



Tuesday 8 September 2020

Head Teacher : Mrs M. Mohamed BSC.HONS, LPSH, PGCE, PG.DIP

Dear Parents and Carers,

Assalamu Alykum warahmatul Allahi wa barakatuhu,

It is with great pleasure on behalf of the staff and Trustees of Manchester Islamic Grammar School for Girls; I welcome all our returning students and our new students to the 2020-2021 school year! We hope you had a restful, healthy and enjoyable summer holiday despite it being very different to past summers!

If you managed to travel, we hope you navigated the quarantine rules and if you enjoyed a staycation, we hope the variable weather treated you well!

It has been a great pleasure to welcome back students in all year groups last week. It has been wonderful to see classrooms filled with students learning and it is a powerful reminder of the importance of education for academic, social and personal development. We have missed our students, and some have even been brave enough to admit that they have missed school! The new year 7 students seemed to have enjoyed their two days induction.

Of course, school life for the time being will be quite different to that our students experienced before the lockdown. I would like to thank students, staff and parents for following all of the new guidance so carefully and taking steps to protect themselves and others through reducing the risks of transmission.

We do appreciate that students and parents had read the advice published in the summer term and were so well prepared to begin the new academic year. The need to group students in "bubbles" is a form of secondary education that has never been tried previously, and of course, it will be a learning curve for us all. We are by necessity working with imperfection as schools were simply not designed with a bubbled education in mind. However, the systems that we have in place have worked very well so far Alhamdulillah.

We have retained a full and balanced curriculum for all year groups and are operating a full timetable with a complete range of subjects. However, guidance on safe working practices dictates that there will be a greater emphasis on individual written work and theoretical elements of courses than on practical work. We are confident that we can turn this necessity into an advantage; by ensuring that there is an intensity and focus to all of the work undertaken in lessons and establish effective individual and collaborative learning routines.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to update you on our current staff. Sadly, we said goodbye to Mrs Heathcote (Head of English), Miss Malik (Teacher of History) and Mrs Farakh (Head of Computer Science and Business Studies) – we thank them for their great service to the school and wish them well in their new ventures. We have been fortunate to be able to secure excellent replacements for these staff and are very pleased to welcome Mrs M Yaqoob to the English department, Mrs L O'Neill as teacher of History and Mr I Mohamed as teacher of Computer Science and Business Studies. Mrs C Drinkwater has been appointed as the Acting Head of the English department. We hope they are all very happy in their new posts.

Please do not hesitate to contact school should you have any question or concern, our staff are always happy to help.

Wassalam

Mrs M Mohamed
Head Teacher

