

Headteacher: Patrick Cozier BSc (Hons), MA, NPQH

7th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I am writing to you at the end of the first week back this academic year with a few important updates. However, before I get into those I wanted to formally welcome you all back to the start of a new academic year at HWS.

This week our students returned with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and excitement, and it was wonderful to see them looking so smart in their uniforms. The positive energy was felt throughout the school, and it was clear that both students and staff are happy to be back.

A special mention goes to our new Year 7 students, who have already made such a positive impression on their first week of secondary school. We are thrilled to have them join our school community and look forward to seeing them thrive in the coming years.

Similarly, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our Year 12 students. We are proud to have recruited a record number of students into our Sixth Form, and we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for them as they continue their educational journey with us.

Industrial Action by the NEU – Potential Strike Days This Coming Week

As mentioned in my letter to you on 1st September, the NEU has three further planned days of strike action on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th of September. On Friday afternoon myself and the two Co-Chairs of Governors attended resolution talks with the NEU, along with ACAS who acted as facilitators.

As a result of the talks we have made a further improved offer to the NEU to try to resolve the dispute. The NEU will present our new offer to their members on Monday afternoon. They will inform me by 4pm that afternoon as to whether or not our offer has been accepted.

This means that the planned strike days may still go ahead, so I do ask that parents and carers provisionally have in place any childcare arrangements that you deem necessary for those dates. As soon as I know the outcome I will inform you by e-mail and text.

New Admin Toilets Have Been Completed

I am delighted to inform you that the new Admin toilets have been completed. They look amazing and will, I am sure, be far more pleasant for our students to use. The open plan style also means that students (particularly our younger ones) can feel more secure in using them as the lines of sight into the area provide natural supervision – no corners to hide in. I have included with this letter our press release for the new toilets which include some images for your information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who have put so much effort into making this happen. Firstly, to the parents who lobbied the local authority so effectively and persistently. There is no doubt that your contribution expedited things significantly. Secondly, I want to thank those staff members who put so much time and energy into liaising with the Local Authority and overseeing the process. I am also grateful to Haringey for making it happen so quickly over the summer and being so receptive to our demands about the design and functionality of the toilets. Our next step will be to think about the toilets in the Windrush building, but more on that soon!

A Message from Mr Nayar (Head of Science)

"As you are aware, we use the app **Tassomai** as our main science homework for all KS3 and KS4 students – you should all be receiving weekly emails asking you to log in and view your child's progress. **We would like to request that all parents/carers please contribute £8 per year towards the cost of Tassomai.** (It is on Scopay). Thank you to all those who have already contributed and especially to those that have contributed extra!

We have managed to negotiate a substantial discount for the school - as a private subscriber, Tassomai would cost either £29.99 or £44.99 *per month*, depending on school year.

Why do we use Tassomai?

It is based on the educational principles of spacing, interleaving and targeted repetition to help students improve their grades. It works by spreading their learning into bite-sized chunks over as long a period of time as possible. This reduces anxiety in students as revision is 'little and often' and does not leave students with a huge amount of revision before assessments. As students answer questions the algorithm begins to learn where their strengths and weaknesses are, allowing it to target specific gaps in their knowledge - but also making it easier for our teachers to see where your child might need some extra help. Tassomai has a new AI tutor called MAI which students are finding very useful as it only contains the correct science (unlike ChatGPT which can be variable).

It is used in over 500 schools and has a proven impact on GCSE grades. Students that regularly complete their Weekly Goal succeed in meeting or exceeding their Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs). In our experience, students that regularly complete Tassomai perform very well in GCSEs and are much more confident in the classroom.

If you would like to know more about Tassomai, please go to www.tassomai.com and click on 'HOW IT WORKS'. You can also email admin@tassomai.com with any questions – they are very helpful!

If you have any questions at all about Tassomai or if the payment would cause you hardship, please contact me at dna@hws.haringey.sch.uk
Thank you for your continued support."

... And Finally

Thank you all for your continued support. I wish you and your families all the best for the rest of the weekend!

Regards



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher