



News Update (13th Nov 2020)

Dear families

In this week’s newsletter, you can find information about what is coming up in school in the coming weeks, including the Christmas Light Project and a Key Stage 3 poetry competition. I also wanted to start with a few updates on whole school foci for next week, beginning 16th November.

Focus week: punctuality

To support students in their learning and good routines, we will be focusing particularly next week on student punctuality. All students must arrive at school in good time for registration and their lessons – tutorial periods are important to support students’ personal development and pastoral care. Students travelling by bus are finding that they need to leave extra time for traffic as the roads are currently very busy. Please make sure that your son or daughter leaves home on time to arrive at school promptly. As a reminder, here are the staggered start and finish times for each year group:

Year group	School start time	Finish time
7	8:35	3:05
8	8:35	3:05
9	8:35	3:05
10	8:50	3:25
11	8:35	3:10

6th form start and finish times have not changed, and these have been communicated by LaSWAP. If a student has a particular reason for arriving at school late, for example a pre-arranged medical appointment, it is important that you contact the school office to inform them.

Remembrance Day, Wednesday 11th November 

On Wednesday, we marked Remembrance Day with a two-minute silence at 12:10pm. Students finished their lessons a few minutes early and observed the silence in their classes, with Jack Bradford in 11B finishing the silence with *The Last Post*, played by trumpet. Students read together the lines from the Ode of Remembrance:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
 Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
 At the going down of the sun and in the morning
 We will remember them.



In a year when students have experience so much change and difficulty, it is particularly important that we pause for moments of collective reflection. Our assemblies this week have focused on the importance of remembering not just those killed in conflict but also soldiers who are wounded and need support to recover and rebuild their lives as civilians – in the past and also in the present.

Anti-bullying week

Next week is National Anti-Bullying Week, and students will be reflecting on the story of a young boy who experiences bullying, which they study in their Drama lessons. The Anti-Bullying Alliance have suggested three questions as topics for discussion around bullying, at school and at home:

Are you an upstander or a bystander?

Do you stand *up* to bullying or do you just stand *by* and let it happen?

How can you stand up to the bullies if you know someone is getting bullied?



To mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week, we will be taking part in the national Odd Socks Day, celebrating what makes each of us unique and without judgement. For more details, please look at the Anti-Bullying Alliance website: <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>

Coronavirus: the importance of continuing to protect each other

Attached to this newsletter is the Camden Council Information leaflet about coronavirus. There are three important things that we are asking you to do so that we can all continue to protect each other:

- Ensure that if a student or anyone in the household has symptoms of coronavirus, the household stays at home and gets tested. [This guidance is helpful](#).
- All students come to school with a mask, as it is now the law that masks are worn in schools in indoor communal areas.
- That students have warm clothing so that we can keep windows open in classrooms. This should include a school jumper rather than a hoodie or branded sweatshirt: please see the uniform information [on our website](#). PE kit must only be worn on days when a student has PE.

Yours sincerely

Izzy Jones



Clairey Özkaya
Engagement Communications & Development



Outdoor Learning &
Participation Lead

YEARS 7 & 8 CHRISTMAS LIGHT PROJECT

As our evenings are getting darker, and given we are all coming to school during such exceptional times we have decided to add some sparkle to the timetable for years 7 and 8 by starting our traditional seasonal Light Project lessons next week!

Our Year 7 lesson is delivered in RE and focuses on 'festivals of light' that take place at different times of year across many diverse faiths. The boys also spend some time in the lesson reflecting upon the 'value and beauty' of mistakes and how we can all learn from them.

Our Year 8 lesson is delivered in Science where the theme is based on the concept of 'light as knowledge'. The boys spend time in the lesson learning about two distinct types of thinking, 'creative thinking' and 'critical thinking'. We explore what creative thinking is and when we might use it, with an emphasis upon creative thinking and problem solving across the curriculum. We also examine and explore the vital importance of 'critical thinking' and what skills we need to employ to verify facts and information that we get from social media and the internet.

The work the boys produce in the lessons is then put together and displayed in the exhibition space outside the hall. Here are some photos of last years' exhibition. Watch this space for more photos of the lovely work that will Make up the exhibition this year!







ANNUAL POETRY COMPETITION

Our Annual Poetry House Competition has now been launched! This year's theme is 'vision' and is all about seeing things like a poet. Once a week in morning registration the boys are reading a poem and looking at the meaning and structure of how it is written, as well as beginning to write their own entries for the competition. We have also spent some time reflecting on how the medium of poetry can be both a comfort and a way of expressing our feelings in unusual times.

So please encourage your sons to get writing! And share with them any of your own favourite poems that have meant something to you.

The rules:

Very few really – because poetry is so diverse and adaptable, you might end up with anything from 10 words to 100!

- Appropriate language only – of course!
- It doesn't have to rhyme
- Remember to write your name and form on your poem.
- Winners for each house will receive house points, a certificate of achievement, their work published around the school and an edible prize!!