



September 2017

Name &amp; Tutor Group:

## Headlines by Rachel McGowan

### #Plashet Smash It



'One is not born, but rather becomes a woman' wrote the French philosopher Simone de Beauvoir in 1949. She describes how we change throughout our lives and do not lose one phase but grow into another. I feel her quote captured the essence for our Plashet girls as they collected their GCSE examination results on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August.

Results day also marked a new era for England's examination system with the first set of revised GCSE results in English Language, English Literature and Maths. The revised GCSEs have been deliberately designed to be tougher and are awarded as grades 9 to 1. All other subjects are legacy GCSEs and therefore still awarded A\* - G grades. Over the last 2 years we have managed the introduction, students and staff have worked phenomenally hard and today we come together to mark an important milestone in the lives of our students.

Plashet School's motto is '**working together to promote and celebrate achievement**' and this totally sums up what Plashet has done again this year as we celebrated student's GCSE results. I am delighted to announce that once again students at Plashet School have performed superbly in their GCSE examinations with large numbers of Plashet's young women excelling. We are proud of every single one of our 263 young women and, as they move on to the next phase of their education.

The core purpose of Plashet School is to ensure that young women are happy and successful. Whilst exam results are not representative of the whole experience a student has during their time at Plashet, they do provide a vital passport on to life beyond Plashet's walls and unlock the next phase of young women's lives. At Plashet, a truly comprehensive school, this has always been a major focus but its importance has been highlighted this year in light of recent data revealing the continuing gender gap in pay and opportunity faced by women.

Justine Greening, the Secretary of State for Education has said that "The process used by Ofqual to avoid grade inflation will ensure that broadly the same proportion of pupils achieve the **grade 4** and above this summer as achieved the **grade C** and above last year." We are therefore delighted with our results.

In the context of increasing rigour and challenge at GCSE level, we are all delighted with the excellent results of last year's Year 11 cohort. Our 2017 results saw even more students achieving the very best grades at GCSE level:

- 33% of all grades were A\*, A, 7, 8 or 9.
- Our students gained 42 new grade 9s (11 in Maths, 15 in English Lang & 16 in English Lit).
- 2 students gained 3 grade 9s & 7 A\*s.
- 78 students (29%) gained 8+ A\*, A, 7, 8 or 9 grades
- 100% of students attained grades A\*-G or 9-1, a true reflection of the inclusive nature of our school.
- 55% gained a grade 5 or above in both English & maths.

Our average grade across all entries in all subjects was a B grade.

## Plashet Parents Special

Many parents feel at a loss when their daughter starts secondary school. If you feel like this, you are **not** alone. The vast array of subjects now taught in the curriculum and changes in the examination system might make it sometimes feel as if it is best just to let the 'experts' at your child's school get on with it. But your involvement during these crucial years can make an enormous difference.

Preparing for GCSE exams can be a challenging time for students and parents. This edition of Plashet Post is intended to give some practical tips as well as information in order to support parents as they navigate secondary school and GCSE preparation with their daughter. Much of what follows is common sense and you will probably already be doing many of the things we suggest. Parents are **eight times more** important in determining academic success than social class. So it is essential that all students be supported at home as only 30% of student's waking hours are spent in school! Remember that there were not the distractions there are now, when we were students. Mobile phones, games consoles, Instagram, What's App, Snap Chat, Facebook, Twitter and the Internet are part of life now and can be huge distractions. But some distractions are the same, TV and socialising with friends. All require close monitoring by parents throughout their daughter's time at Plashet.

## School Contacts

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**Twitter:** @PlashetSchool

**My School App:** Our app is FREE for you to download. The app can be used on smartphones and tablet devices running iOS or Android. When you have downloaded mySchoolApp to your device there are just a few things you need to do, to ensure you can get the most from the app.

Once you have selected your school you will be requested to enter your details. This is a once only form and enables the app to identify you to the school. The school app administrator will be able to see your name, email and phone number. We also request you create a PIN, which is private. This will be used if you submit an absence notification via the app, ensuring only you can use this feature.

From the app menu, select Settings.

In this area you can

- update your details
- add additional schools (which use mySchoolApp)
- subscribe to Notification Groups
- choose which language you would prefer to read the app content

Push notifications enable the school to notify you of new messages or events without the need for you to actually open the app. It is recommended that you choose to accept push notifications from mySchoolApp, to ensure that you receive important communications.

My Leadership Team is made up as follows:

<b>Head Teacher</b>	Mrs Rachel McGowan
<b>Deputy Head Teachers</b>	Mr Tomas O Donnell
	Ms Stephanie George
	Miss Sarah Heath
<b>Assistant Head Teachers</b>	Miss Anna Forshaw
	Mr Sohal Gachi
	Miss Louisa Sanderson
	Ms Kalash Thakor
<b>School Business Manager</b>	Mr Stephen Heys

The table overleaf shows the staff that make-up our Pastoral Teams. Should you have any questions please contact your daughter's form tutor in the first instance. For more serious issues please contact the Year Coordinator or Leadership Team Line Manager.

