

Dyers Hall Road Leytonstone London E11 4AE

Headteacher — Alexander Silk, MA

seize the day

Friday 26 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was great to see so many Year 11 parents/ carers on Wednesday evening in school this week. We had an excellent turnout and the school was buzzing with feedback from staff about progress in classes and the recent mock examinations. Our Year 11 students now have only **57 school days** until their first written exams and I will be sending out letters in the next week about the additional lessons and studying opportunities I will be putting in place to support our students. There will be many opportunities for study in and around the school day, at weekends and in school holidays.

#### **Drama production**

A number of our students have been involved in drama rehearsals for 'Mehndi Night' an immersive play by Fin Kennedy, which will be performed on Thursday 8th February 6:00pm-8:15pm. The school production is a comedy drama about a family navigating what it is like to be Bangladeshi Muslim East Londoners. There will be music, food, drink and henna 6 -7pm in the dining hall with the play beginning at 7pm. We have sent out details on how to purchase tickets to be at the event. It is great to get another production going at the school and the teachers and students are all very excited to show off their talent and hard work.

#### **Student voice**

Since taking over the role as Acting Headteacher in January I wanted to have more opportunities to hear back from the students what they want to see happening in school and to find out what would make a difference for them. They have been discussing current school rules and are working closely with the senior leadership team to bring about updates to some of the school rules on uniform and appearance at school. We have agreed to trial the following modifications to the school uniform policy starting from next Monday 29th January:

#### Uniform

There are no changes to the expectations on the school uniform. Blazers must be worn at all times in the school building. There are no changes to the school uniform.

# Piercings

Jewellery worn to school should be safe and appropriate and the school is not responsible for any jewellery brought to school. Students may wear up to **two small stud earrings** in each ear and **one small nose stud may also be worn**. Hoop or drop earrings of any size are not permitted. No other body or facial piercings should be displayed. If students have new piercings, they will need to provide their own plasters/micropore tape to cover their piercings for PE. The school office will not be supplying these. Students will not be able to participate in lessons if these are not covered (health and safety).

#### Make-up

Make-up needs to be subtle and no nail varnish can be worn. Heavy make-up, false eyelashes and fake nails are considered inappropriate for school, and a distraction from the purpose of school, they are not permitted at all.

## Adoption of the HALO code:

The school has formally adopted the Halo Code. This means our school supports the right of staff and students to embrace all Afro-hairstyles. We welcome Afro-textured hair worn in all styles including, but not limited to, afros, locs, twists, braids, cornrows, fades, hair straightened through the application of heat or chemicals, weaves, wigs and headscarves, as long as they are in line with school colour rules (natural hair colours, as per uniform policy). This does not include durags or bonnets which are not appropriate in school. Adornments and beads in hair are not allowed as this would breach health and safety rules.

#### **Clubs and enrichment**

Please encourage your child to get involved in lunchtime clubs where they can. There are an increasing number of clubs available and I have asked as part of the student voice feedback to get more information on what other clubs students might like to have the opportunity to participate in.

## Pain relief medication

Please note that the school is unable to provide and/or administer pain relief medication to students. If parents wish to attend the school office to provide and administer this they can do so however please remind your daughter that students must not contact parents during the school day using their mobile phones. If a student is unwell they must attend the school office where suitable arrangements will be made by school staff.

If a student is/has been diagnosed with a medical condition including severe menstrual symptoms or migraine where mediation has been prescribed and may be required to be taken during the school day, parents, should arrange to meet with Ingrid Blanc (Office Manager) to complete an Individual Health Plan (IHP). During this meeting you will be asked to provide, and sign for, the medication to be kept in the school office.

Parents are reminded that 'over the counter' pain medication such as paracetamol, may not be purchased by children under 16 years of age and students must not bring any medication onto the school site.

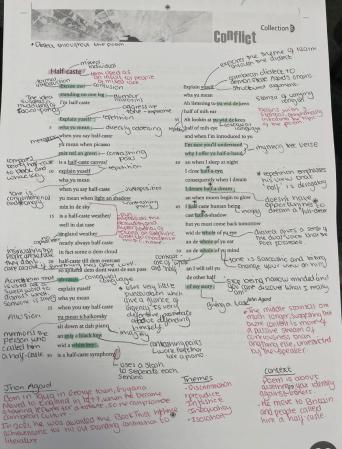
Yours faithfully,

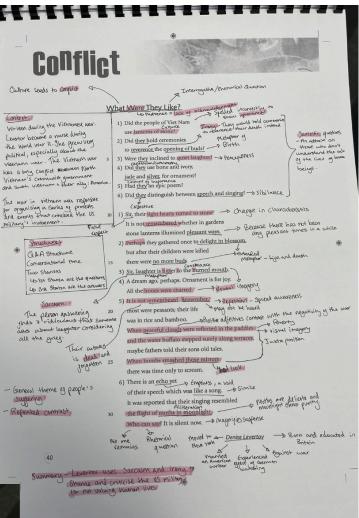
Mr. Silk Acting Headteacher

# Spotlight on...English!

Each week I will share a spotlight on a subject area and share some student work. This week I am sharing with you some student work in English. Students in Yr11 have been making revision guides to help them prepare for the exams, looking at conflict poetry:

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Special thanks to the students in Yr11 English for producing this incredibly useful revision guide. Students worked in pairs to analyse and annotate each poem in forensic detail to produce a full set of revision notes. By working together collaboratively and supporting each other, they have all now got a full set of really useful notes to revise from!

