

25<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## **Grenfell Anniversary**

Dear Parents & Carers,

With the Six Year Anniversary of Grenfell coming up shortly after the half term break on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, I wanted to write to all of you and update you on our planning for the anniversary this year.

As you will know, our KAA community was badly affected by the fire. We understand there will be a range of emotions from our student community around the anniversary. We are also conscious that, for those students who were worst affected, it could prove to be a painful and distressing period as students experience “anniversary reactions”. 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 also be a number of whole school initiatives which will help communicate the significance of the anniversary.

### **On the day of the anniversary itself – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June – these will include:**

- Students will be invited to wear “Green4Grenfell” as a mark of remembrance, and school uniform is not required. This can be a full green outfit, or a green T-shirt or items displaying the Grenfell heart symbol or similar. Student volunteers will also be able to give students green ribbons and anniversary badges to wear on the anniversary if your child does not have any green clothing.
- Students will be able to visit our Grenfell memorial garden during break, lunch time and after school on the anniversary, with KAA and therapy staff available to support students. Children will be invited to leave green ribbons and messages of remembrance on the branches of the tree in the memorial garden.
- Students will also be invited to complete a tutor period activity that will allow them to create a 72-word poem as part of the “Green4Grenfell” activities for the anniversary this year. You can also participate in this from home (see attached flyer for more information).

### **During the week of the anniversary – from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June – school activities will include:**

- The regular school assembly slot will be dedicated to an anniversary assembly led by Jasmine Vines, our Assistant Principal for Personal Development, and Nikki Sullivan, the Director of Inclusion who works closely with our bereaved and survivor students, as well as managing our therapy provision at KAA.
- If any student would like to contribute to these assemblies or help handing out green ribbons or anniversary badges, they should contact Mrs Vines or Ms Sullivan as soon as possible – our thanks to those who have already expressed an interest in supporting these activities.

**There will be a range of events taking place in the community for the anniversary:**

- The silent walk takes place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm, meeting at the Notting Hill Methodist Church from 6pm on the day of the anniversary.
- There will be further events announced by Grenfell United and other community groups in the coming weeks. We have a dedicated page on our website – <https://kaa.org.uk/kaa-grenfell-anniversary-2023> - where we will include information about events students, parents and staff may wish to attend in the community. We will add to this as we move through the coming weeks.

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 some 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 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**