## Pastoral Teams 2017-18

North Site		North Site	
Year 11		Year 7	
<b>LT Line Manager</b>	Ms Heath	<b>LT Line Manager</b>	Mr Gachi
<b>Year Co-ordinator</b>	Ms Cartney	<b>Joint Year Co-ordinator</b>	Ms Akhtar
<b>Assistant Year Co-ordinator</b>	Ms Aslam	<b>Joint Year Co-ordinator</b>	Mr Islam
11P Ms Still	Room 603	7P Mr Younis	Room 202
11L Mr Hanafi	Room B02	7L Ms Patel	Room F06
11A Ms Neeves	Room 106	7A Ms Begum	Room 104
11S Ms Ahmad	Room 204	7S Ms De Graft	Room 503
11H Ms Harvey	Room 303	7H Ms Sulthana	Room S01
11E Mr Wilson	Room 105	7E Mr Corazza	Room F13
11T Ms Hyam	Room 006	7T Ms Veeramany	Room G07
11G Mr Amin	Room 304	7G Mr Kamal	Room G18
11N Mr O'Brien	Room 102	7N Ms Sheikh	Room F04
		7B Ms Nunn	Room S10

South Site	
Year 10	
<b>LT Line Manager</b>	Ms Thakor
<b>Year Co-ordinator</b>	Ms Ruberry
<b>Assistant Year Co-ordinator</b>	Ms Hamid
10P Ms Teles	Room 201
10L Ms Hewat-Jaboor	Room G06
10A Ms Roche	Room 401
10S Ms Begum	Room S08
10H Mr Karim	Room 502
10E Ms Zaheer	Room 404
10T Ms Uddin	Room G20
10G Ms Oozeer	Room 501
10N Ms Louot	Room F11

South Site		South Site	
Year 8		Year 9	
<b>LT Line Manager</b>	Ms Forshaw	<b>LT Line Manager</b>	Ms Sanderson
<b>Year Co-ordinator</b>	Ms Mehmet-Ali	<b>Year Co-ordinator</b>	Mr Murphy
<b>Assistant Year Co-ordinator</b>	Mr Coombs	<b>Assistant Year Co-ordinator</b>	Ms Lee
8P Ms Byrne	Room G19	9P Mr O'Neill	Room S03
8L Ms Sundhlall	Room S04	9L Ms Jones	Room F14
8A Ms Johal	Room 302	9A Mr Singh	Room B04
8S Ms Hogan	Room 604	9S Mr Dry	Room G15
8H Ms Murday	Room F12	9H Ms Boland	Room G14
8E Ms Kalote	Room 301	9E Ms Shirsat	Room 503
8T Mr Jeyakkumar	Room 402	9T Ms Chaudhri	Room F07
8G Ms Aigbe	Room T03	9G Ms Evenhuis	Room T04
8N Ms Taninki	Room S02	9N Mr Kerin	Room G08

## Plashet School Day

For all students, the 'working week' in lesson time is 25 hours.

08.50 - 09.00	Registration
09.00 - 09.15	Assembly/Tutor Time
09.15 - 10.15	Lesson 1
10.15 - 10.35	Break time
10.35 - 11.35	Lesson 2
11.35 - 12.35	Lesson 3
12.35 - 13.35	Lunchtime
13.35 - 14.35	Lesson 4
14.35 - 15.35	Lesson 5
15.35	End of school day

## Attendance

Students are expected to establish good habits of punctuality and attendance as soon as they join the school. Students should always be in school by **8.45 am** to enable them to get organised for their lessons. A class register is taken at 8.50 am each day. Any student who is not present when the register is called is marked absent. If a student is late for registration she must sign the late book with the Attendance Officer. There is a sanction system in place in order to deter students from being late.

At Plashet we recognise that good attendance is intrinsically linked with achievement. Parents/Carers are encouraged to ensure that their daughters attend school every day, unless they are very unwell. On the first day of sickness, parents/carers are required to telephone the **Attendance Officer** (Ms Rob) to report the reason for absence. On their return to school, all students are required to bring a letter of explanation, which, in most cases, will authorise the absence.

If a student has a medical appointment during the school day, she is required to show her Form Tutor and Subject Teacher the appointment card and a letter from home. The appointment card has to be signed by the student's Form Tutor before she may sign out of school at the Attendance Office. Upon returning to school the student must report to the school office and sign back in. We strongly advise Parents to avoid booking appointments during school hours.

What follows is a table illustrating our expectations of either **Excellent** or at least **Good** attendance. Once a student falls into the **Satisfactory** category her learning is severely undermined. Research demonstrates that GCSE outcomes for students with attendance below 95% each year is seriously compromised.

