

**Re: End of summer term – Change of date**

Dear families,

You will already be aware of the significant demands placed on schools as part of the GCSE awarding process this year. School staff have been asked to set exams, mark exams, moderate exams and award grades to pupils in Year 11. Final plans on what was required were shared with schools in April 2021. This is a significantly different awarding process to the one in place for the 2020 GCSEs.

Under normal circumstances it would be possible to complete this work during the time gained when Year 11 pupils were on study leave but a separate communication from the Department of Education in May 2021 advised schools against granting study leave as in previous years.

This increase in workload, within a very short space of time, has meant that with the support of the governing body, the school has had to add three additional 3-hour twilight sessions to the academic calendar for staff to be able complete this important work.

**These additional sessions equate to an extra 1.5 days of directed work time for staff at the school which means that the end of summer term date for all pupils will need to change to 2pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July to compensate.**

We appreciate the inconvenience that this change may cause some parents and carers and would like to underline that this decision was not taken lightly. Ensuring that the school-assessed GCSE results for the current Year 11 stand up to external scrutiny must be our priority, especially in light of the unprecedented disruption this cohort has faced during a high-stakes year. Unfortunately, the sheer amount of work involved in this process was shared with schools at very short notice.

Please be assured that making changes to the academic calendar at such short notice is not standard practice at Leytonstone School but allowances in the best interests of pupils and staff have had to be made during this extraordinary year.

Thank you for your continued support,

J McQuaid

Head Teacher