

New Parents/Carers FAQs 2020



Please note: All of the information below is related to current plans, however they may be subject to change due to COVID 19 updated government guidelines

Key dates and communication:

What key dates do I need to be aware of?

- **Summer School - Monday 24th August - Thursday 27th August** - this will be open to all
- **First day of school - Monday 7th September** - this will be the start of the EGA Year 7 induction week whereby students will be partially in school taking part in a carousel of activities/induction lessons. Timings will be made available online closer to starting so please continue to check the school website
- **Start of full timetable from Monday 14th September** - there may be some temporary changes to the timings of the school day which we will fully communicate with students and families when starting in September
- **Year 7 Settling in Evening 4-4:45 and Parents' Garden Party 4:45 onwards- Wednesday 30th September (event details to be confirmed)**
 - receive information about your daughter's start at EGA, reading age tests and CAT scores, plus meet her form tutor
 - meet other families of year 7 students
- **Year 7 Parents' Evening - Thursday 27th May 2021** - a chance to talk to your daughter's subjects teachers about her progress and commitment to learning

How will you communicate with me?



General information for all parents will be sent by post and updated on the school website. We are also moving to using Studybugs as a way of sending out more information to families (information available online in the additional information and FAQ tab) Texts are sent with reminders of key dates and events. Automatic texts are sent home if your daughter is absent or late to morning or afternoon registration. If we have an email address for

you, you will receive the weekly school newsletter on a Friday. You can also sign up to Google Classroom alerts to see what work your daughter has online and to communicate with teachers.

Your daughter's teachers, form tutor, Head of Year, pastoral manager or SLT Line Manager may call you to discuss important issues specific to your daughter. It is also useful to check

our website <http://www.egaschool.co.uk/> and follow us on twitter https://twitter.com/EGA_School.

How can I communicate with you? Who do I go to with a concern?

The quickest way is to call reception and explain who your daughter is and what the issue is. They will be able to advise you who to speak to and transfer you to the correct person. Teachers may be teaching when you call, in which case you can leave a voicemail and they will call you back as soon as they can. If you know the extension number, you can enter this yourself. You can also email the school admin address and your email will be forwarded to the relevant members of staff. You can also email the Year 7 Pastoral team for more support - emails below:

Pastoral email addresses:

Head of Year: Ms Nikita Tailor: Nikita.Tailor@egas.islington.sch.uk

Pastoral Manager: Ms Shamiya Choudhury: Shamiya.Choudhury@egas.islington.sch.uk

SLT Line Manager: Ms Carley Stephenson: Carley.Stephenson@egas.islington.sch.uk

Pastoral support

How does the pastoral system work?

- Year 7 students are spread in to 8 tutor classes
- Having more tutor classes allows for smaller tutor groups which forms a strong community
- We also have a shadow house structure that your daughter/ward will be assigned to. Houses engage in friendly competition with each other over attendance, house points, sports day, etc and also allow for vertical assemblies and other opportunities for students to work with the wider school community outside of their year group.

Curriculum and learning:

What will my daughter study in year 7?

English, maths, science, French or Spanish*, geography, history, RE, art, textiles, food technology, computer science, dance, drama, music, PE, PSHE and Skills.

*Students in 7A, 7L and 7Z study Spanish. Students in 7E, 7T and 7H study French.

What can I do to help my daughter with her studies?

Please visit <http://www.egaschool.co.uk/285/helping-your-daughter-to-learn> where you can find detailed advice and resources for supporting your daughter's learning in all subjects.

How do I know what homework my daughter has been set?

Please visit <http://www.egaschool.co.uk/285/helping-your-daughter-to-learn> and we will also be inviting you to be Google Classroom Guardians when your daughter starts EGA. By signing up to be a Google Classroom Guardian you will be able to choose either weekly or daily email alerts for homework that has been set, completed and overdue.

What is your setting policy?

This varies across subjects and years. In Year 7, students are mainly taught in mixed attainment classes, but maths have sets 1 to 4. Both English and science create a top set on each half of the year, but the rest of the classes are mixed.

What equipment does my daughter need for lessons and what will you provide?

We provide students with all their exercise books and a homework diary. You need to get your daughter black/dark blue pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, sharpener, green pen and scientific calculator. Also useful are a highlighter, glue stick, scissors and coloured pens.

What clubs can my daughter attend?

So many! The club schedule will be published early in September and is updated every term. It is compulsory for all year 7s to commit to a club. Clubs may look slightly different to start with due to social distancing guidelines but we are hoping to still offer a range of enrichment opportunities.

When will I learn my daughter's CAT scores?

This information will be shared at Settling in Evening.

What can my daughter do over the summer to prepare?

Read widely and often. Get involved in activities - keep your mind and body active! Also sign up to summer school to get to know EGA little better before the official start date in September.

Attendance and punctuality:

What time does my daughter have to be in school by? What happens if my daughter is late to school?

There will be a change to the start of the day in response to COVID 19. Year 7 will start school at 9.30am and attend tutor time at the start of the day.

More information will be given when starting in September. Please continue to check the school website for changes to information.