Descriptor	% Attendance	Total Days Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
<b>Excellent</b>	100%	190	0	0
	99%	188	2	10
<b>Good</b>	98%	186	4	20
	97%	184	6	30
	96%	182.5	7.5	37.5
<b>Satisfactory</b>	95%	180.5	9.5	47.5
<b>Cause for concern</b>	94%	178.5	11.5	57.5
	93%	176.5	13.5	67.5
	92%	175	15	75
	91%	173	17	85
<b>Critical</b>	90%	171	19	95
	89%	169	21	105
	88%	167	23	115
	87%	165	25	125
	86%	163	27	135
	85%	161.5	28.5	142.5

Parents often plan holidays in advance and I therefore wish to draw to your attention our policy on holidays during term time, which are actively discouraged. The school policy is as follows.

Term time holiday requests can only be authorised in **exceptional extenuating circumstances** e.g. service personnel and others who are prevented from taking holidays during school closures, or should a family need time together due to crisis. Where this is the case, as a school we may consider authorising leave of absence.

**There is no automatic right to absence for a family holiday.** Holiday that has not been agreed will be coded as unauthorised and may be subject to the issuing of a Penalty Notice by the London Borough of Newham.

Authorisation during external and mock examination periods and in the first term of any new school placement is not likely to be granted. Your daughter's previous attendance history will also be taken into account.

Where extenuating circumstances exist, parents are asked to write to me, Head Teacher, Mrs McGowan. Please be sure to state, in as much detail as possible, the reasons why you are making the application.

We hope you will appreciate that whilst we are sympathetic where genuine difficulties exist, we are legally required to do all that we can to work with students and their families to ensure high levels of attendance. Each student has a target of 96% and we work hard to ensure that as many students as possible either meet or exceed this. Our attendance figure is something that contributes to us being an 'Outstanding' school and is scrutinised by Ofsted and the Department for Education.

## School Day Routines

From Tuesday 5th September the times and way in which students arrive and leave the school site will work as follows.

### Start-of-Day Routine

- From 08.20 students will enter school through the student gate which will have staff on-duty.
- From 08.20 students will be allowed into their form group rooms.
- Students are expected to be at school in their form group room by 08.45 each day.
- A register is taken at 08.50 in each form group every day.

### End of Day Routine

- Students will leave the site at the end of the day via the student gate from 15.35 – 16.00.
- There will be a duty team staff each day from 15.30 – 16.00.
- From 16.00 students will leave via reception.

### Extra-Curricular Routines

- If a student is invited to participate in an extra-curricular morning session taking place before 08.20 parents will be notified. Students will enter via the visitor gate and through reception.
- Reception is staffed from 07.30.
- Access from reception into the building will only be granted if a member of staff meets students in reception and escorts them to designated room for a planned extra-curricular morning session.
- No students should be on-site after 16.00 unless they have been invited to participate in an extra-curricular afternoon session. Parents will have been notified in advance about this.
- Any students on-site from 16.00 must be in a designated extra-curricular afternoon session with a member of staff.
- Extra-curricular afternoon sessions will all be finished by 17.00 and all students will be walked to reception by their teacher.
- There may be occasions where educational visits return to school later than 17.00 and in this case parents will have been notified about this in advance.
- There may be after school evening events where students remain or return to the school site. Parents will be notified of this in advance and asked to grant their permission.

## Important Term Dates

To help families **plan holidays** for the next year, and thus avoid taking their daughters out of school during term time, can I remind you of the school holiday dates for 2017-18:

- **October Half-term:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017
- **Christmas Holiday:** Thursday 21st December until Wednesday 3rd January 2018
- **February Half-term:** Saturday 10th February until Sunday 18th February 2018
- **Easter Holiday:** Friday 30th March until Sunday 15th April 2018
- **Whitsun Half-term:** Saturday 26th May until Sunday 3rd June 2018

## Your Daughter's Timetable

Your daughter received her timetable on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015. She should have copied it into her planner. Now ask her to copy it onto the blank timetable below and write in the names of her teachers. This will mean you have a copy of this information and can track what lessons she has each day. Remember we have a two-week timetable with Week's A and B.

	<b>Monday A</b>	<b>Tuesday A</b>	<b>Wednesday A</b>	<b>Thursday A</b>	<b>Friday A</b>
<b>Lesson 1</b>					
<b>Lesson 2</b>					
<b>Lesson 3</b>					
<b>Lesson 4</b>					
<b>Lesson 5</b>					

	<b>Monday B</b>	<b>Tuesday B</b>	<b>Wednesday B</b>	<b>Thursday B</b>	<b>Friday B</b>
<b>Lesson 1</b>					
<b>Lesson 2</b>					
<b>Lesson 3</b>					
<b>Lesson 4</b>					
<b>Lesson 5</b>					



## The Fundamental Principles of GCSE Examinations

GCSE stands for **G**eneral **C**ertificate of **S**econdary **E**ducation and comprises a two-year academic course that culminates in a series of summer examinations. For your daughter these will take place in May, June and July of 2017.

