

24th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update from Highgate Wood School

Welcome to the summer term! I know that this is not the usual start to the summer term that we experience, but nevertheless it is here. I do hope that you all had a good time over the Easter break and that you are continuing to keep healthy and stay safe.

This is the second of our weekly update letters that you will be receiving from HWS for the duration of the period for which schools are closed. It is impossible for us as school leaders to predict when schools will re-open. However, it would appear that we can expect the situation to remain as it is for at least the next few weeks. We will continue to do all that we can to support your children during this period with work and support.

Google Classroom – Tutor Group Rooms (Years 7, 8, 9 10 and 12)

Part of the support that we are offering to our students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 is the availability access to their form tutors Monday to Friday at 11am to 11.25am. Form tutors will be available in the tutor room to offer support, respond to queries, and we also have an increasing number of activities and quizzes for students to participate in. Tutors may offer support with the work that students are doing, but this will depend mostly on time available and also the subject expertise of the tutor. We would very much appreciate your support by encouraging your child to visit the tutor room every day during the week.

Progress on Year 11 and 13 Centre Assessed Grades (CAG)

As we communicated previously, following the cancellation of all exams this summer, the government is requiring schools to submit Centre Assessed Grades for each year 11 and year 13 students for each of their subjects studied. The guidelines for schools are very clear about what is expected and like all schools we have begun the process of doing what has been asked of us.

We are currently working with our heads of departments and their teachers to generate the most appropriate CAGs for our students. The process is rigorous and involves looking at current progress, mock exam performance and students' prior attainment amongst other things. We have created a number of stages with checks at each point. The last part of the process is a final sign off by me to ensure that grades that we submit represent an honest and accurate reflection of the grades that our students would have achieved had they taken their exams in the summer. They will be ready for submission considerably earlier than the deadline at the end of May.

The Department for Education has now confirmed that students will receive their results on the same days as previously scheduled in August. For year 13s and A levels (and equivalents) that is Thursday 13th August 2020, and for year 11s and GCSEs (and equivalents) the following week on Thursday 20th August 2020.

I would like to remind all year 11 and year 13 students and parents that we are not allowed to share any information with you about CAGs prior to the release of the exam results in August so please do not ask us.

If you have any queries about this please contact Mr Hartley (aha@hws.haringey.sch.uk) for year 11 enquiries or Ms Pinnick (lpi@hws.haringey.sch.uk) for year 13 enquiries.

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



5-minute showers



Drive less



Lights off



Local produce



Recycle



Meat-free meals



Zero-waste fashion



Unplug



Refill and reuse



Bring your own bag

Hardship Fund & Support for Families

We fully understand that some families will be having a tough time right now during this period of national lock down. We know that jobs are not secure and business may not be good for some self-employed parents. With this in mind we would like to draw your attention to our hardship fund (in conjunction with the PSA). This is for families who are struggling and need a bit of support with essentials or for accessing the resources for their children to engage. For some families this has meant receiving vouchers which can be spent in most well-known supermarkets and for some the provision of laptops.

If you are struggling or know a family that is, please contact Ms Spence (dbs@hws.haringey.sch.uk) who will be able to discuss the issue with you and let you know if the situation is eligible for support from our fund.

In addition, we are aware of the good work being done by the Muswell Hill Food Bank. They are helping many families across the borough. However, they would also welcome some support so if you are in a position to make a donation, I would again ask that you contact Ms Spence on the e-mail address above and she will give you the details.

KS3 Overview on the Website

We have updated our website to include information for parents of year 7, 8 and 9 students which shows an overview of the KS3 curriculum. We hope that this will support you and your child in your efforts to continue with education at home during this school closure period. This can be found here at <https://bit.ly/hwsonline20>

Small School – An Update

As you will be aware, we have been operating a small school during this period of time to look after the children of key workers and also our vulnerable children who cannot be catered for at home. We ran the school over the Easter period (including the bank holidays). We have been really pleased with how this has been going, and we are proud that this has benefited a good number of families. Attendance has been consistent and students have enjoyed a range of academic, sporty and creative opportunities during each day.

Return to Schools

As I said at the beginning of this letter. It is very difficult to predict when schools will re-open and also under what circumstances. We could be looking at a full return or a partial opening for some but not all students. We could be looking at May or June, or it could be after the summer in September. We just don't know at the moment.

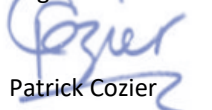
However, we will be returning at some point and I would like to reassure you that I am discussing this with my leadership team, the professional associations and the Local Authority to put together a plan to ensure that when that time does come, in whatever circumstances, we will be ready to provide the excellent care and learning experience for our students as always strive to do.

In closing I take the opportunity to attach here a letter to parents and carers from our Chair of Governors, Elizabeth Hess.

For those observing Ramadan at Home, you have my warmest wishes. To everyone I wish you a great weekend.

Take care and stay safe!

Regards


Patrick Cozier
Headteacher