

19th August 2026

Dear Parents, Guardians and Agents,

For those whom I have not yet met, my name is Gareth Evans, and I am the Senior Vice Principal and DSL. I oversee the journey of our students and work closely with our excellent staff to ensure that every young person is supported to thrive.

As we begin the new academic year, I wanted to share some key information that I hope will help you and your child make the most of the opportunities and support available at DLD College London.

Start of term arrangements:

Date	Returning students	Students joining in September
Monday 31 st August from 9.00am	Boarding house opens All Student Council and boarding mentors must be in school to support	Boarding students Boarding house opens 6pm-7pm Welcome Dinner with all Boarding Staff 7pm Movie in the Atrium
Tuesday 1 st September	All Student Council and boarding mentors must be in school to support	All students Enrolment from 9am (see email from Admissions team for further details) Boarding students 7pm-8pm Boarding Induction 8pm-9pm Meet your Houseparent
Wednesday 2 nd September	All Student Council and boarding mentors must be in school to support	Induction for all new students – students to arrive for a 9am start, meeting key staff and getting to know the school. Programme finishes at 4pm. Boarding students 5pm-6pm – London Challenge
Thursday 3 rd September (students should come to	Day starts at 8.30am: 8.45am tutor time, start of term assembly followed by	Day starts at 8.30am: 8.45am tutor time, start of term assembly followed by

Principal: James Kidd BSc (Hons), MA, MA (Ed)
DLD College London, 199 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7FX
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7935 8411
Email: dld@dld.org
www.dldcollege.co.uk

school with charged laptop and charger)	lessons. No Co-curricular activities (CCAs) until next week, all day students free to leave from 4.10pm Boarding – Study for Upper School and CSA boarders from 4.10pm	lessons. No Co-curricular activities (CCAs) until next week, all day students free to leave from 4.10pm Boarding – Study for Upper School and CSA boarders from 4.10pm
Friday 4 th September	Normal school day	Normal school day
Monday 7 th September	Normal school day 4.15pm – 5.00pm CCA Fair for all students (CCAs start Tuesday 8 th September)	Normal school day 4.15pm – 5.00pm CCA Fair for all students (CCAs start Tuesday 8 th September)

Timetable:

The key points to flag regarding this timetable are as follows:

- Upper School must be in for 8.30am with lessons starting at 8.45am (Sixth form students must be in school for their first lesson or 11.20am, whichever is earliest, unless whole school events such as assemblies are taking place)
- Tutor time is at 11.20am every day – this is compulsory for all students
- Lessons finish at 4.10pm
- CCAs take place from 4.15pm

Key Term Dates:

The key school dates for the first term are set out below. We expect that the term dates are followed, as we do not permit any late returns or early departures, which will be classified as unauthorised. Enrichment activities often happen at the end of school term and are compulsory. Should there be an exceptional circumstance, permission will need to be sought from the Principal in writing, via dldattendance@dld.org.

Please note that the boarding house stays open during all half terms and long holidays except for the Christmas and Summer Holidays, so boarders are expected to attend all lessons and not leave early.

Half term: Monday 19th October 2026 – Friday 30th October 2026

* This is a two week half term whereas the spring and summer half terms will last one week.

** Boarding House will remain open during half term

End of Term: Wednesday 16th December 2026 at 4.10pm

*Please note that the boarding house closes for the Christmas holidays on Thursday 17th December at 10am.

Start of Spring Term: Wednesday 6th January 2026 (normal school day)

Mobile Phones

Please note that the UK Government has introduced guidance restricting the use of mobile phones in schools ([Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mobile-phones-in-schools)). At DLD College, the following rules apply:

Upper School (Years 8–11)

Day and boarding students must hand in their mobile phones at 8.30am each morning and may collect them at 4.10pm at the end of the school day. The procedures for this will be explained clearly to all Upper School students during the first assembly.

Any student found in possession of a mobile phone during the school day, having failed to hand it in, will be sanctioned in accordance with the College's Behaviour Policy.

