Forest Gate Community School

Forest Lane,
Forest Gate,
London, E7 9BB
Tel: 020 8534 8666
Fax: 020 8519 8702
email: info@forestgate.newham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Simon Elliott

20th May 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Exam season is upon us and our Year 11 students are in the throes of exams. Please keep them in your thoughts and if you have a child in Year 11 please support them all that you can during this pressurised time. For revision tips and exam news please check our website and social media pages (Twitter@FGCSinfo; Facebook: Forest Gate Community School).

Key Dates – Summer 2

Monday 1st June	Test Fortnight Starts
Wednesday 3rd June	**Year 8 Parents' Evening (4.30 – 7pm)**
Wednesday 10th – Thursday 11th June	Year 9 Art & Design Exam
Friday 12th June	Sports Day – Lee Valley Sports Centre
Wednesday 17th June	Year 7 Geography Field Trip to Brighton (FORE)
Thursday 18th June	Year 7 Geography Field Trip to Brighton (STGA)
Thursday 18th – Friday 19th June	Year 6 Interview Days
Thursday 25th – Friday 26th June	Transition Day for new Year 7
Thursday 29th – Friday 30th June	Year 9 Art Preliminary Exam
Wednesday 1st July	**Year 10 Parents' Information Evening – Preparing for Year 11 (5.30 – 7pm)**
Thursday 2nd – Friday 3rd July	Year 9 Art Preliminary Exam
Friday 3rd July	**Music on a Summer's Evening – Hornbeam Hall (4 – 5 pm)**
Tuesday 6th – Wednesday 7th July	Year 10 Art Preliminary Exam
Wednesday 8th July	**Year 7 Parents' Evening (4.30 – 7pm)**
Wednesday 15th July	**Awards Evening (6 – 7pm)**
Thursday 16th July	Last day of term. Early Finish 12 noon. Non-Uniform Day

Year 11 Exams

Exam timetables and arrangements have been shared with students. Please put the dates somewhere in the house where the whole family can see them and support your Year 11 student in being prepared and on time.
Please encourage our child to take advantage of our free breakfast and designated study area from 8:45 am each morning.

Exam Revision

Year 11 students are invited to make the most of our designated study zone in the Hornbeam hall each day between 7:30am and 8:30am and 3:30pm and 4:30pm. This is a place for quiet independent study which will be supervised by senior members of staff. There is also a study zone at the school each Saturday between 9 am and 12.30pm. Please encourage your child to attend.

Sports Day

Sports day this year is on Friday 12th June. Students should come to school as normal with a packed lunch (unless they are free school meals). This should include plenty of water. Students should be dressed in their school PE kits and will not be permitted to take part without it. Buses will be provided to take students to Lee Valley Stadium. They will return to school around 3:30. Please allow for any traffic delays. All information regarding delays will be placed on our school website.

Music on a Summer's Evening

This will take place in the Hornbeam Hall between 4pm and 5pm on Friday 3rd July. Please come along and listen to some wonderful music by our talented students and staff. Tickets are available from Ms Noble at the price of £2 for adults and £1 for staff. Refreshments and cakes will be available for a small price. All money raised will go towards the school's chosen charity for next academic year - The British Heart Foundation.

Charities Week

This will take place on the final week of the summer term. Students can bring in small amounts of money and join in fun events to raise money for Richard House Hospice.

The school also successfully raised £100.60 towards the British Legion in our poppy appeal. Well done to all who contributed.

Healthy Eating

In our on-going commitment to healthy eating, all year groups have had an assembly on the topic with information about the realities of processed food. As parents, please help your child's health by supporting the school in the following ways:

- Using online payments to make sure your child receives a nutritionally balanced lunch in the school canteen. One pot meals are also being served at break time.
- If you decide to provide a packed lunch, please include fruit and vegetables.
- Providing your child with a water bottle for fresh clean water each day.
- Limiting your child's access to sweets, crisps and sugar - filled drinks. Perhaps one day a week, your child could have a treat.
- Stopping access to unhealthy takeaways after school. Do you know what your child is having?
-

Please apply online to see if your child is entitled to free school meals. Contact the school if you would like some support with this. cynthia.quarshie@forestgate.newham.sch.uk

Safeguarding Workshops

In our commitment to keeping children safe, we arranged workshops for some students in Years 7, 8 and 9. The topic was abuse with a focus on female genital mutilation and its harmful effects.

