

22nd March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another term, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and take the opportunity to share some updates with you, as well as details of the good work that continues to take place at the academy. As you read through the information, please make a note of any important dates for your diary.

Home School Communications

We continue to build strong relationships with our parents/carers and the wider academy community. We regularly communicate with you in a number of ways including, telephone calls, letters, text messages, newsletters and across our social media channels.

With regards to the circulation of letters, whole school letters are published on our website to ensure immediate receipt and so that you can access them for future reference. We always signpost whole school letters to you via text messages. A range of letters are also posted directly to you, for example, letters informing you of parents' evenings, subject specific information and details about trips/enrichment activities.

In an emergency, e.g. in the event of a school closure, please always visit the academy website for important updates and information that may affect your child. We will always do our best to communicate with you via other methods, e.g. text message, but this may not always be possible in an emergency situation.

If you have changed your address and/or contact number, it's really important to let us know so that we have the most up to date information on file at all times. We do require all changes in writing, so please bring your details to the academy reception and speak to one of our staff who will be really pleased to help. We will also need proof of change of address.

We have also attached to this letter, a Parent/Carer Communication Cycle providing you with an overview of how we will regularly communicate with you and details about how you can stay in touch with us.

GSAS Parent Forum

We are also pleased to inform you that we are launching a Parent Forum at GSAS. The aim of the Parent Forum is to represent the views of all parents/carers and to be a voice to inform the academy of the needs of children and families. It will facilitate regular communication and consultation between parents/carers, staff, the Local Advisory Body and Trustees. The forum will provide feedback on school provision, offer a parent's perspective on current policy and practice and allow input into decision making and planning for the future.

A meeting will take place on Thursday 17th May at 5pm. Please save the date and we will send you further details and a reminder closer to the time.

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Green Spring Academy Shoreditch

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Enrichment at GSAS

As part of our commitment to delivering excellent teaching and learning inside and outside the classroom and to support your child's learning and wellbeing, I am delighted to share with you some of the fantastic enrichment activities that have taken place over the last half term.

- World Book Week celebrations encouraged students to explore the pleasure of reading through activities including 'Drop Everything and Read', sharing book-related puzzles during break time and dressing up to bring favourite book characters to life
- British Science Week celebrations included competitions, specimen drawing and photography with a scientific twist
- Pi Day challenged students to find, solve and record a range of arithmetic problems creating fun and enthusiasm for numbers
- Year 8 LGBT workshops were delivered by Diversity Role Models tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools
- International Women's Day celebrations were held to commemorate the occasion, as well as informative Tutor time activities. A video booth was established in The Street so that students could record a vox pop about a woman that inspired them and why
- Mulberry School for Girls visit took place and students heard an inspirational address by Cressida Dick CBE, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police London
- Year 7 welcomed Streetwise, an engaging road safety performance and Q&A project that raises awareness about key issues and keeping safe when walking to and from school
- Launch of the Franklin Scholars programme at GSAS providing a group of Year 10 students with the opportunity to support and mentor Year 7 students
- Year 10 public speaking workshops
- Principal Awards event celebrating scholarship grade achievements and social action contributions
- Inter Faith Week celebrated the way in which students and staff respect similarities and difference across the academy and within our communities.
- #iwill Campaign Week promoting and celebrating social action events across the academy
- Sixth Form trip to the Mulberry Annual Education Lecture at The Royal Society of Arts
- Year 11 Afternoon Tea and Sixth Form Admissions Evening
- Visits by leading companies providing Sixth Form students with new skills, careers advice and insight into the world of work

Further details about these activities and more can be found in the Latest News section of our website and/or across our social media channels.

Sports Relief Trainer Day – Friday 23rd March 2018

On Friday 23rd March 2018, Sixth Form students will be raising money in aid of Sport Relief's 'Whatever Moves You' campaign. All students can support this worthy cause by donating £1 to wear their trainers with their full school uniform.

Upcoming Easter Arrangements

Easter Holidays

The academy will close to students for the Easter holidays on **Wednesday 28th March 2018**. **Students will be dismissed from 1.30pm**. The academy will reopen on Monday 16th April 2018 from 7.30am for students who would like to have breakfast.

Year 11 and Sixth Form Intervention Sessions

There will be a range of Year 11 and Sixth Form intervention sessions taking place during the Easter break.

If your child is required to attend any sessions during this time you will receive a letter from your child's Head of Year. This will detail the times and dates your child is required to attend. **If your child has not received a letter they are not expected to be on site.**

Year 6 Easter School

Our popular Easter School for Year 6 students returns for a third year and will take place on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th April 2018. The Easter School is for students who have either secured a place at GSAS or who are considering attending the academy in September 2018. It has proved to be a very successful event, giving children the opportunity to take part in taster lessons and fun activities with a focus on learning.

On behalf of the academy I would like to wish you and your family a restful and peaceful Easter break.

Yours sincerely

Dr V Ogden
Interim CEO

Enclosed: GSAS Parent/Carer Communication Cycle

Green Spring Academy Shoreditch
Parent/Carer Communication Cycle

How we will communicate with you:

What?	How?	When?
Emergency notices, e.g. severe weather conditions	Details published on the website/social media channels. NB: Text messages may not always be possible, so please always check the website	As required
Whole school letters	Published on website. Signposted with a text message	As required
Specific letters home, e.g. trips, events etc.	Posted home. Followed by a text message when required/relevant	As required
Progress Reports	Student data report sent home	Termly (3 x per year)
Parents' Evening	Letter posted home. Face to face appointment with subject teacher	Annually
Student Newsletter	Published on website	Half termly (6 x per year)
Creative News magazine	Published on website	Bi-annually (2 x per year)
Website	Regular updates including: Latest News, Letters to Parents and GSAS Calendar	Updated regularly as required
Social media – Twitter and Facebook	News, events, reminders and useful links published regularly	Updated regularly as required
Reminders/notices, e.g. Parents' Evening reminder, late notice	Text message home	As required
New GSAS Parent Forum	Face to face meetings with parents/carers, SLT, Local Advisory Body and Trustees	Termly (3 x per year) following launch

How you can communicate with us:

What?	How?	When?
Emailing the academy	Send email to parents@gsacademyshoreditch.org.uk	As required
Calling the academy	Call 020 7920 7900	As required
Messages to teachers/tutors	Notes in student planner	As required
Queries or concerns	Contact your child's tutor in the first instance or a member of the pastoral team. Academy office staff will be able to advise on who best to contact for specific issues	As required
General views, comments and suggestions	Send email to parents@gsacademyshoreditch.org.uk	As required
Complaints	See our Complaints Policy on the website for details	As required
New GSAS Parent Forum	Face to face meetings with parents/carers, SLT, Local Advisory Body and Trustees	Termly (3 x per year) following launch