

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Update from Highgate Wood School

As I write to you in these strangest times, I hope that you and your loved ones are coping well and doing your best to stay safe. This is certainly uncharted waters for us and every school up and down the country, and I will outline later in this letter what we are doing to ensure that we keep your children occupied and engaged with their learning throughout what we anticipate will be the next few weeks and months.

### Some Tragic News – Loren Coomber 71

Unfortunately, I have to begin this letter to you with some deeply sad news about one of our wonderful students Loren Coomber. Tragically, Loren died earlier this week on Tuesday following a terrible accident at home. As you can imagine, we are all deeply shocked by this. I am sharing this information with you having discussed this with Loren's family and they have indicated a willingness to let the school community know. We are working very closely with the family and are offering them whatever support we can.

One thing that I would like your support with as parents and carers is to be mindful of the social media communications that your child may be involved in about this issue. We are aware that some chat has been occurring on various platforms and in WhatsApp groups. Whilst we understand that this is inevitable to some extent as young people want to discuss these things with each other and offer support – we are mindful that not all such communication is always appropriate to the situation and we are also aware that some misinformation is being circulated. If every parent and carer could have this conversation with their children, this would be a massive help to maintain a sense of calm and also to protect Loren's family from further suffering.

I am aware that this news will be particularly upsetting for some students who were close to Loren, and hence they may need some support. Along with this letter, we are circulating some information and sources of support that parents and carers may wish to guide their children towards. These are available at [bit.ly/hws030420](http://bit.ly/hws030420). I would also like to draw your attention to the pastoral support that we are asking form tutors to provide for all students on an ongoing and daily basis. We have asked all form tutors to be available each day at 11am on Google Classroom in the tutor room. Although this will not be available over the Easter holidays, tutors will be online again from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. I know a number of students have already logged on and visited the site, but we would like all students to benefit from this support. If you wish to talk to someone at school in terms of accessing any support, please contact Assistant Headteacher Ms. D Spence ([dbs@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:dbs@hws.haringey.sch.uk)) who will be happy to point you in the right direction.

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



Finally, I am sure that you will all join me in offering our deepest sympathy and our sincerest condolences to Loren's family at this very challenging time. Loren was a wonderful student at HWS. Well behaved, hardworking, pleasant and popular. She will be sorely missed by everybody.

### Year 9 Options

The Option choices our year 9 students have selected still stand and all measures are being taken to ensure students are given the GCSE options they have selected. Where this is not possible, parents and carers of those students will be contacted via phone or email to discuss other subject choices. Currently, the deadline for confirming all Option choices which was July, still stands. We would like to thank you for your patience. All enquiries about this should be directed towards Acting Assistant Headteacher Ms. S Chaudhri ([sci@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:sci@hws.haringey.sch.uk)).

### Free School Meals Update

If your child is usually in receipt of free school meals you should have received an email about this earlier this morning giving you an update. You will be pleased to know that despite the government not covering the cost of providing free school meals during the Easter period, at HWS we have decided to continue to support those families who need it at this time, hence we will provide during this period. Should you have any queries about this, please contact Acting Assistant Headteacher Ms. J Burniston ([jbu@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:jbu@hws.haringey.sch.uk)).

### Learning at Highgate Wood – Some Guidance for Families

As you will be aware, we have been setting plenty of work for our students to complete whilst at home. Along with this letter, Mr Hewitt will be sending separate guidance for parents and carers about what you can expect moving forward after Easter. This will also be available on the school website. However, we are conscious of maintaining a sense of work/rest balance for our students and their families so we have decided that with the exception of Year 10 and year 12, we will not be setting homework for the Easter period.

### Support for Post 16 Students

Ms. L Pinnick and Mr. T Pateman have produced a **booklet to support** our post 16 students during the period of school closure. There is also a **Wider Reading booklet** with suggestions for reading linked to A level and university courses. These are available on the school website and by following the links here.

Should you have any follow up queries about this, please contact Ms. L Pinnick ([lpi@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:lpi@hws.haringey.sch.uk)) or Mr. T Pateman ([tpa@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:tpa@hws.haringey.sch.uk)).

### Year 11 and 13 Exam Results – Summer 2020

We have just had confirmation today from Ofqual confirming the way in which grades will be awarded this summer for year 11 and year 13 students. This information is now available on our school website, which includes the guidance for teachers and parents as well as a letter to students. In summary, the key points are:

- Teachers will say what grade each candidate would likely have achieved in the summer, taking into account as much evidence as possible
- For each subject, every candidate being suggested a grade has to then be ranked against all other students being suggested for the same grade (e.g. for all students we submit a 5 for in maths, we must rank each of them with the most secure 5 at the top, down to the least secure / closest to a 4 at the bottom).
- Schools will have to submit this information by 29 May at the earliest
- Ofqual are still working on a formula to award final grades. This will take account of the teacher assessment, normal grade distribution nationally, as well as the prior attainment of the cohort, and recent results of each school. This is something that we at HWS are pleased with as our recent excellent results should place us in a strong position. Please note that the teacher assessed grades submitted by the school will not necessarily be the grades that are awarded. It is possible that exam boards may increase or decrease submitted grades based upon the formula referred to above
- Schools are not allowed to reveal the teacher assessed grades to students or parents, so please do not ask
- Results will be out at least by the normal date, if not slightly earlier
- Students will be able to appeal, and will be able to sit the exams at their earliest possibility if they're unhappy with the grade given. However, the process of appeal has not yet been decided.

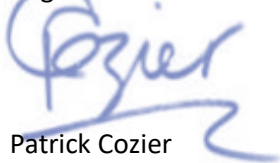
I would like to impress upon parents, carers and students that this is all the information that we have at present. Once we know more, we will share more. However, in the meantime we must ask that you do not contact individual heads of department or teachers to request information about what grades we are predicting as we are not allowed to share this. Should you have any further queries about the process, I ask that you contact Assistant Head Mr A. Hartley for year 11 queries ([aha@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:aha@hws.haringey.sch.uk)) or Assistant Head Ms. L Pinnick for year 13 queries ([lpi@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:lpi@hws.haringey.sch.uk)).

And finally,... enjoy the Easter Break

Thank you for taking the time to read this long and detailed communication. It is my intention to communicate to parents every Friday with any key updates, but hopefully they will not all be as long as this one. However, the next time that I will communicate with you will be after the Easter break so I will take this opportunity to wish you a pleasant break with your families and loved ones.

Take care and stay safe.

Regards



Patrick Cozier  
**Headteacher**