



To stand on the shoulders of giants

Monday, 17 August 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I look forward to fully reopening East London Science School in September, we must reflect on how the challenges brought about by adversity have provided many new and exciting opportunities for pupils and staff alike. It has been reassuring to meet so many of our pupils over the course of the last few weeks of term and hear how they have adapted so well to such a difficult situation. I am grateful for the numerous messages of gratitude that many of you have sent to the school to acknowledge the support that you and your child have received from the staff at ELSS during this difficult period.

Our pupils have experienced significant disruption to their normal pattern of learning as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown. However, I am proud that at ELSS, our fantastic and adaptable staff were able to minimise the impact on our pupil's education by swiftly developing a first class online learning platform that has been able to effectively deliver our rigorous curriculum through the delivery of zoom lessons, regular assignments, tests and exams. I have also been delighted that we have also been able to support over 50 families through our skeleton school provision. I am confident that pupils at East London Science School have not been disadvantaged throughout this period, and I am certain that they will be ahead of their contemporaries from other local schools.

As we look forward to the start of the 2020/21 academic year in September, I want to assure you that we have put in place robust measures that ensure all of our children and staff are kept safe, whilst minimising the disruption to pupils' learning. It is imperative that we return to a school that prioritises high quality face-to-face teaching as the most effective way for pupils to learn. Over the course of lockdown, my team have been studying the incidences of Covid-19 in the surrounding area. Currently, the number of local infections is extremely low, providing each and every pupil with the opportunity to return to school safely.

In order to fully reopen safely in September, I have had to make a number of decisions and implemented a number of control measures that you will need to be aware of. In addition to our enhanced cleaning regime and increase in hand sanitising, some of the most important temporary changes include:

- No offsite sport until January 2021 at the earliest
- No enrichment trips until January 2021 at the earliest
- Year 7 and 8 compulsory clubs/sports/ intervention running every day at Clock Mill from 14.20-15.20
- Whole school Prep switching to homework using our online Teams platform
- In place of Sport, pupils in year 9/10/11 will have two morning periods per week at home, and will then be expected in school before the start of P3 (timetables will be live on Teams on the 28th August)
- In place of Enrichment, pupils in years 9/10/11 will have two afternoon periods at home, finishing the one day a week at 13.20 (timetables will be live on Teams on the 28th August)
- Year 7/8 school day finishes at 15.20 every day



To stand on the shoulders of giants

As you may be aware, the guidance from the Department of Education makes it clear that staff and pupils are not required to wear face masks on the school site. Pupils will be asked to remove masks when they enter the building.

A full risk assessment will be available before reopening on our website. Please take time to read it and if you have questions or feedback, email our Vice Principal Paul Cornish paul.cornish@eastlondonscienceschool.co.uk

One of the most difficult to predict aspects of our return to school is that of transport, in particular the situation with TfL. I will be keeping a close eye on the updated information regarding our local transport networks and will provide guidance to parents and pupils once we open in September.

Please see the table below summarising our arrangements for the first week of term:

Date	Year Group	Start Time
Monday 31 st August	Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 1st September	Year 7	Clock Mill open from 8am Registration at 8.30am. Day finishes at 3.20pm
	Years 10 and 11	Individual interviews with HoY
Wednesday 2nd September	Years 7-10	School buildings open at 8am. Registration at 8.30am. 7 and 8 dismissed at 3.20pm, Years 9 and 10 dismissed at 4.20pm
	Year 11	Arrive at Lock Keepers for an 11am start. Year 11 dismissed at 4.20pm.

Pupils will be expected to arrive in full uniform on the first day of term (including those pupils in interviews). You will be instructed when sports kit will be required.

I am really looking forward to seeing all of our pupils back in person and I hope we can make this a brilliant year for every one of you.

Yours sincerely,

David Perks
Principal
East London Science School
david.perks@eastlondonscienceschool.co.uk
Tel: 0208 981 2680