



Dear Parents and carers

Assalamu'Alaikum

As the school holidays are approaching, I am writing to wish all students and parents a very pleasant break, and to update you on the school's plans for full reopening in September.

First of all, I would like to thank all parents for their support over the past few months; we appreciate the efforts everyone has made to support their daughters' education throughout these very challenging times. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, have been working extremely hard to provide effective remote learning activities and support for well-being during the long months of the school closure. Following staff training, remote learning on Google Classroom has been enhanced through the provision of live sessions in a variety of subjects, and students have reported that they enjoy these sessions. We fully understand how hard it has been for them to be at home, isolated from their friends for such a long time, and we trust these sessions have helped with their sense of personal well-being.

Since June, in accordance with government guidelines, we have been able to offer face to face sessions in school for our Year 10 students. Disappointingly, the average attendance at these has been three girls, and we are dismayed that more students did not benefit from this provision.

I am sure you are all waiting to hear about our plans for reopening in September. We have been working on this for several weeks now, but during this time frequent changes to the government guidance made it difficult to plan ahead with any certainty. We now know that the government expects all students to attend school on a full time basis from September, and the guidance published last week stipulates a variety of measures schools must put in place to make this as safe as possible for both staff and students. We have devised a detailed plan on how the school will operate under these restrictions when we reopen in September, ensuring that all students continue to receive a broad and balanced curriculum and that their health and safety is protected. This document will be sent out to you during the summer break Inshaallah.

The vast majority of the students are to be commended for the effort they have put in over the past few months, and their commitment to their studies under these difficult circumstances. We are aware, however, that for a variety of reasons, remote learning has not been as easy for some as for others. We will assess the progress of all students as they return to school, and put in place appropriate intervention where a catch-up is needed. Year 10 students moving into Year 11 will be a particular focus, and will be given as much support as possible to help them bridge any gaps in their learning which have arisen during the school closure. However, we do expect them to take their studies throughout Year 11 very seriously, working hard to achieve their potential across the full range of GCSE subjects. There may be some modifications to the GCSE exams taken in 2021, but these have not yet been finalised by the exam boards.

To minimise further disruption to the academic programme for all students, we will suspend extra-curricular activities taking place in school time, so that lessons are not interrupted by these activities until we are confident that students are where they should be in their learning. We will, however, continue to cater for their personal well-being via our normal pastoral care system, and there will be a focus on this to ease them back into school life at the start of next term.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued support, and to wish you all Eid Mubarak and a safe and pleasant break.

Wassalam

Mrs M Mohamed
Head Teacher

