



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

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Dear parents / guardians,

We have reached the half-way point of the school year with our spring half term holiday coming up next week. For our Year 11 and 13 students this means the start date for their GCSEs can now be counted in weeks and the need to keep focused and working hard is never more important. After half term Year 11 will be undertaking further practice examinations in their core subjects. They will not, however, be alone as in March Year 8 students will also be sitting their annual examinations. Other year groups will follow.

Lent

During half term 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. This period of Christian prayer and fasting will be marked at Sir John Cass Red Coat with assemblies delivered by the Reverend Trevor Critchlow, Rector from St Dunstan and All Saints Stepney and governor of our school. In addition, our Pancake Day is on Friday 9th February for all who wish to participate.

Key Events for this term

You can find all dates on the school website; however below are some of the key events coming up next term. Please check our website and social media feeds for updates.

Spring Term

Coffee Morning	Thursday 22 nd February 2018
Year 9 Options Evening	Thursday 1 st March 2018
Year 12 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 14 th March 2018
Last day of Spring Term	Thursday 29 th March 2018

Extra-Curricular Activities:

We strongly believe in encouraging our students to join in extra-curricular activities as part of their school experience. At Sir John Cass Red Coat there are opportunities for students to take part in a wide range of activities during the day as well as visits out of school. I am always grateful to our staff for their willingness to organise and lead such a large number of activities for our students throughout the year, often out of school hours. Just in the past few weeks we have had students taking part in sports and debate competitions, lessons in Korean, a visit to the Imperial War Museum and many more. Our lunchtime and after school activities and clubs for the spring term can be found on the school website for your information. Please encourage your child to participate.

Charity Week – 26-29th March

The Sixth Form Charity Committee is planning activities for this year's charity week which will take place at the end of term in March. There will be a variety of activities during the week. Full details will be shared closer to the time as well as information on how we intend to support Sports Relief on Friday 23rd March.

Bromley Street – One Way System:

We have been informed by the Council that after half term Bromley Street will become a one way road. Traffic access to the Bromley Street gate and the Sixth Form entrance will be via Stepney Way only i.e. traffic will not be able to turn into Bromley Street from Commercial Road.

Safer Internet Day

Students in Years 7-9 have all had lessons this half term to mark Safer Internet Day. The 2018 theme has been "*Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you*" and students in Sir John Cass Red Coat have worked on issues ranging from cyberbullying to critical thinking and fact checking. All year groups have also watched videos during tutor time to highlight online safety. Please visit our website for parental advice to ensure that your children are using technology safely.

SJCR Social Media

As usual, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the Sir John Cass Red Coat social media accounts provide regular updates and useful information. These can be found @SJCRschool on Twitter and Facebook. Also, if you have provided us with your email address, we will send you our weekly E-Bulletin for parents.

The coming half term will be particularly busy for students preparing for examinations and before we know it the forty days of Lent will have passed and it will be Easter. I would like to thank you for your support and I will be writing again before the end of term.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Woods
Headteacher