

UPCOMING DATES

May

- 3rd Bank Holiday
- 5th Year 8 Options Evening
- 19th Year 7 Parent Consultations
- 31st Summer half term
end of first half

June

- 7th Summer term
start of second half
- 25th INSET day (staff training)
No pupils in school

July

- 21st Summer term
Last day of term & school year

Welcome back to the summer term. We certainly hit the ground running with an Ofsted visit in the first week back. When I heard that Ofsted were asking for schools to volunteer for this process I immediately contacted the regional lead to let him know that we were keen to take part, and he told me just before the Easter holiday that they would visit us. We did not tell the rest of the staff because we didn't want them to be anxious over the holiday and we wanted it to be as realistic as possible.

The process began on Tuesday afternoon, when the leadership team and I spoke to the Lead Inspector for about 90 minutes telling him all about the school. He had already researched our website and knew a lot about us. The following two days were to check that all things we told him about are accurate and consistent in place across the school. The three inspectors did 'deep dives' in English, Maths, Art, and History. They looked at the planned five year curriculum, spoke to the subject leaders, observed lessons, looked at pupils' work, and spoke to the classroom teachers and pupils. It was a very rigorous process, and they were very impressed with what they saw. They were not allowed to make a judgement, so words like 'good' or 'outstanding' were avoided, but the feedback was very positive.

On the last day of the inspection they observed lessons in a range of other subjects to check that what they had seen on the first day was evident in all subject areas. The pupils were fantastic, as they are each day, and represented themselves and the school well, explaining clearly what we do well and living the value of honesty. I think the inspectors were particularly impressed with the behaviour and attitudes of the pupils, as well as the work staff and pupils put into their personal development. The team were very grateful for us volunteering and gave us some good advice on things we could consider to deliver an even better education to your children, which we will of course be acting upon.

It's now back to work as normal, and we are looking forward to Covid restrictions easing throughout the summer term, and being able to run our upcoming Arts week (May), our Futures event with visitors coming to the school on 23 June, and our making memories event in July (all Covid permitting). We are also looking forward to more visits to the new building and planning is already underway for our transition across in October. In the coming weeks all staff will visit the site, and as soon as we can take people across without having to wear hard hats and protective footwear, we will start to take pupils to visit.

- ◆ If you haven't already, please explore the Virtual Library which gives access to thousands of books
<https://saracensvirtuallibrary.eplatform.co/>
- ◆ This term some Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will be working with Youth Realities <https://www.youthrealities.co.uk/> on healthy relationships and emotional regulation both in school and online
- ◆ We have started working with Melanie from BICS and PC Dhunjar, our Safer Schools Officer, is back on site regularly
- ◆ I know that many parents have enjoyed Khulisa's parent webinars, and there will be more to come, including a recording of this week's event
- ◆ Please remember that after school clubs and classes have started again and encourage your children to do as much as possible

Progress at the new building - April 2021

