

Dear Secondary Parents,

Ramadan

Ramadan is expected to commence on around 23rd April this year and that this has implications for a large number of our families. For Muslim families in our community Ramadan represents an important part of the year. We are keen to support our pupils who choose to fast in this period to be equally successful in school as in the rest of the year.

Please see the below guidance from the Association of School and College Leaders, via the Muslim Council of Britain:

Observing Ramadan may bring many benefits to individuals and communities but also has the potential to cause the individual temporary hardship through hunger and lack of liquids during fasting hours which may impact on physical wellbeing and cognitive performance.

Young Muslims and families, particularly those sitting exams this summer, will need to balance their obligations as Muslims with their studies and the importance of examinations for their future, noting that the pursuit of education is also a religious and moral duty for Muslims of both genders. This is also alongside any other relevant factors when deciding how to observe Ramadan this year.

It's very important that the school knows exactly which pupils will be fasting so that we can support them and so that our kitchen staff can prepare the correct number of meals during the period of Ramadan. Therefore, please clearly fill out the reply slip attached to this letter stating whether or not your child will be fasting. If you do not indicate that your child is fasting we will assume that your child will be eating school meals as normal. You will be charged the usual rate unless your child is entitled to Free School Meals.

If the information on the reply slip needs to change for a short period (for example if a girl is breaking her fast because she is menstruating) parents must inform the school office on the morning of the change or earlier. This enables us to accurately manage our school meal accounts and ensure enough food is available whilst reducing waste.

I appreciate that fasting is a challenge for many pupils, especially younger children. Where pupils appear to not be able to learn due to fasting, it is likely that their Head of Year or Head of School will invite their parent to meet with them to discuss if continuing to fast during Ramadan is appropriate for that child. If it is felt that a child's health is severely at risk due to their decision to fast, the school has a duty to care for the child by offering them some food or water. If it is felt that a decision for a child to fast, or to continue fasting, is dangerous, this will be treated as a safeguarding matter.

Thank you for your continued support of your child's education. Please complete the attached reply slip. Your child will need to return this to the school office, in some cases you may be required to attend a follow up meeting to discuss your child's fasting.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Haimendorf
Principal



Reply Slip

Child's Name _____

Year Group _____

Child's Class _____

Parent Signature _____

Please tick one of the following:

My child **will** be fasting during Ramadan

My child **will not** be fasting during Ramadan