At Plashet students are required to study 'core' subjects. These are English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, a language and RE. These are then supplemented by their own choice of three optional subjects. Please note that some students have a more personalised curriculum and this will have been discussed with their family.

GCSEs are part of the National Qualifications Framework and at the end of the two-year course; candidates receive a grade for each subject upon which they have been examined. The current pass grades, from highest to lowest for GCSEs are: *A\**, *A*, *B*, *C*, *D*, *E*, *F* and *G*. Grade *U* (ungraded/unclassified) is issued when students have not achieved the minimum standard to achieve a pass grade; the subject is then not included on their final certificate.

There are five examination boards that offer GCSEs, these are:

- Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (**AQA**)
- Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations (**OCR**)
- **Edexcel**
- Welsh Joint Education Committee (**WJEC**)
- Council for the Curriculum, Examinations & Assessment (**CCEA**)

All of these examination boards are organisations that are regulated by the Office of the Regulators of Qualifications (**Ofqual**). This is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Education. The Joint Council for Qualifications (**JCQ**) acts as a single voice for the awarding bodies and assists them to create common standards, regulations and guidance.

## Key features and Future Changes

Since the summer of 2013, GCSE examinations have moved away from coursework and class based assessments, in favour of exams that are sat at the end of most two-year courses. January and March examinations have also been removed.

Key structural features of the new GCSEs, include:

- **A numbered grading scale:** this system uses the numbers 1–9 in order to identify their levels of performance. 9 is regarded as the top level and 1 the lowest. Please see the diagram on the next page for how the new numbered system relates to the old lettered grading system.
- **Tiering** is only used for subjects '*where untiered papers will not allow students at the lower end of the ability range to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, or will not stretch the most able*'. English literature and English language are untiered. Maths is tiered with the foundation tier covering grades 1-5 and a higher tier covering grades 4–9.
- **Linear GCSEs:** all assessments and examinations are now taken at the end of the course in the summer.
- **Assessment by external exam:** this will be the only method of assessment, will the removal of assessments such as coursework.

New reformed GCSEs will affect different year groups in different ways as follows:

Year 11	2018	New English Language, English Literature, Maths, Art, Biology, Chemistry, Combined Science, Drama, Food, French, Geography, History, Music, PE, Physics, RE + everything else old legacy GCSEs.
Year 10	2019	All new above + new Bengali, Business, Design and technology and Urdu. Therefore, all new GCSEs by this point.
Year 9	2020	All new
Year 8	2021	All new
Year 7	2022	All new

## New GCSE Grading Structure

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
U	G
U	U

**GOOD PASS (DfE)**  
5 and above = top of C and above

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

**Isn't it the schools' job to teach them and get them through their exams?** Yes, of course the school has an important role to play and provides the expertise and resources to help your daughter acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to do their best in each subject. There will be new expectations of your daughter in Years 9, 10 and 11 due to the huge increase in difficulty of the new GCSEs. You don't need to know everything about Maths, Science or English to help them with these things – you've been doing it all their lives! New demands on your daughter are likely to include:

- Being more self-motivated and taking more responsibility for their own learning – this can be a big change from earlier years, with most teachers viewing it as the student's responsibility to attend and make the most of lessons once they get to Year 9.
- Asking when they do not understand. (This requires confidence and can be difficult at a time when friends' opinions hold such sway.)
- Developing their abilities to overcome frustrations, and strategies for persisting when they are learning material that they find challenging.
- Organising themselves, notes, handouts and information for different subjects, and different topics within these.
- Completing more work at home, independently.
- Understanding the exam structure and the relative <sup>[SEP]</sup>importance of each examination to their final grade.
- Planning and carrying out their study and closer to their exam period their revision.
- Perfecting their 'exam technique'.
- 

**How can parents make a difference?** Parental support is eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than social class. The good news is that you don't need to be an expert in any of the subjects your daughter chooses to make a real difference. You also don't need to give up your life and other responsibilities – you just need to know how best to spend the time you do have.

One of the hardest demands on students is that of understanding the long-term importance of doing the best they can, and learning to shelve short-term fun at times in the interest of long-term benefits (this is not easy even for adults). Our young women will also differ in their levels of maturity, their ability to take responsibility for their learning, organisational skills and levels of motivation.

**This is where parents come in.** Your support, encouragement and interest can make a spectacular difference to your daughter's motivation and ability to cope with the academic and organisational demands of the GCSE two-year course. Agree the balance between work and social life and stick to the agreement. Again, flexibility is the key – if a special night comes up, agree that they can make up the work at a specified time.