Sixth Form (Years 12–14)

Sixth Form students are not required to hand in their phones. However, phones must be kept on silent and out of sight throughout the school day (8.45am–4.10pm), unless in Hub Social Space. Any student who breaches this rule (i.e. caught with their phone out) will have their phone confiscated for the remainder of the school day and may collect it at 4.10pm. They will also receive a sanction in line with the College's Behaviour Policy.

iPads, Laptops and Smart Technology

Other devices, including iPads, laptops and smart technology, may only be used during the school day for academic purposes.

If a student is found using a device for social media or other non-academic purposes during the school day, the device will be confiscated for the remainder of the day and may be collected at 4.10pm. The student will also be sanctioned in accordance with the College's Behaviour Policy.

Expectations (inc. Attendance)

We expect students to have 100% attendance and punctuality to school and class; a reminder that all Upper School students should be in school by 8.30am in order to hand in their phones and be in line with the expectations of Upper School boarders. Sixth Form students must be in school for their first lesson or 11.20am, whichever is the earliest. Where Sixth Form students are not in lessons, there are study and social spaces around the school, which they should utilise. Term dates are published

on the [school's website](#), and students are expected to honour these. For those here studying on a visa, commitment to attendance is one of the UKVI expectations, and failure to attend will see visas revoked. Please help us to ensure we do not have to sanction students by booking holidays and flights etc outside of term time.

The school is a smoke-free zone, and students found smoking or vaping in school can expect to face sanctions including potentially a temporary exclusion, with repeated offences putting their place at the school at risk. The school takes this very seriously and, as I will highlight to the students, there are sensors in areas of the school, so it is important that they do not smoke or vape on site. Help to give up can be sought from the College Matron.

The school also has a zero-tolerance policy on prohibited substances. As such, in line with the school's prohibited substance policy, the school does carry out testing, where there are concerns; refusal to take the test is treated as a failed test. If their sample is found to contain prohibited substances, the student should expect to be temporary excluded, with repeated offences seeing them asked to leave the school. Those returning a non-negative test will be subject to follow up tests, at personal expense.

If a boarder is given a temporary exclusion, this must be served away from school; it is the responsibility of parents to ensure they are with a suitable host. A day student would, of course, return home immediately.

Values

We have based our values on 'TRACK': Tolerance, Respect, Academic Curiosity, Community, Kindness. With nearly 60 different nationalities across the student body, students come with different lived experiences and cultural norms; these values bond our community and enable them to live and study together in a positive environment. It can take some time to settle into new routines and figure out how to best live and study alongside new people; please get in touch with any concerns, so we can help resolve these.

Key points of contact:

Attendance Officer = First point of call for all attendance related matters

HM = Housemaster/mistress who is the first point of contact for your child for all academic and pastoral matters

HP = Houseparent who is the first point of contact for all boarding matters, if your child boards with us

Person	Contact
Attendance Officer	dldattendance@dld.org
Metropolitan	HM - Nayan.patel@dld.org

	HP - Karolina.Zielinska@dld.org
Jubilee	HM - Emma.ashton@dld.org
	HP - Sophie.sandford@dld.org
Piccadilly	HM - Marie.kerrigan@dld.org
	HP - B.verschoren@dld.org
Northern	HM - Jess.ellett@dld.org
	HP - Scott.webster@dld.org
District	HM - Nick.taylor@dld.org
	HP - Danny.lgbinidu2@dld.org

Portal

iSAMS will be our new parent and student portal which will be used for accessing your child's timetable, attendance, school report, achievement and behaviour points. This will be emailed to you as a link to this portal following the start of term

Policies

The key policies which align to the main points addressed in this letter are attached for your reference, these are; attendance policy, behaviour, discipline and exclusion policy and the mobile phone policy.

Finally, I wish your child the very best for the academic year ahead. I hope they enjoy their time here at DLD College London, taking advantage of the opportunities and support that they will encounter daily.

Kind regards



Gareth Evans
Senior Vice Principal and DSL