 minutes, from 12.40 to 1.20 pm. This means that afternoon lessons will start 10 minutes earlier with period 5 at 1.20 and period 6 at 2.10 pm. Students will then move to afternoon registration at 3.00 pm and will be dismissed at 3.10 pm. It is hoped that this will lead to a more efficient running of the school. Lessons will not be affected and after school clubs and study facilities will have more time. Our Governors have agreed to pilot this for one year with a review to take place in the summer term 2019.

Term dates amendment for September 2018

At the start of the new school year in September we are holding two staff training days on Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 September. Students will return to school to start the new school year as follows:



Wednesday 5 September: new Year 7 and 6th Form only

Thursday 6 September: All year groups 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 6th Form.

The term dates for the school year 2018-19 are on the school website. Please use these when planning trips and holidays. It is essential that children are not taken out of school during term time and likely that any requests will not be authorised. We publish the term dates well in advance to assist families with planning.

Closure of the Convent entrance on Park Parade

In line with Ofsted guidelines on keeping schools safe I have taken the decision to permanently close the gate to the Convent that is located on Park Parade. Having two site entrance and exit points increases the school's vulnerability to intruders in these uncertain times and most other schools only have one entrance and exit point. From Monday 7th May all students and staff will need to use the gate on Crownhill Road as the back gate will be locked. I am aware that this may cause some inconvenience to our school community making some journeys a bit longer in walking to Crownhill Road, but where health and safety is concerned I would rather take every possible precaution to ensure our collective safety.

Uniform

I take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that we have strict rules on how we expect our students to wear their uniform. False nails are absolutely forbidden as is nail varnish. The only jewellery permitted is a watch (not a smart- watch) and one small gold or silver stud in each ear lobe; nowhere else in the ear should an earring of any kind be worn. We do not allow any other form of piercing other than the stud in the ear lobe. We require all students with longer hair to wear it tied back at all times whilst in school. The rule of thumb is that if hair is long enough to be tied back then it should be tied back.

Vacancy for a Parent Governor

Our Governing Body is a committed group of professional and lay people who are responsible for overseeing the performance and development of the school and setting our policies and procedures. It is made up of a Chair and Vice Chair and external people with a keen interest in education, a small number of staff and parents who are usually elected to join. The tenure of a governor is usually 4 years with an option to be re-appointed. We have recently welcomed a new parent to the governing body and have a vacancy for one other parent to join. I will shortly be writing to all parents to invite nominations. If we have more than one expression of interest we will hold an election. I hope that there may be parents who would be interested in this very rewarding work and will begin to think about coming forward to express interest in joining our Governing Body from September.

Finally, please note that Monday 7th May is a National public holiday for May Day and school will not be open on that day.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L McGowan
Headmistress