All students fall behind, feel demotivated or overwhelmed, or struggle with the balance of social, work and school demands at times. When your daughter feels like this, berating and threatening them will have a negative effect. Talk to them about the issues, acknowledge their feelings and adopt a sensible attitude in wanting to find a solution

Be flexible – use the 80/20 rule. If your child is sticking to what they are supposed to be doing 80% of the time, they will be doing well. If your daughter asks for your support, encourage them by helping them to see the difficulties in perspective. Teenagers often take an all or nothing 'catastrophic' approach to difficulties – "I've messed up this essay, I might as well give up".

Efficient and well-structured revision and study is the most important preparation your daughter can do in order to ensure their success in GCSE examinations. It is important that you work with your child to assess their academic weaknesses and strengths in order to carry out these study/revision sessions effectively.

Popular revision techniques include; *mind mapping; flash cards; making notes; drawing flow charts and diagrams*. You could instruct your child on how to turn diagrams and pictures into words, and words into diagrams.

**How Can You Help?** Teenagers need plenty of emotional support during KS4 and a home life that encourages purposeful study. There are a number of ways you can support them with this:

- Continue sending them to school. Attendance must be at the level of 96% or above, if it drops to 90% students statistically **only have a 35% chance** of gaining 5 GCSE's A\* - C including English and Maths.
- Encourage them to participate in intervention and support sessions like study support evenings, literacy and numeracy support, maths one-to-one, booster and revision sessions. Suggest they keep talking to their teachers! They should feel confident about asking for help.
- Make sure there is a quiet space for them to study. Studying with loud music playing or whilst watching the TV or a DVD is not a good idea.
- Encourage your daughter to produce a study timetable. The timetable will not only ensure that all areas are being covered, but will also break up the huge task of studying and revising everything into manageable chunks.
- Too much study is not helpful, so encourage them to plan some relaxation time too. Suggest they plan a 30 or 45-minute session with an incentive at the end.
- Check how they are doing by letting them explain something they have just learned. If you can follow their explanation this means they have a decent grasp of the topic or area.

## 2017 - 2018 Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2017	
21.09.2017	8PLAS HPV Vaccination Dose 1
22.09.2017	8HETGN HPV Vaccination Dose 1
27.09.2017	Open Evening School Finishes at 12.30 for Students Open Evening 16.00 – 19.00
28.09.2017	8E Westminster Abbey Morning Visit 8S Westminster Abbey Morning Visit
29.09.2017	8N Westminster Abbey Morning Visit 8H Westminster Abbey afternoon Visit Whole School Photographs, South Hall
04.10.2017	8G Westminster Abbey Morning Visit 8L Westminster Abbey afternoon Visit
05.10.2017	8T Westminster Abbey Morning Visit 8P Westminster Abbey afternoon Visit
06.10.2017	Year 9 Day Visit to Northern France 8A Westminster Abbey Morning Visit
09.10.2017	Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Group 1 Year 9 & 10 Graphics Design Museum Visit 11.35 – 16.00
10.10.2017	Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Group 1 Newham Young Mayor Elections
11.10.2017	Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Group 1
12.10.2017	Year 11 Shadow Games Workshops
13.10.2017	08.50-09.30 Year 7 Skipathon
17.10.2017	Year 8 Science on Screen Barbican Visit After School Year 10 Art Gallery Visit Group 1
18.10.2017	Year 10 Art Gallery Visit Group 2
19.10.2017	Year 11 BOSS Day Diwali: students are allowed 1-day religious observance if of Hindu or Sikh faith. Parents need to notify the Head Teacher of this by letter.

20.10.2017	Year 11 English Globe Workshops Day Break-up for October Half-term
<b>23.10.2017</b>	<b>Half Term: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>
30.10.2017	Back to School for students
01.11.2017	Year 11 Post-16 Transition Event 16.00 – 18.00 North Hall
02.11.2017	Safer Student Prefect Training, 603 Year 9 Textiles Visit to V&A
07.11.2017	Year 8 Science Big Ideas Solutions for the Planet Day
14.11.2017	HeadStart 'Online Resilience' Workshop for Parents, 10.00 – 12 noon
16.11.2017	GCSE Textiles Product Viewing, Drama Studio 16.30 – 18.00
18.11.2017	Year 11 Drama Rehearsal
19.11.2017	Year 11 Drama Rehearsal
20.11.2017	Autumn Summative Exams Year 10 all week Year 11 Urdu Part 1 Speaking Exam & French Mock Speaking Exams
21.11.2017	Y10 Physics Lecture 'Misconceptions' 15.40 – 16.40 Year 9Q Art Gallery Visit
24.11.2017	Year 9W Art Gallery Visit
25.11.2017	Year 11 Drama Rehearsal
26.11.2017	Year 11 Drama Rehearsal
27.11.2017	Year 11 Practical Mocks Week Monday - Thursday
<b>01.12.2017</b>	<b>Non-Student Day 2</b>
04.12.2017	Year 11 Written Mock Examination Week 1
06.12.2017	MPA Parents' Meeting 16.00 -17.30
08.12.2017	Year 10 English Poetry Live Day in London
11.12.2017	Year 11 Written Mock Examination Week 2
12.12.2017	Y10 Ogden Trust Physics Lecture, 'Pendulums' 15.40 – 16.40 Year 10 Science on Screen Barbican Visit After School
14.12.2017	Christmas Concert, 16.30 – 18.00, South Hall
18.12.2017	Year 10 & Year 11 CPHSE Day Christmas Lunch 12.15 – 13.40
19.12.2017	Christmas Bazaar 12.15 – 13.40, Sports Hall
20.12.2017	End-of-Term Non-Uniform Day School Finishes 12.30
<b>21.12.2017</b>	<b>Christmas Holidays: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>

