

9 October 2020

Dear Parents and students,

We are now firmly into autumn and, despite the rain and wind in recent days, it has been a pleasure to be able to offer prospective Northampton School for Girls students and their families the opportunity to tour our school site in very small groups, albeit at the end of the school day and from the outside. It has also been an opportunity to reflect on the impressive facilities that Northampton School for Girls has to offer and the very unique and enriching experiences that we are, therefore, able to provide for our students.

Today we enter the third week of our extra-curricular offer and, as we continue to judiciously extend our after-school provision for our students, it has been wonderful to see them thrive creatively even more. Our older students are already familiar with the format of these activities and have engaged with these as positively as ever; however, I would like to particularly commend our Year 7 students who have really impressed us with the manner in which they have been able to move from the traditional structure of our timetable during the day, to the differing structure of our extra-curricular activities with ease and maturity.

During October, we are marking Black History Month with a series of whole-school and tutor-based activities. As part of our ongoing commitment to educating students about the importance of equality, we are running a number of themed activities and events with the aim of continuing an open conversation around diversity, inclusion and meaningful change all year round. Our school is characterised in its open-mindedness and a warm community atmosphere. In the classroom, our teachers provide the inspiration and support that enable our students to flourish.

Overall, I am incredibly pleased with the way that our students have settled back into school life. Having had a long time away from school during lockdown, many have returned more motivated and determined to get the best out of their time with us and attendance remains high. Year 12 students in particular are worthy of mention and have made a highly impressive start to their time with us in the Sixth Form. Teachers have commented on their focus, punctuality and commitment; their attendance continues to be the highest of any year group in the school.

Year 11 and Year 13 Students

Last week, Mrs Green, Director of Sixth Form, and her team visited each of the Year 11 tutor groups to provide them with information about the pathways and study programmes available to them in our Sixth Form. More information will be shared with you directly about this over the next few weeks also.



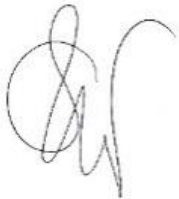
As I write this, I am conscious that this week we are expecting to learn more from the Department for Education about the plans for next summer's examination series. There is much speculation about this in the media and once we have clarity from official government sources, I will write to parents and carers of students in Year 11 and Year 13 with an update and guidance. I have also committed to students in these year groups that we will keep them as up to date as possible, providing them with as much reassurance and guidance as we can.

October Half-Term (Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October)

As we move swiftly towards half term, can I please remind you that if you are booking holidays during that week to be mindful of quarantine periods for so many countries now, to avoid being in a position where your child has to miss school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of provision at Northampton School for Girls, be it in school or remotely, and we thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Cristina Taboada-Naya
Headteacher

