

FO/ANE/NR



ILFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

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15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of the continued teaching and learning professional development work that we carry out in school, this year one of our focus areas has been on teacher questioning in lessons. As a culmination of some of that work, we are going to be running an exciting one-day event, which schools across the country are getting involved in called **No Pens Wednesday**. The event will take place on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**.

### What is No Pens Wednesday?

The aim of the day is to encourage spoken language and listening skills and raise awareness of their importance in education and beyond.

For just one day, students will put down their pens and all lessons and activities will have a focus on questioning and spoken language skills rather than writing or using a computer keyboard. Some examples of activities that students will complete on this day includes debating, conscience alleys, court cases, hot-seating, interviews and anchor challenges.

### Why are we taking part?

Reading and writing are very valuable skills, but people are often not aware of how important spoken language and listening skills are too. Schools that include spoken language in a planned and structured way for children and young people in their lessons see improvement in their classroom involvement. Ofsted inspectors are noticing more and more that spoken language and listening is an important part of good teaching especially where it is getting students to think harder and be more in control of their learning.

### How will your son benefit?

**No Pens Wednesday** will give your son an opportunity to practise his spoken language and listening skills for a whole school day. Teachers will also be able to focus their questioning skills to really make boys think hard, make links and work things out both orally and aurally. Students will be able to use what they have learnt from this day throughout the school year and beyond.

We are really excited about the **No Pens Wednesday** and hope that you will encourage your son to fully participate in the fun filled day of learning that is planned. Can you please remind him that he will not need his pens on the day, so he may prefer to leave them at home. If you have any questions about the day, please feel free to contact us at school at any time.

Kind regards,

Mrs Foucher  
Assistant Headteacher

Miss Nekiwala  
Teacher of English and Oracy

A Specialist Grammar School