<b>Spring Term 2018</b>	
<b>03.01.2018</b>	<b>Non-Student Day 3</b>
04.01.2018	Back to School for students Year 7 Pantomime Matinee Visit
10.01.2018	Year 11 CPHSE Morning, Lessons 1, 2 & 3 School Finishes at 12.30 Year 11 Parents' Meetings 13.30 – 17.30
11.01.2018	Year 11 Post-16 Transition Event 09.00 – 10.15, North Hall
12.01.2018	Non-Uniform Day In memory of Vaishali Suhayr
16.01.2018	HeadStart Being a Parent Meeting 09.30 – 11.30 Year 9G & 9E Jewish Museum Visit
18.01.2018	Year 9P & 9L Jewish Museum Visit
23.01.2018	HeadStart Being a Parent Meeting 09.30 – 11.30 School Finishes at 12.30 Year 9 Parents' Meetings 13.30 – 17.30
24.01.2018	Year 10 CPHSE Morning Lessons 1, 2 & 3
30.01.2018	HeadStart Being a Parent Meeting 09.30 – 11.30 Year 9N & 9T Jewish Museum Visit
01.02.2018	Year 9S & 9A Jewish Museum Visit Intermediate Maths Challenge
02.02.2018	Whole School Safer Citizens Day
06.02.2018	Safer Internet Day HeadStart Being a Parent Meeting 09.30 – 11.30 Year 8 Art Matters Workshop at UEL
07.02.2018	Year 9H Jewish Museum Visit RML Visit to East Ham Library Lessons 4 & 5
08.02.2018	Y11 Food Practical NEA Task 2 Exam 08.50 – 12.35 School Finishes at 12.30 Year 8 Parents' Meetings 13.30 – 17.30
09.02.2018	Year 11 CPHSE Lessons 3, 4 & 5 Break up for February Half Term
<b>12.02.2018</b>	<b>Half Term Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>

19.02.2018	Back to School for students Year 9Q Art Gallery Visit
20.02.2018	HeadStart Being a Parent Meeting 09.30 – 11.30 Year 10 Science on Screen Barbican Visit After School
21.02.2018	Year History Museum of London Visit
22.02.2018	Year 8 Urdu Film Visit
23.02.2018	Year 9W Art Gallery Visit
27.02.2018	Year 9PLAS Revaxis & Men ACWY Vaccinations Year 10 Jack Petchey 'Speak-Out' Challenge Day HeadStart Being a Parent Meeting 09.30 – 11.30
28.02.2018	Year 9HETGN Revaxis & Men ACWY Vaccinations Year 7 Inter-form Lessons 2-5 Year 8 Choices Evening 16.30 - 19.00
01.03.2018	Year 8 Inter-form Lessons 2-5
02.03.2018	Year 9 Inter-form Lessons 2-5
06.03.2018	HeadStart Being a Parent Meeting 09.30 – 11.30 Year 10 Sociology Visit Museum of London
08.03.2018	International Women's Day Year 9 Europe House Visit Afternoon Year 11 Art Exam Prep afternoon visit to Gallery
12.03.2018	Year 11 Urdu & Bengali Speaking Exams Year 9 Sociology Visit 1 Ragged School Museum
13.03.2018	HeadStart Being a Parent Meeting 09.30 – 11.30 Year 9 Sociology Visit 2 Ragged School Museum Inter-Borough Physics Challenge Y8/9 team
14.03.2018	Year 9 Sociology Visit 3 Ragged School Museum Y7 & 8 Science Animal Experience Day
15.03.2018	BBC School Report STEM Club Year 11 & 10 PE Practical Mock Exam in Sports Hall
16.03.2018	Science & Maths Family Quiz 17.30 – 18.30, South Hall
17.03.2018	Year 11 Drama Rehearsal
18.03.2018	Year 11 Drama Rehearsal
20.03.2018	School Finishes at 12.30 Year 10 Parents' Meetings 13.30 – 17.30
21.03.2018	EAL Visit to East Ham Library & Leisure Centre Lessons 4 & 5
24.03.2018	Year 11 Drama Rehearsal Year 11 & 10 PE Practical Prep
25.03.2018	Year 11 Drama Rehearsal
26.03.2018	Year 11 GCSE Drama Practical Performance with Moderator Year 11 GCSE PE Practical Exam with Moderator Year 8PLAS HPV Vaccination Dose 2
27.03.2018	Year 11 Photo, South Field, 09.00 – 10.00 Year 8HETGN HPV Vaccination Dose 2
28.03.2018	School Finishes at 12.30 Year 7 Parents' Meetings 13.30 – 17.30
29.03.2018	Year 10 Student Leadership Application Deadline 10.30 End-of-Term Non-Uniform Day School Finishes 12.30 Break up for Easter Holidays
<b>30.03.2018</b>	<b>Easter Holidays: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>

