



LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

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Co-Headteachers:

Ian Wilson

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9 July 2020

Dear parent/carer,

At the time of writing, the government's guidance around the reopening of schools has just been published. The intention is to reopen schools for all students in September. This will present many challenges. In line with the guidance, we are planning the following:

- A staggered start to the school day
- Staggered departures
- Shortening break and lunch times
- Reducing student movement around the school where possible
- Reducing practical activities, but creating robust risk assessments to allow for some specialist work
- Creating zones for different year groups in the playground
- Allocating toilets to specific year groups
- Expanding our cleaning schedule across the school
- Providing hand sanitising fluid across the school
- Creating protocols for the Autism Resource Provision and Complex Needs group that ensure student and staff safety

As we've gone over the guidance in detail, we've realised that students will need to go back to wearing their full school uniform, including blazers and ties. This will allow us to ensure that the students are kept in their year groups as much as possible.

We will be publishing our risk assessment on the website towards the end of August, sending you a parentmail when it has been posted. The reason for the delay is that we will not be able to finalise our planning until we know the content of the government's update on the plans, which is scheduled for the 11th of August. Once you've seen our risk assessment, you will be able to send us suggestions for any areas that we may have missed.

We wish that we could be clearer about the details of the plans, but we would rather make sure that they are right before we send them out. What we can tell you is the shape of the first week back. Year 7s will be starting school on Thursday 3rd September. This is a day later than previously published, because the borough has granted us an extra INSET day for staff to prepare for the new arrangements. On Friday 4th of September, Year 7 will be in school all day and the other year groups will come in for a portion of the day to explain the new procedures.

“ ... an excellent ambassador for community cohesion within the locality - OFSTED ”



Thank you to everyone who has responded to our survey of online learning. We were pleased to see that just under 90% of respondents felt that the students had been able to complete the tasks to the best of their ability. Some parents commented about the use of 'live lessons' by some other schools, feeling that Little Ilford had been overly cautious in its adoption of that technology. As you know, we have been trialling its use, but it does come with many problems, including access issues for many in our community (quality of technology and internet connection), the dangers of student and staff video/images being used negatively, and how we manage workload for the large number of our teachers who are caring for small children or vulnerable adults at home. However, we can assure you that we are continuing to develop our approaches in case there is a further lockdown or a limiting of student numbers in the future.

We hope that you all manage to have a good summer with your families in this anxious time, and we continue to hope that we are coming to the end of this unsettling period in the lives of the students.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Wilson and Helen Marriott
Co-headteachers