

13<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## Grenfell Anniversary

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this finds you well. With a month to go until the Five Year Anniversary of Grenfell, I wanted to write to all of you and update you on our planning for this important event.

We have a dedicated page on our website – <https://kaa.org.uk/grenfell-anniversary> - with a full overview of our plans and links to community events, and we will add to this as we move through the coming weeks. However, the key points to share with all parents are:

- As in previous years, we are expecting a range of emotions from our student community around the anniversary. We're sure that all students will want to show respect to victims of the fire, including the five KAA students who tragically lost their lives (their names were Biruk Haftom, Mierna Choucair, Jessica Urbano, and Firdaws and Yahya Hashim). We are also very conscious that, for those students who were worst affected, it could prove to be a painful and distressing period. For this reason, we are increasing the mental health support we have available to students in school in the weeks around the anniversary. If any student wants to speak to bereavement counsellors during this period this support will be readily available, although it will need to take place around the normal timetable of lessons wherever possible. Students will be able to see counsellors individually or in groups.
- There will be a number of whole school initiatives which will help communicate the significance of the anniversary. **On the day of the anniversary itself – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June – these will include:**
  - Students will be invited to wear green as a mark of remembrance to the victims, and school uniform is not required. This can be a full green outfit, or a green T-shirt or hoody, or items displaying the Grenfell heart symbol or similar.
  - All students will complete a tutor period activity that will allow them to create a message of remembrance for victims of the fire. These will then be combined by the Art Department into a permanent display around school.
  - We will also be holding a special service on our Third Floor Art Terrace, near our memorial garden overlooking the Silchester Road side of the school (so away from the tower), from 5pm – 6pm. There will be a performance from the school choir and an address from Georgina Smith (Year 13), who is herself a survivor of the tower. We are very grateful to her and other surviving and bereaved students for the continued strength and leadership they show.
- During the week of the anniversary, the regular school assembly slot will be dedicated to an assembly about Grenfell and the community recovery in the last five years. This is being led by

Rosemary Oyewole our Director of Science and Staff Governor. Rosemary herself is a survivor and member of Grenfell United. Again, we are grateful to have her support with this.

- Around these important events, we are expecting the normal school timetable to run smoothly. Expectations of behaviour and attitude will remain the same, with the acceptance that the mood amongst students and staff is likely to be sad and reflective. June is an important month for the school, not least because of the GCSE and A Level exams that are taking place, and we are sure parents will understand why we need to keep students focused on their academic development as far as we possibly can.

**I would like to invite all parents, students and staff joined us for our service from 5pm-6pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June. I know many of you will have other commitments or events to mark the anniversary planned, but it would be great if we could have a strong turnout for this. If we see very high levels of demand, we may need to operate a first come first served basis for this. If you would like to attend to hear the choir and Georgina speak, please complete this short **RSVP** form:**

<https://forms.gle/FjfuHUuWHEFmYETU9>

I will send a further letter just before the anniversary itself. I want to thank all of you in advance for your support with these events - there is strength in numbers. I know that, as in previous years, people will pull together to support each other through the sadness we will all feel.

Best wishes,



**David Benson**  
Principal