

Re: SUMMER TERM UPDATES

Dear families,

At last the sun is shining! I hope that you all managed to enjoy the warm weather over the half term break.

This communication contains a number of important updates – please keep it handy.

Face coverings

We will continue to ask pupils to wear face coverings in the school's main building. Recent data releases from Public Health England have pointed to Covid outbreaks in schools reaching their highest levels since December 2020. We are erring on the side of caution whilst we wait for more up-to-date information from the government.

Wearing a face covering in hot weather can be particularly bothersome for young people so we would appreciate your support in helping our pupils in Year 7 to 9 understand why we have decided to continue with this requirement.

I would like to take this moment to remind you that if your child has a high temperature, a loss of taste/smell or a new continuous cough, you must not send them into school. Please arrange for your child to be tested for Covid19.

Enrichment at Leytonstone

We really want to reignite pupils' love of learning and engagement with school and so over the next few weeks we will be organising creative and enriching activities for all pupils at the school. It has been a hard year, particularly for pupils in Years 7 to 9 who have not had the opportunity to engage meaningfully with our practical curricula.

This will be a great way of preparing pupils for what we hope is a return to normal in September.

You will receive more information about our exciting plans shortly.

Making changes at Leytonstone School for 2021-22

Many thanks to those of you who contributed to our consultation about the shape and organisation of the school day from September 2021.

Please see a breakdown of the views shared below.

Question 1: What are your thoughts about the school permanently embedding staggered breaks and lunches?

82% of respondents were in favour of this proposal. Some of the concerns raised included needing to ensure that pupils from all year groups were permitted to mix again at break and lunchtimes as a way of younger pupils seeing positive behaviours modelled by older pupils. Other concerns raised involved whether a later lunch was appropriate for pupils in key stage 3 and how staff can be supported in not forgetting to take their lunch breaks.

School response:

The plans for staggered breaks and lunches will move ahead.

- Pupils in key stage 3 will have access to healthier and more substantial snacks at their break time (11:50am).
- There will be more pupil mixing at break and lunch times.
- The school bell will be reconfigured to clearly sound the start of break/lunch. Staff will be discouraged from arranging meetings at lunchtime unless absolutely necessary.

Question 2: What are your thoughts about the school permanently embedding the use of three areas for entry to and exit from the school site?

94% of respondents were in favour of this proposal. Comments were made about the impact of this proposal on the duty rota for the senior leadership team along with concerns about the amount of traffic on Whipps Cross Road.

School response:

The plans for three entrance/exit points for pupils at the school will move ahead.

- SLT duty rotas will not be impacted by this move.
- Pupils have not been released from school via the Whipps Cross Road exit for a few years now so they will not encounter this traffic.

Question 3: What are your thoughts about the school continuing to have 'PE kit days'?

85% of respondents were in favour of this proposal. Some concerns were raised about a minority of pupils who do not wear the appropriate school PE uniform and instead opt for branded sportswear.

Other comments focused on the impact of the hot weather on pupil hygiene and whether the PE kit days resulted in fewer pupils arriving to school with the correct equipment.

School response:

The plans for continuing to have PE kit days will be piloted for one more year.

- The normal school routine checks for uniform will be applied more stringently to include the school PE kit. Pupils in non-school uniform will be followed up as per the school's behaviour policy.
- When Covid restrictions are lifted, the school will look into what kind of access pupils can be granted to the changing rooms.

Question 4: What are your thoughts about the usefulness of Google Classroom?

94% of respondents were very happy with the effectiveness of the school's Google Classroom platform. Points were made about the school needing to increase the use of the school's Edulink app.

School response:

Google Classroom will remain as the school's virtual learning provider.

- More use will be made of Edulink (school app) as the school becomes more knowledgeable of its full capabilities.

As a school we really rely on feedback from the families we serve in order to continually improve. Many thanks again for your support with this consultation.

Yours faithfully,

J McQuaid

Head Teacher