



NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE

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Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you and your family have had a good start to the term. I wanted to write with a few reminders, as well as to thank you for all your support so far. We recognise that being a parent or carer is not easy and we value the way in which you work with us as a school: ensuring your child comes to school prepared and in uniform and in supporting our policies and values. If your child participated in our Open Evening, many thanks. Prospective parents were very impressed by our students: how kind, confident and articulate they were.

Sickness Bugs

I wanted to remind you about our procedures for dealing with cases of **vomiting and diarrhoea** and that you should **keep your child at home for 48 hours** if they have sickness or diarrhoea.

There are two reasons why this procedure is necessary:

- We want to ensure the health and safety of all members of the school community and, in line with Public Health guidelines, we want to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- We have an increasing number of students who are at greater risk if they contract a virus because of underlying medical conditions.

In order to enforce these procedures, we will:

- Send home students with vomiting and diarrhoea symptoms, along with an Edulink message and a card, reminding parents that they must be kept at home for 48 hours
- Send home students who return before the 48 hour period has elapsed.

Thank you for your support in ensuring the health and safety of our community.

INSET day reminder

I wanted to remind you that we have an INSET day on Friday 9th October.

PE Kits/forgotten items in general

Due to staffing constraints, we are no longer able to accept PE kits or forgotten items at reception when students have forgotten to bring them to school. We have accepted them for year 7 students until the end of September, as we understand that they have a lot to juggle at the start of the year. Thank you in advance for supporting us in ensuring your daughter develops her independence and comes to school ready and equipped for learning.

Medical appointments during school time

As you know the safety of students is paramount at Walthamstow School for Girls. We have a concern about students signing out of school to attend medical or dental appointments during school time. Our attendance policy states that unless unavoidable or in emergency circumstances, medical or



dental appointments should be made out of school hours. If your daughter has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment, the school requires that you send in the letter or appointment card, as well as an accompanying letter from yourself requesting that your daughter be allowed to leave school. The school needs to see evidence of the appointment before we allow the student to leave the premises. We will also be 'spot checking' by telephoning parents and carers of students who wish to leave the premises to ensure the appointment is genuine.

Smartphone Free School Policy

I also wanted to remind you about our expectations regarding **mobile phones**. Thank you to all those parents who have supported us in ensuring that school is a place where every student can focus on learning without unnecessary distractions.

I wanted to remind you that the Smartphone Free Policy applies:

- **Inside the school building**
- **Within the school gates and grounds**
- **From 8:15am until 3:30pm each school day**
- **In any area where students are visible to staff who are on duty during the school day**

If students are found using a smartphone, if it goes off in a lesson or if it is found during a bag search, it will be confiscated for 6 weeks. 'Brick' phones are allowed, as long as they are switched off and kept in students' bags during the school day. If a 'brick' phone is being used in school or goes off in a lesson, this will be confiscated for 48 hours.

In very specific circumstances, e.g. medical reasons, certain students will be allowed to bring a smartphone to school and will usually check this in at reception. Parents / carers have already made applications earlier in the year and arrangements have been made.

Please refer to the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy for further details: [Positive Behaviour for Learning policy](#) (pages 22- 24).

Wishing you all a restful weekend

Helen Marriott
Headteacher