

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

21st June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update from Highgate Wood School (No. 9)

As ever, I hope that you are all well and that you have had a good week.

Year 10s return – a great start!

This week we have seen the return of some of our year 10 students. They have attended progress tutorials in English, maths and science. The sessions have gone well, the attendance has been excellent and the engagement has been first class – this despite not having been in school for such a long time. The enthusiasm of the students to get back to some sort of normality was tangible and I know that the staff who delivered those sessions were thrilled to be back doing face-to-face teaching.

As I have talked about in previous letters, we implemented all of the safety measures that we had promised – social distancing, cleaning of the areas used, etc. One thing that I would ask is that parents and carers talk to their children about maintaining social distancing whilst journeying to and from school. We are excited to see the rest of the year 10s in this coming week!

Thoughts on September – an update

You will recall in the letter that I wrote last week, I shared our initial thinking on what might happen in September. There is a huge amount to consider and much of this depends on how things with Covid-19 progress and what decision the government takes. We are basing our planning on four possible scenarios.

Scenario 1	Covid-19 disappears completely over the summer and the risk of contracting Covid-19 has been eliminated Full school return in September
Scenario 2	The risk level of contracting Covid-19 is lower than now but not eliminated This would probably mean that we could have half the school in at any time
Scenario 3	The risk level of contracting Covid-19 is something like now This is likely to see Year 11/Year 13 in school significantly more than other year groups, whose main provision would be remote learning
Scenario 4	The risk of a severe second spike is high School would be closed to all students

Highgate Wood School Student Council supports individual action to address the issues of Climate Change and promotes the United Nations top 10 recommendations.



We do not think that scenarios 1 and 4 are very likely so we are more focused in developing our planning based on scenarios 2 and 3. This does mean that we think that we will have to retain a two-pronged approach to our provision, mixing face-to-face contact with continuing online provision. It will probably be the case that face-to-face sessions will be based on reviewing work previously set and prepping students for the work ahead rather than detailed curriculum delivery, but that is still to be determined. As I previously said, we will update you with more specific details as and when we know more.

As we build towards this, our intention is to start shifting things towards 'normality' for both staff and students over the next four weeks. Our planning is based around re-establishing some daily routines (lessons, meetings, etc.) and increasing the level of structure.

Further developing our online provision – progress tutorials via Google Meet

We are extending our use of online progress tutorials via Google Meet over the next few weeks. Our aspiration will be that all students get the opportunity to engage in at least one of these meetings with a teacher from each of their subjects by the end of term. These are currently well established for Year 12 and our next opportunity is extending them into Year 10 for the non-core subjects. These sessions will take place during a scheduled lesson slot, with details shared via Google Classrooms. Our intention is to roll these out into years 7, 8 and 9.

Google Meet video tutorials work in much the same way as Zoom or Microsoft Teams. The teacher will present, sometimes sharing a screen, and students will have the opportunity to engage in discussions or question/answer sessions. During the tutorial, students can choose to mute or not use video themselves.

We ask that students adhere to the following guidelines:

- Wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas in the home and, where possible, be against a neutral background.
- Language must be courteous, considerate and appropriate, including any voices from family members who may be in the background.
- Videos may be muted for both students and staff if other children in the household become unsettled or cause a disruption.
- No screen shots or recording of the session.

The teacher may remove a student from the Meet if there are any concerns. Each teacher will record the tutorial and place it in the Google Classroom so that any student who cannot join the session is able to catch up.

These tutorials are an opportunity for students to actively engage with their teacher and their peers. It is therefore important that students have any resources (such as a textbook or calculator) requested by the teacher ready for the tutorial.

If a tutorial has to be cancelled due to the teacher's circumstances, we will inform students via Google Classrooms.

Free school meals – provision over the summer

You will probably be aware that the government's initial plan was to stop the vouchers from the end of this term. However, following the high profile intervention by Manchester United and England footballer Marcus Rashford, the government have changed their minds and made what I believe is the right decision – good news! We are aware the many family circumstances have changed significantly in the last few months. If you believe you may now be entitled to Free School Meals I urge you to apply now. Please visit [Haringey's website here](#) and apply without delay.

These details are also on our COVID page on the school website. Families can apply online through Haringey's MyAccount (which they have to register for) or will need to download a form and then return it complete to fsm@haringey.gov.uk

Happy Father's Day!

This Sunday is Father's Day. I wanted to take this opportunity to wish a fantastic day to all the wonderful fathers in our community who are doing a fantastic job. Having lost my own father to Covid during this time, I know how valuable fathers are and how much we must appreciate the time that we spend with our children. In addition, I want to make a special mention to those mothers in our community who are taking on both roles. You are very special people and you are also hugely appreciated.

Parent/Carer Fund (PCF)

I am again taking this opportunity repeat the notice regarding our Parent/Carer Fund. The PCF allows our parents and carers to donate to the school. We have a significant project planned with regards to renovating parts of the dining hall and playground to provide a better and more comfortable dining experience for our students when school returns. This includes having outdoor covered spaces and support for the implementation of split lunches. The plans at a considerable cost, as I am sure you can imagine. We intend to prioritise our PCF to support this work and would very much welcome any donations. For more information on the Parent Carer Fund please visit <https://bit.ly/hwsfundraising> on the school website, or you can go direct to <http://bit.ly/hwsdonate> to set up a donation.


We are always grateful to receive any donations that families can afford to make. However, I would like to continuously impress upon you that all donations are voluntary and that no one should ever feel pressured into donating money that they cannot afford.

Support information for Parents and Carers

Again, rather than repeat the links and notices regarding support and helplines for parents and carers, we have published these on our Covid blog at <http://bit.ly/hwscovid4>. Here you will find the links that were contained in my last letter and elsewhere, a link for critical workers to register with the school and contact details to apply for Free School Meals.

Take care and stay safe!

Regards


Patrick Cozier
Headteacher