

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

5th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update from Highgate Wood School (No. 11)

As ever, I hope that you are all well, that you have had a good week. Welcome to another information filled communication from the school. Things keep changing at a pace and, as ever, there are some key updates for me to share with you.

Ofqual Updates for Year 11 and Year 13

This has been the most unusual year for students preparing to take exams in my educational career to date. The cancelling of exams and the awarding of grades by the exam boards is unprecedented. Ofqual has been consulting over the need to provide students who are unhappy with their awarded grades to re-sit exams in the autumn.

Following the consultation, Ofqual has confirmed a series of decisions which include:

- Exam boards must make exams available in all GCSE, AS and A level subjects in the additional autumn series (i.e. this coming autumn) and are therefore varying their normal rules that allow exams only to be held in May and June
- Exam boards must base results on students' performance in exams alone and not on any non-exam assessment, with the exception of art and design qualifications
- Exam boards must issue replacement certificates for the summer results if students request this
- Exam boards must adopt the normal arrangements for reviews of marking and appeals

There are still some decisions to be made about how schools will facilitate these exams. We will notify the relevant parents, carers and students as soon as we know more about the arrangements and the implications of these arrangements.

Planning for September return – an update

I shared the table below with you in my last two letters. We have always been planning for all four scenarios, and still are, but you will no doubt be aware that the situation has changed. Following the formal announcement by the government, it would now appear that Scenario One is the most likely of the four.

Scenario 1	<p>Covid-19 disappears completely over the summer and the risk of contracting Covid-19 has been eliminated</p> <p>Full school return in September</p>
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Highgate Wood School Student Council supports individual action to address the issues of Climate Change and promotes the United Nations top 10 recommendations.



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

On Thursday 2nd July the government issued guidance to all schools as to how to implement a full return to school for all students in September.

The first thing to say is that we are pleased that the government has said all students can come back. We have learnt a lot during this period of lockdown about how to deliver online education, and families and staff have been outstanding in embracing this. But children need the routine of normal school life and they also need to see their friends and teachers. It is vital that we get students back to school in September, and the government has made attendance compulsory unless there is a statutory reason for children to be absent.

Over recent weeks, where the school has been open to fewer students, we feel we have created the groundwork to securing a successful opening for all students in September. Below are some of the key things that we will implement to give you an idea of what we have been considering.

- Students who have been in school so far are used to washing their hands regularly and that will remain in place. Once students are in school, they will wash their hands regularly, including before and after they eat, and whenever they change rooms or return from break.
- There will be staggered start and finish times by year group – we will write to you in due course with the details and how they will affect your child. Students will also be placed in a protective ‘bubble’ with the rest of their year group. We will put measures in place to minimise any prolonged close contact between year groups which will help keep the school safe.
- We will stagger break and lunch times for year groups and keep year groups in designated areas.
- We will seek to minimise movement as much as possible at lesson changeover to keep the corridors safe.
- In lessons, all desks will be front facing (as recommended by the government) to ensure that students are not facing each other directly.
- We will continue to implement a comprehensive schedule of cleaning including the wiping down of desks and equipment in between lessons.

We understand that every child, and every home, has had a different experience with lockdown and home learning. Whilst we know the majority of families will be delighted that schools are reopening, there may be some parents or students who feel anxious about returning: if this applies to you, please do not suffer in silence. You should contact us as soon as you can, and we will work with you to ensure you feel reassured that all your concerns have been addressed.

We recognise that there will be learning gaps to be filled when the students return and are planning a ‘recovery’ curriculum for the autumn term so that everyone has the chance to catch up. We will also ensure there is time devoted to the emotional wellbeing of students. In preparation for this, we have ensured that key staff have been receiving appropriate training in mental health and well-being

and also managing trauma. In addition we are looking at our PSHEE curriculum and pastoral support to ensure that students get all the help that they need, with extra help for those who require it.

We will, of course, also need your help and support to keep everyone safe as we return to school in September. If your son or daughter, or somebody else in your household, develops Covid-19 symptoms they should stay at home until tested. Likewise, the government guidance says that if there is a confirmed case at school, then we should work with the relevant health authorities to ensure that everyone who was in close contact with them when they were infectious is notified and self-isolates for fourteen days. In this situation we will notify the appropriate students and families. We have also enclosed a flyer with this letter to support parents and carers to keep their children safe.

Alongside planning for a full return, we continue to work at developing our online remote provision to cover each scenario. If for any reason we do not have a full opening, we will be ready. Similarly, if circumstances change and individual or groups of students need to remain at home, we will ensure that our online provision will meet their needs and keep them engaged with learning. Please note that the above is not exhaustive at this point and I am sure you will have many questions. However, I wanted to give you an indication of what we are planning as quickly as possible. I will share more detail on our plans in my next letter to parents and carers next weekend. In the meantime you may wish to read the government guidance "[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)".

No Small School Over the Summer

As you will be aware, we have been running a Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Small School for the duration of lockdown for our children of key workers and for our vulnerable students. More recently, we have also run the same for our vulnerable year 12 students. In accordance with the advice from the government, I wanted to alert parents that we will not be running either of our small schools over the summer holiday. However, for vulnerable students we will continue to make contact to check on them and support them as much as we can.

Free School Meals Vouchers Over the Summer – Are you eligible?

The government has confirmed that it will continue to fund the free school meal vouchers scheme over the summer holiday. We are concerned that some of our families who are eligible are not claiming the vouchers when they could be. If you think that you could be eligible and you want to find out more, please contact Mr Ashman (tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk) who will be able to support you or point you towards someone who will. Applications for Free School Meals do need to be made to Haringey Council and will need to be made very swiftly to enable processing in time for the summer payment.

Parent/Carer Fund (PCF)

I am reminding you again of the PCF fund which allows parents and carers to donate to the school, and for the fund to also claim Gift Aid on the donation. As I have mentioned before 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 which will assist us in facilitating the measures needed for opening in September. The plans come 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.

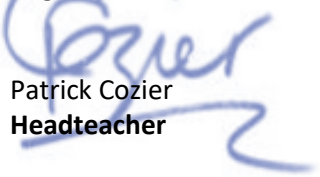
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Mental Health and Well-Being

For anyone who is struggling during this period, help is available via Haringey Local Authority. The main information can be found [here](#). Again, rather than repeat the links and notices regarding other support and helplines for parents and carers, we have published these on our Covid blog on the school website at <http://bit.ly/hwscovid4>.

Take care and stay safe!

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cozier". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Patrick Cozier
Headteacher