<b>Summer Term 2018</b>	
16.04.2018	Back to School for Students <b>Year 10 Work Experience Week 1</b> Year 9N Geography Fieldwork River Ingrebourne
17.04.2018	Year 9P & L Geography Fieldwork River Ingrebourne
18.04.2018	Year 9A & S Geography Fieldwork River Ingrebourne
19.04.2018	Year 9H & E Geography Fieldwork River Ingrebourne
20.04.2018	Year 9T & G Geography Fieldwork River Ingrebourne
23.04.2018	<b>Year 10 Work Experience Week 2</b> Year 11 French Speaking Examinations
25.04.2018	Year 9 Careers Junction Day
26.04.2018	Y7 & 8 Junior Maths Challenge Year 9 Bengali History & Newspaper visit
30.04.2018	Year 9, 8 & 7 Summative Exams Week 1 Year 10 SLT Interviews 09.00 – 12.00
01.05.2018	Year 10 Prefect Coordinator Interviews
02.05.2018	Year 10 Prefect Interviews Year 11 GCSE Art Exam Day 1
03.05.2018	Year 11 GCSE Art Exam Day 2 MPA Student Celebration 12.40-13.30
<b>07.05.2018</b>	<b>Bank Holiday School Closed</b>
08.05.2018	Year 9, 8 & 7 Summative Exams Week 2 Year 10 History Globe Theatre Visit Group 1
09.05.2018	Year 10 History Globe Theatre Visit Group 2
11.05.2018	Visit from French Partner School
14.05.2018	Year 11 GCSE Examinations Week 1
16.05.2018	Ramadan Begins
21.05.2018	Year 11 GCSE Examinations Week 2
23.05.2018	Year 11 Art Moderation Day 1
24.05.2018	Year 11 Art Moderation Day 2
25.05.2018	Break up for Half Term Holiday
<b>28.05.2018</b>	<b>Half Term: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>
04.06.2018	Back to School for students Year 11 GCSE Examinations Week 3
08.06.2018	Year 9 Visit to French Partner School
11.06.2018	Year 11 GCSE Examinations Week 4 Year 10 Summative Exams Week 1
<b>14.06.2018</b>	<b>Possible Eid-UI-Fitr School Closed TBC</b>
<b>15.06.2018</b>	<b>Or Possible Eid-UI-Fitr School Closed TBC</b>
<b>16.06.2018</b>	<b>Or Possible Eid-UI-Fitr</b>



18.06.2018	Year 11 GCSE Art Exhibition Hanging, Moderation & Taking Down Year 10 Summative Exams Week 2 Year 10 Prefect Coordinator Training, Lessons 1-3, 603
19.06.2018	8P, L & A Natural History Museum All day visit
20.06.2018	8S, H & E Natural History Museum All day visit MPA Parents' Meeting 16.00-17.30
21.06.2018	8T, G & N Natural History Museum All day visit Year 11 Prize-Giving End-of-Exam Celebration 13.00 – 15.30
22.06.2018	National Women in Engineering Day Events in Science Year 11 Prom 18.30 – 21.30
25.06.2018	Year 6 Parental Admission Interview Morning, 09.00 – 12.00 Year 9 Report 2 Sent home this Week
26.06.2018	Year 10 CPHSE Day
27.06.2018	Year 8 Mini-Marathon Lesson 1 Y10 Bengali History & Newspaper visit
28.06.2018	Year 6 Transition Day Y8 & 9 Art Group Hanging Plashet Art Matters Exhibition
29.06.2018	Y10 Textiles New Designer's Exhibition Visit Y9 Most Able Urdu Visit to Jang Newspaper
02.07.2018	Year 8 Report 2 Sent home this Week EAL Visit to Greenwich All Day
03.07.2018	Y10 Geography Fieldwork Walton-on-the-Naze Group 1 Year 7 Urdu Film Visit Borough Art Matters Show Opening at UEL 16.30 – 18.00
04.07.2018	Year 8 English Interactive Shakespeare Story-telling Y10 Geography Fieldwork Walton-on-the-Naze Group 2 10W Print Workshop at UEL
05.07.2018	Sports Day 08.40 – 13.30 at The MacMillan Stadium
06.07.2018	Y10 Geography Fieldwork Walton-on-the-Naze Group 3 Y10 Graphics New Designer's Exhibition Visit
09.07.2018	Year 10 Prefect Training, Lesson 1, South Hall 8P, L & A Geography Fieldwork Crystal Palace
10.07.2018	8S, H & E Geography Fieldwork Crystal Palace
11.07.2018	Year 8 Future Options Day Year 10Q Print Workshop UEL
12.07.2018	8T, G & N Geography Fieldwork Crystal Palace
13.07.2018	Year 8 Arts Assembly Lesson 1
16.07.2018	Year 7PLASH Inter-Form Lessons 2-5
17.07.2018	Year 7ETGNB Inter-Form Lessons 2-5
20.07.2018	End-of-Year, Non-Uniform Day School Finishes at 12.00 <b>Pending Eid-UI-Fitr School Closed TBC</b> <b>Break up for Summer Holidays</b>

