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**ELLIS
GUILFORD
SCHOOL**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Monday, 12th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Changes at The Ellis Guilford School 2021/22

We have all been working under incredibly difficult times over the course of this academic year, none more so than our pupils who have shown resilience in coping with the many changes to their educational routines.

As we now move forward, I want to share with you changes we are proposing at the school beginning in September. All the changes are designed to help your child make better progress in their learning and provide them with more opportunities.

A new two-week timetable

In order to provide maximum opportunities in the curriculum, breadth and depth, we will organise the school timetable over a two-week period, not the current one-week timetable where children follow the same timetable each week. A two-week timetable will allow your child to study more time in key subjects, especially in MFL as well as History and Geography. It also allows pupils in Year 10 to have more option choices. Year 7 pupils will begin their EGS journey on 2nd September, where they will be the only year group attending for the first 2 days of term. Year 8 – 11 pupils will begin their first week back on September 6th following their week one timetable and week commencing September 13th their week two timetable. They rotate each week after that.

They will study all the subjects they currently study. We have, however, reorganised our Skills for Life curriculum. From September it will be called RSMS (Religious, Social and Moral Studies).

We will make sure pupils know which week to follow on their timetable.

Knowledge Organisers

To help our pupils to learn more effectively, we will provide each pupil with their own Knowledge Organiser. A Knowledge Organiser helps pupils to understand



the amount of facts and content they need to understand to achieve in their assessments and examinations. They provide a summary of the content for each subject and will support homework and revision as well as what takes place in lessons. They will all be required to bring their Knowledge Organisers every day. We will supply each pupil with an especially designed Ellis Guilford School Knowledge Organiser bag, A4 sized.

Chromebooks

We have reviewed the use of Chromebooks. They have been invaluable, especially during lock down. We also know that pupils must sit examinations and rely only on their ability to write. Therefore, to help pupils to learn, we need to ensure they write more regularly in their lessons, without an over reliance on their Chromebook. Pupils will, therefore, use their Chromebooks when requested by a teacher and whilst reducing the need for them, especially in English, Maths, Science, History and Geography. We know that for a number of pupils, the ability to use them during social times is important. Those pupils will still be able to use them during these times.

The way in which parents and carers pay towards the cost of the Chromebook has been simplified. From September 2021, we will ask for a one-off payment of £25 for our new Year 7 pupils and all other payments will stop. The school will subsidise the cost for the remainder of the Chromebook, which will remain the property of the school during the duration of your child's time at Ellis Guilford. They are returned when pupils leave the school/end of Year 11.

I hope everyone will welcome this as well as the support offered by the school.

A Revised Curriculum

The curriculum is the key to pupil's achievement: if lesson content is engaging and challenges all pupils to learn and make progress, our pupils will be successful. We have spent this term re-writing all our learning plans. This process has taken place across all 11 Creative Education Trust secondary schools. For your child, it will mean that they should experience quality first learning.

Information about what is being taught to your child

We have spent time this term making sure our website provides you with better information about what your child is learning. We will provide you with information about what is being taught from Year 7-11; we will upload all the knowledge organisers; we will let you know about your child's homework.



Music tuition at EGS

I am delighted to announce a new initiative at our school. From September, in partnership with Nottingham CC, we are offering the opportunity for Year 7 to have instrumental lesson, free of charge, including the loan of a musical instrument. We anticipate up to 100 pupils may join the scheme this year, whilst from September 2022, we will expect all new Year 7 students to learn a musical instrument for one year in the first instance. The programme will include group tuition, playing in an ensemble and time to practise during the school day. This is a new and exciting initiative and one which we hope will support the overall educational progress of our pupils. We have employed two further music teachers to lead music in the school and to support this scheme.

The Ellis Guilford App

Good communication is key to us working in partnership. I fully recognise that this is an important area for improvement. We have, therefore, now launched our very own App. Thanks to over 800 parents who have now downloaded this and are accessing information about what is happening in the school. This App will be customised to your child and will be a 'one stop shop' for finding information. For further information about this, please contact Mr C Collington.

Finally, I will continue to keep you updated about the school but look out for our second newsletter which will be with you before the end of term.

Many thanks for you continued support: we gratefully appreciate it.

Kind regards,

Mr Chris Keen
Principal