



Sir John Cass's Foundation and Red Coat CofE Secondary School & Sixth Form College

We will achieve excellence and inspire generations the Cass way

Headteacher: Mr P. Woods

February 2019

Dear parents and carers,

We are coming up to the half-way point of the school year with our half term holiday next week. For our Year 11 and 13 students this means the start date for their examinations can now be counted in weeks and the need to be focused and working hard is never more important. After half term Year 11 will be undertaking further practice tests in their core subjects. They will not, however, be alone as in March Year 7 students will also be sitting examinations. Other year groups will follow.

Shisha pens or electronic cigarettes

As you will no doubt appreciate, the safety of all students is my ultimate priority. You will be aware that the use of 'shisha pens' or electronic cigarettes has become increasingly prevalent in society generally. I would like to remind you that it is illegal for a child under the age of 18 to be able to buy these items. I have become aware that some shops in the local area are selling unregulated oils for use with these e-cigarettes. Smoking such oils through these 'pens' can pose a serious health and safety risk. I have notified the police of my concerns.

Given this, I am urging you to be vigilant at home. Whilst smoking tobacco through these pens is sometimes seen as an alternative to cigarette smoking, using oils through such pens can be very harmful in the short and long term. I have spoken on several occasions to students of the dangers of accepting or buying items such as shisha pens and unregulated oils. These items are banned from the school. Students found in possession of unregulated oils for use in an electronic cigarette will be dealt with in accordance to our behaviour policy and drug misuse policy. Such an infringement of these policies could lead to a student losing their place at Sir John Cass Red Coat School. These policies can be found on the school's website.

Planners, homework and independent learning resources

Parents are reminded that students should be completing homework every day. Students in KS3 should be spending 60-90 minutes on homework daily. In KS4 this should be two hours, and KS5 three hours. Homework is recorded in students' planners. Planners should be signed by parents every week.

If your child finishes their homework with time to spare, there are a number of independent learning resources you can access. Guides for each subject are given www.sjcr.net/for-students/school-information/independent-learning-resources

Safer Internet Day

Technology and the ability to use the internet are key parts of modern life, but awareness of the risks and how to avoid them are essential. Consequently, students in Years 7-9 have all had lessons this half term to mark Safer Internet Day. The 2019 theme has been "Together for a better internet" and students in Sir John Cass Red Coat have worked on issues ranging from cyberbullying to critical thinking and fact checking. Please visit our website and social media feeds for parental advice and ideas for conversation starters to ensure that your children are using technology safely.

Year 9 Parents' Evening + Year 9 Options 2019

I would like to remind parents of students in Year 9 that their Options Evening will take place on Monday 11th March. At this event all subjects will be represented by members of staff who will provide information about the curriculum studied in each area and will offer guidance on how to approach selecting courses for further study. Full details regarding timings will be sent out after the half term break.

Parent Survey Results

At the Academic Review Day on 8th January we asked parents to complete a survey covering a range of issues. The feedback we receive is important to us and helps to shape future planning. The results of the survey can be found on the school website – www.sjcr.net.

Key Events for this term

All dates can be found on the school website; however below are key events coming up. Please check our website and social media feeds for regular updates on events.

Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 18 th February – Friday 22 nd February
Year 12 Parents' Evening	Thursday 28 th February
Year 11 examinations	From Monday 4 th March
World Book Day	Thursday 7 th March
Year 9 Options Evening	Monday 11 th March
Year 7 examinations	From Monday 18 th March
Year 10 Parents' Evening	Thursday 21 st March
Year 8 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 2 nd April

Sports events

I would like to congratulate a number of our students for recent achievements in sports. The U13 girls' football team beat Central Foundation School 5-3; the girls' athletics team came 3rd in the Tower Hamlets Sports Hall Athletics Championships; and the Year 7 boys' badminton team beat Stepney Green School 12-9. Please encourage your child to take part in enrichment activities as the benefits are considerable. The programme of clubs on offer for this term can be found on the school website.

This is a busy time of year for all of us, however I would like to highlight that after half term on Wednesday 6th March Lent will commence. Lent calls us to slow down, to take time to reflect, to pray and to take a good look at our lives and how we are living them. With this in mind, I would like to wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Woods
Headteacher