What do I do if my daughter is sick?

Encourage your daughter to go to school, even if she feels under the weather - we can always send her home and usually girls feel better as the day goes on.

If she is too ill to come in, please use the Study Bugs app to notify the school of her absence. You can also call the school and leave a message for Dawn Bramble, our attendance officer with your daughter's name, tutor group and reason for absence. Please note we can only authorise extended absences with medical proof. GP/dental appointments should be booked after school or outside of term time where possible.

What do I do if I want to take my daughter out of school?

You should put your application in writing to the head teacher, but please be aware that we very rarely authorise such requests. Holidays should be booked outside of term time.

Lunch:

What lunch options are available?

Your daughter can have a hot lunch inside the canteen - there are always a number of meat and vegetarian options to choose from. Alternatively, she can get a takeaway meal from the outside servery, or buy a wrap, sandwich or baguette. Students are welcome to eat their own packed lunches inside the canteen or in the outside spaces. Eating is not permitted anywhere else inside the school building. Please note girls are not permitted to bring junk/fast food or fizzy drinks into school. We encourage girls to bring reusable water bottles and refill them from the water fountains.

How does my daughter pay for her lunch?

We have a cashless system so your daughter will pay by tapping her ID card, which is also her lunch card and library card. You need to top her card up online using Parent Pay <http://www.parentpay.com/>. You will receive an activation letter in the summer holidays with details of how to set up your account. Please ensure you do this before the first day of school. If you have any enquiries, please email: karen.tumbridge@egas.islington.sch.uk. Students who are entitled to free school meals will automatically receive this money on their card each day, this can only be used for lunch and not for additional snacks.

How do I apply for free school meals?

Go on the Islington Council website and apply via the Citizens Portal.

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/benefits-and-financial-support/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grant>

https://ems.islingtonschools.net/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F

School Uniform:

The full list of uniform items would have been sent to you with our admissions pack but you can also view this document on our school website. Our suppliers website is: <http://www.roughcutcasuals.co.uk/home/> Please check their website for additional information.

What do I do if I need support with purchasing a school uniform?

For Islington residents you can apply for a grant of £150 to put towards the cost of uniform items if you are eligible for free school meals. Please see the link here:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/benefits-and-financial-support/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grant>

There are similar grants for out of Islington below:

Haringey:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools-and-education/school-application-forms/free-school-meals-fsm-and-clothing-grant#:~:text=Back%20to%20top-.Clothing%20grant.clothing%20grant%20of%20%C2%A360.&text=To%20qualify%20for%20a%20grant.2008%20and%2031%20August%202009>

Hackney:

<https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/content/school-uniform-grant-age-11#:~:text=Your%20child%20can%20get%20a.Income%20support&text=Income%2Drelated%20employment%20and%20support%20allowance>

Rules and expectations:

What are your rules around uniform?

- EGA logo pink or white shirt OR a plain white school shirt
- V neck jumper, or cardigan, or zip up top, or sleeveless jumper - this **must** be the EGA logo version
- EGA logo knee length skirt, or EGA logo long skirt, OR plain, grey, straight legged school trousers (trousers do not have to be EGA logo ones, but must not be tight or legging style)
- Plain black, grey or white socks, or EGA long socks, or plain black tights
- Plain black or white headscarf (no patterns, sparkles or tassels etc) or EGA logo headscarf
- Any type of shoes are permitted as long as they are **completely plain black**, including the laces, soles and any logos.
- Students will also be given an ID card which they must carry with them. This is used for library books and to purchase lunch with .

Not permitted:

- hoodies or non-uniform sweatshirts or cardigans
- make-up / nail varnish / shellac / acrylics / false nails - students will be sent to reception or their house office to remove it
- jewellery other than small stud earrings and a watch
- bright hair dye (only natural colours, e.g. blonde, brown, red, black are permitted)

Please be vigilant and, if you are sending your daughter to school missing an item of uniform, write a note in her diary to explain the situation - she should then see her tutor, pastoral manager or head of house to get this note checked and signed. If your daughter does not have a note, she will be sent to reception to borrow a uniform for the day, or may be sent home to change if she is a repeat offender.

What are your rules around mobile phones?

We understand that most students have a mobile phone, but we say **we don't want to see them or hear them during the school day**. Students must ensure that mobile phones are put away when entering the school site. If a student is caught with their phone out or it goes off during a lesson, the teacher will confiscate the phone and hand it into reception, where students can collect it at the end of the day. If students argue about this, the phone will still be confiscated but parents will be expected to come in for a meeting before collecting the phone on behalf of their daughter. We will keep a record of phone confiscation and if this happens on multiple occasions you will be invited in to collect the mobile phone.

If you need to contact your daughter during the school day, please contact the school reception who will then get the message to your daughter. Please don't try to ring her directly.

Organisation checklist:

- Full uniform
- ID card to use in the canteen and library
- Student diary/planner
- Reading book
- Black/dark blue pens
- Pencils, rubber and sharpener
- Green pen and highlighter
- Calculator, compass, protractor and ruler

And on relevant days:

- PE kit
- Food technology ingredients