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## Dear Parents and Carers

A belated welcome back to everybody after the half term break. As ever, we have started the second part of the Spring term with lots going on and with lots of successes. Currently, KS4 students are working extremely hard on the latest round of PPEs and continue to make great progress, while our KS3 students have been as busy as ever with a whole range of lessons and activities, including, in case you missed it, rocket car racing! Some of our Post 16 students finally made it to Berlin last week after their trip had to be postponed as a result of Storm Ciara, while the rest have been busy studying and taking part in trips closer to home.

At the beginning of February, we were delighted that the official Department for Education performance tables confirmed our position as being in the top 4% of schools for progress. We were particularly thrilled with our Maths and English results which are in the top 1% for student progress. More detail is on our website at <https://www.greenford.ealing.sch.uk/examresults>. We are equally thrilled that 4 of our students in the 6th form have been offered places at Oxford or Cambridge this year and many more have offers from Russell Group universities.

Other recent highlights include the wonderful Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition which we hosted this year. With Ealing's mayor in attendance, along with James Murray, MP, last year's winner, our very own Victory Kyeremeh was the MC for the evening and our students did a fantastic job with their public speaking. We were all very proud of everybody who took part. During the same week, we also held our annual Spelling Bee competition. Greenford did extremely well just missing out on the top spot to Cardinal Wiseman. At one point, everybody was spelling so brilliantly that I thought I was going to run out of words to test them on! Since Christmas we have run a whole range of trips and visits including Belsen in Germany to learn about the Holocaust, Cambridge University, The Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Cervantes Theatre, St Paul's Cathedral and of course Berlin. Throughout, your children have been a credit, as always, to the school and it has been a great source of pride to me to hear about how well they are all doing.

## Coronavirus

I hope that you have read the letter sent out last week with your child, which is also available on our website. Please take note of the government guidance which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public#advice-for-travellers>, and follow the advice, particularly if you have just returned from overseas travel. We have no cause for alarm here at Greenford, but obviously need to exercise vigilance like any other organisation.



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### **Safety on the way to school**

We have become aware of a number of students frequenting the petrol station before and after school. We have stepped up our patrols in this area, but can you please support us in reinforcing to your child that the petrol station is not a safe place to be playing or congregating.

A number of students are arriving at school by bicycle without a helmet and in the rush hour traffic along the Lady Margaret Road and Ruislip Road, we are concerned for their safety. Please encourage your child to wear a helmet.

Finally, we would ask that electric scooters are not used as a form of transport to school. Again, they are dangerous to use in the morning and afternoon rush hours and we do not have the means to store them safely in school.

### **Preparing for Examinations**

Many of our students including Year 9, 10, 11 and 13 will be starting to prepare for public examinations. This can be an anxious time with some students becoming overly anxious about revision. Firstly, please rest assured that all students are being very well prepared for their examinations here in school, with expert teachers who have taken hundreds of students through examinations in the past. However, there are many things that students can do at home to improve their chance at success. Some key tips for revision are outlined below:

- Revise little and often - 40 minutes of focused revision is better than 3 hours with multiple distractions.
- Revise in chunks with clear breaks.
- Once you have revised something, retest yourself an hour later, a day later and then a week later.
- Think visually and revise actively as much as possible. Never just read through notes - always try to turn them into a revision card, a mindmap or a set of questions to ask someone else.
- Minimise distractions. Don't revise with a phone next to you, try to work in a room away from family noise and never revise in the same room as a gaming console.
- Get a good night's sleep, eat well and drink plenty of water.

### **Staying Mentally Healthy**

Although we all want our children to do well, it's important that they recognise it isn't the end of the world if they don't do well in an exam. During the run up to exams, if your child becomes anxious, try to ensure that he or she sees the 'bigger picture'; that exams, although important, are only one indicator of their success in life. If revision leads to too much anxiety, make sure that you create opportunities for time outside in the fresh air, for time together with family, some time socialising with friends and some time simply relaxing. If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing over the coming weeks and months, please contact his or her Year Leader who will be able to offer support.

### **Raising Achievement Day**

On the 3rd April, we will run our annual Raising Achievement Day where school will not be open as normal and students will instead have an individual appointment with their form tutor to discuss progress. Students will all be issued with an appointment time via their form tutor.

### Dates coming up

I have attached a list of key dates for this half term along with term dates at the end of this letter. Please familiarise yourself with the events taking place over the coming weeks.

Wishing you and your family the very best over the coming weeks,



Mrs M Pye  
Headteacher

Thursday 12th March 2020	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Thursday 12th March 2020	Year 13 Concerns Evening (by invitation only)
Tuesday 24th March 2020	Media Awards Evening
Wednesday 1st April 2020	School Concert
Friday 3rd April 2020	Raising Achievement Day
Monday 6th April 2020	Start of Easter holiday
Monday 20th April 2020	Summer term begins
Friday 8th May 2020	VE Day - this replaces the normal bank holiday Monday of 4th May
Monday 25th May 2020	Start of half term break



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