

22nd May, 2020.

Dear Year 12 Parents,

First, I would like to thank you for your continuing support. Your child's teachers have a huge task at the moment with providing online resources for all the students they teach from Year 7 to 12, marking and giving feedback remotely while dealing with working from home (some living alone, others home schooling their own children too). I know from the feedback tutors have given me from their phone calls home that you do appreciate what we are providing.

We do plan to continue with the weekly phone calls. As you can imagine, it takes several hours to phone twenty plus students in a tutor group. We understand that the initial phone calls needed to be longer and more detailed. Phone calls after half-term will be shorter and will involve a quick check with each child to check they are engaging with the work. For any bigger pastoral issues, it would be advisable to email your child's tutor so that they can judge whether this requires a phone call to you from themselves or one from either Mr Pateman or myself. For subject specific questions, please contact your child's teacher or the Head of Department.

You are probably wondering when your child will be returning to school. As you will know from the news coverage, the situation changes almost daily. At the moment, there are no plans to bring year 12 students onsite. Please bear in mind that all schools will vary in their approach to phased reopening depending on their staffing, risk assessments and available classrooms and space. We are doing what is right in these difficult circumstances for the students, staff and families of Highgate Wood School.

Initially we will be continuing our online provision with year 12s but also looking to introduce small group progress tutorials with teachers as well as some recorded lessons. Delivering lessons via video or audio is new territory for us. We are currently trialing a few live and prerecorded lessons using Zoom. We cannot roll this out until we are confident that staff have the ability/resources to do this and that students are able to access while maintaining our high standards on safeguarding for all involved. We will keep you informed of developments after the half-term.

With regards to the university application process, we will be starting this after half-term. Mr Pateman and I are currently updating the resources to make them more accessible for remote learning. We are also planning on conducting a webinar on completing the application form and

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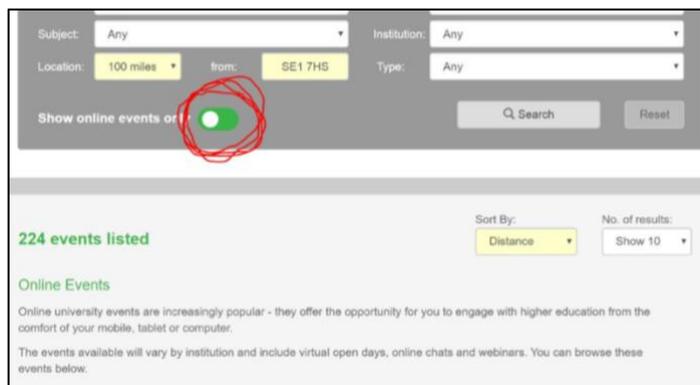


Bring your own bag

writing the personal statement. We will provide some guidance for parents too. In the meantime, please encourage your child to access the virtual open days at the universities:

<https://www.unitasterdays.com>

When searching, students should select the online events button.



We have asked students to use the Unifrog: <https://www.unifrog.org> for their research. We are most likely to use this as a way of writing the personal statements. Your child will be familiar with Unifrog from tutorial sessions.

After half-term, subject teachers will be writing university references for your child. Without end of year examinations, it is important that your child keeps on top of the work set and submits this for assessment by their teachers. It is equally important that your child continues to be kind to themselves and their mental well-being by building in some exercise and relaxation into their week.

Thank you again for your support. For those who celebrate, we wish you a Happy Eid.

Yours faithfully,

Lindsay Pinnick

Director of Sixth Form

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