



5<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **National Lockdown**

As you will have heard yesterday evening, the Prime Minister has made the decision to move to a national lockdown following the spread of the new virulent COVID19 strand. All schools and colleges in England have been instructed once more to close their doors to students and teachers, save for vulnerable students and children of key workers. All learning will take place online for the remainder of this half term. I know you share my disappointment at having to be in this position again given how hard we have worked to keep the school open, but with the pressure on the NHS and the rise in COVID19 cases it seems rather inevitable that we are in this position. Please be assured, we have been planning for this eventuality and we are now extremely adept at switching from face to face teaching to remote learning, especially after our experiences last academic year. We are fortunate to have the technology, the good will of teachers, resources and the collective efficacy to maintain the academic rigour and broad offer we provide.

The school timetable for the remainder of this half term is as follows:

<b>Lesson Period</b>	<b>Lesson Duration</b>
Period 1	8:30am-9:30am
Period 2	9:30am-10:30am
Morning Break	10:30am-10:50am
Period 3	10:50am-11:50am
Period 4	11:50am-12:50pm
1-2-1 Sessions Only - No Form Time	12:50pm-1:10pm
Period 5	2:00pm-3:00pm

Form Time and Ignite will be postponed until further notice and all Oxbridge Supervisions will not commence until we are back in school, however the Oxbridge team will be running remote sessions to provide students with the experience necessary to make a strong application next academic year. We will continue to make available remote learning opportunities as part of our Emerging Talent Programme and the NCSMedSchool will also continue to support our aspiring medics and dentists. Students should continue to participate in as many remote learning opportunities as possible as it will be extremely impressive if despite the lockdown students were embellishing their CVs with a rich array of relevant experiences.

The news yesterday may have given Y13 students the false sense that examinations have been cancelled altogether, we are yet to receive formal confirmation from the Secretary of State for education on this matter. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and provide further updates once we receive additional information and guidance. I appreciate it may come as disappointing news that summer exams will not go ahead as initially planned, but there is likely to be some form assessment and, in any event, if it is a return to Centre Assessed Grades there will be sufficient time to carry out Final Mock exams, the results of which will inform our decision on the grades to award each student for their subjects. Students must continue to engage fully with their learning, attending all lessons and participating as we would expect Y13s to do in their final year of study. Similarly, Y12 students must not switch off as they will have End of Year Exams which will decide their predicted UCAS grades and unless students score highly in their summer exams we will not predict A/A\* grades which will limit their ability to apply to the very best universities in the country. Strong attendance and punctuality to all lessons is extremely important and our Attendance Officer will monitor student attendance during the lockdown.

| Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre | 326 Barking Road | London | E6 2BB |



## Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre

A specialist centre for Science and Mathematics

Principal: Mr Mouhssin Ismail, LLB LLM

Students who have poor attendance and punctuality to remote lessons risk losing their place at the NCS.

Students continue to have access to their teachers and our wider pastoral team. They should inform their teachers, Heads of Year, Ms Markoulides (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Ms Lomax, Vice Principal (Designated Safeguarding Lead) if they have any concerns during the lockdown. It is important students continue to have a routine and keeping the school timetable as normal as possible will help with the structure needed during this period. Students should embrace and take advantage of all the opportunities that will be available through the virtual learning platform on Teams and to maintain a positive and optimistic mindset. Their hard work and dedication today will pay dividends in the future and it's paramount that we collectively encourage and motivate our young people during this period. Unlike March 2020, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and if students can hold on to this hope and put in the necessary commitment needed they will reap the benefits and maintain their competitive advantage once we make it through.

I would strongly encourage all families to follow the current public health guidelines to ensure we mitigate the spread COVID19 which will quicken the process of bringing the R rate down as well as reducing the pressure on our valued NHS.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

**Mr. M Ismail**