The sessions were led by Alimatu Dimonekene, herself a survivor of FGM and our students were engaged throughout. Further help and guidance on the subject can be found on the NSPCC website.

Many parents attended our Parents' Information Evening on **'Keeping Children Safe Online'** which was delivered by outside facilitators ECP limited. Some comments from parents were 'I can't believe there are so many dangers out there' and 'We will spread the word. Every parent should attend this'. Watch this space for our next date.

Attendance

It is expected that all children attend school every day, unless there is a serious illness. Please contact the school if your child is ill in the morning of their absence. If your child is absent more than three days in a row, you will be

contacted by the school and may also be a home visit. Please contact your child's Head of Learning, if you need support with getting your child to school on time.

Year 10 Parents' Information Evening – Preparing for Year 11 (5.30 – 7pm) - Wednesday 1st July

As one set of students take their GCSEs, we look to the next year and how we can work together to support our Year 10s. Year 10s and their parents are invited to this information evening to find out more about study support, exam skills sessions after school, preliminary exams and controlled assessments. Please attend.

Uniform

Please remember ALL students should be in the new school uniform in September 2015. Please pay close attention to our uniform rules which can be found in your child's planner and also on our website. All students **must** have a blazer. Jumpers are optional and should not replace the blazer. All religious items of dress **must** be black. Our uniform supplier is Fashion Stop, 238 High Street North, East Ham , London E6 2HT

Email Addresses

We would like to improve our communication with parents. One way we will do this is by emailing out key information such as this letter as well as other individual reports for your child. From September all payments such as payments for trips and dinner money will be made online.

Please send an email from your preferred account to info@forestgate.newham.sch.uk. Include your child's name and form and we will add you to our mailing database.

If you would like help setting up an email address, please contact the school and ask for Cynthia Quarshie. You could also come to one of our Thursday coffee mornings between 8:30 and 9:30am.

Thursday Coffee Mornings

Please come to our school café on any Thursday Morning between 8:30 and 9:30 and enjoy a free tasty beverage with staff and other parents. These are informal sessions where you can get to know the school better. Each week will have a different focus including Literacy, Homework and Assessment. The programme is available on our website. Please come to our launch event on **Thursday 4th June** which is a special 'Meet the Head teacher' session with Simon Elliott.

If you have any suggestions about how we can improve communication with parents, or any other aspect of the school please email info@forestgate.newham.sch.uk or contact Office Manager Heather Allen who will pass the comments on to a member of the Leadership Group.

Kind Regards

Charlotte Whelan
Deputy Headteacher

Term dates 2015-2016

Autumn 2015

- School term: Tuesday 1 September 2015 to Friday 23 October 2015
- Half term: Monday 26 October 2015 to Friday 30 October 2015
- Christmas break: Monday 21 December 2015 to Friday 1 January 2016
- School closed to students on 1st and 2nd of September 2015.
- School closed to students: Wednesday 23rd September

Spring 2016

- School term: Monday 4 January 2016 to Friday 12 February 2016
- Half term: Monday 15 February 2016 to Friday 19 February 2016
- School term: Monday 22 February 2016 to Thursday 24 March 2016
- Spring break: Friday 25 March 2016 to Friday 8 April 2016

Summer 2016

- School term: Monday 11 April 2016 to Friday 27 May 2016
- May Day: Monday 2 May 2016
- Half term: Monday 30 May 2016 to Friday 3 June 2016
- School term: Monday 6 June 2016 to Friday 15th July 2016
- School closed for Eid-Ul-Fitr: Thursday 7 July 2016