## STEM Club Trip to DDD Limited in Watford

Last month two teams from **Plasnet STEM Club** placed first and second in the **Society of Cosmetics Science National Chemistry competition**. As a result, both teams were invited to visit **DDD Limited in Watford** for a tour. **DDD Limited** comprises of a group of companies which between them offer a flexible, complete service to take healthy and beauty product from an idea to a customer's shopping basket. In addition to a tour, the girls had the opportunity to visit the laboratory to make their own hand cream. It was an amazing experience where students were given the opportunity to make connections what they had learnt in the classroom in a very practical way. They were also able to discuss possible career paths into the industry.

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 7 Plasnet girls were given an opportunity to visit a cosmetic company and laboratory as part of being the winners for the 'Scrub up on Science National Chemistry Challenge'. The company we visited was DDD Limited and they produce many products for well-known brands and stores such as: Superdrug, Boots, Body Shop, Soap and Glory and many other more.

We found out a lot about the cosmetic industry from getting the raw materials to the product being sold in the store for customers to buy. It was very interesting and we were all astonished about the amount of thinking and work that goes into the making of each product.

Then we all had a fantastic opportunity to enter the actual factory and manufacturing sector where we got to see actual products being produced. Due to hygienic purposes we had to cover our hair and wear lab coats when entering the facility. We were all so excited to see the mixing and packaging of the products as we have never experienced this before.

After the tour, we went to the laboratory where scientists created and evaluated new and creative formulas. The best part was that we all got to make our own body lotion. We added our own colour and scent to it as well as creating a new name for the product and packaging it. It was great as we physically experienced how it would be like being a scientist in the cosmetic industry and it helped us understand more about the field.

Winning and participating in this challenge gave us all great knowledge, understanding and awareness as well as it being very fun, exciting and creative. Thank you to Ms English for helping and supporting us all to participate in this fantastic project and we hope we get many similar opportunities such as this trip in the future. **(Arundhathi Roy (10L))**



## Speaker's for Schools Visit and the Lend Lease Challenge

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students, who had taken part in various Citizenship and Political Literacy projects this year, received a talk from Clive Sheldon QC. Mr Sheldon is a very high profile barrister who has worked on a number of high profile cases such as employment tribunals for leading supermarkets, high profile criminal cases and parole hearings and is currently leading the Football Association inquiry into historic abuse accusations.

The students were enthralled with Mr Sheldon's descriptions of some of his cases and were given lots of information about routes of entry into legal careers:

"It was very interesting to hear about the job role of a barrister, what being a barrister is like on a day-to-day basis and the difference between a career at the bar and other careers in the law. I also didn't know that part of the reason barristers wear wigs is to hide their identity in case they bump into defendants in the outside world!" Zani Butt 11A

"It was very informative and a great insight into the job role involved in being a barrister. I didn't know that to become a barrister you can study almost any subject that interests you at university, you do not have to have a law degree." Humayra Abdala 11A

"The cases were so interesting – I was inspired by the idea that barristers go to court to speak up for the people they are representing. I have been saying since the talk that this would definitely be a career I want to pursue." Hafsa Abbasi 11N

"I found it very interesting that as a barrister, Clive didn't let his own morals guide the case, it is his job to defend or prosecute someone to the best of his ability." Faaiza Hafeji 11N

Mr Sheldon also emphasised the importance of working hard within and outside of lessons, practising written skills, oral literacy and evidence analysis. He gave our girls some useful advice on universities to apply for and what extra-curricular pursuits can help.

As much as Mr Sheldon engaged the students he was equally impressed with the attention they gave him and the excellent, though-provoking questions they asked.

### Miss Forshaw

