

21st December 2018

Dear Parent(s),

End of term arrangements

This was a non-uniform day and pupils paid £1 for the privilege of not wearing uniform. The money we raised will go to 'Save the children'.

School re-opens on **Monday 7th January 2019**. Pupils should come into school at the normal time. The first week of term will be a Week 2 of the timetable. There is a staff training day on the 10th January (see below) and on this day school will be closed to pupils.

Dates for your diary

Year 9 Options Evenings:

- Wednesday 30th January 2019 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at Grosvenor Road site – for parents of pupils based at Grosvenor Road the site (Euler, Berners-Lee and Curie Houses).
- Thursday 31st January 2019 at Upton Lane site - for parents of pupils based at the Upton Lane site (Crick, Noether and Hawking Houses).

Parents' Evening

Year 10 will be on Monday 25th March 2019.

Evenings for parents of pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9

The best way to make sure that your children's lessons are well planned and taught is to have teachers teaching more than one class in a year; so, for example, for a teacher to teach 3 year 7 classes rather than a Year 7, 8 and 9 class. But this causes problems at Parents Evenings because teachers have too many parents who want to see them.

So we are working out how we can solve this problem and we think that we will need to run mixed year evenings. We expect to have worked out the best solution by the end of January – it's proving very complicated. But the evening for your child will be on **one** of the following nights

- Wednesday 6th March 2019
- Wednesday 3rd April 2019
- Thursday 25th April 2019

So if you have children in Years 7, 8 and 9 please keep these nights free.

We will tell you as soon as we have finalised the arrangements.

Staff Training Day – Thursday 10th January 2019

The school will be closed to pupils for staff training. Teachers will be working on various aspects of lesson planning – because 80% of teaching a good lesson is down to good planning – and preparing work for children with Special Educational Needs. We will also be doing some preparatory work on how we can make sure that our pupils acquire the academic vocabulary they now need to be successful with the new reformed GCSE's (that's the GCSEs graded 9 to 1).

School Holiday Dates 2019-2020

Governors have now agreed the school holiday dates for 2019-2020. These will be put on the website in January 2019. School will start on Monday 2nd September 2019.

Headteacher **Andrew Seager** Stratford School Academy, Grosvenor Road, Forest Gate, London. E7 8JA

Tel 020 8471 2415 Fax 020 8471 4684 www.stratfordschoolacademy.com email stratford@stratford.newham.sch.uk

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Coats

Everyone is now wearing a black coat. Thank you for helping us with this. For health and safety reasons we do not allow pupils to have their hoods up. A few pupils don't follow this rule and tell us that they are wearing their hoods up because it is cold. Sometimes this is not true and the day is quite mild. On days when it genuinely is cold pupils are welcome to wear a plain black knitted hat.

PREP

This has gone very well and we can see pupils doing more work and doing more homework. Once again, thank you for your support with this. In the long run we are sure it will mean pupils will be getting better exam results and so will be better placed to go on to be the authors of their own life stories.

Parents' surgery

The feedback we get from parent surveys shows that generally you are very happy with the school but we do know that from time to time things go wrong. When that happens I am very keen to know about it and that is why I have a parent's surgery every Thursday morning. It is held at Upton Lane on timetable Week 1 and at Grosvenor Road on timetable Week 2. Your children can tell you which timetable week it is (or you can ring us up).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Seager". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andrew Seager
Headteacher