

5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update from Highgate Wood School (No. 7)

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

They say a week is a long time in politics! It is also a long time in education just now. You will be aware that my previous letter to you communicated our intention to start to bring year 10 students back to school on the 10th June, only for Boris Johnson to announce that weekend that secondary schools would begin to widen their provision from the 15th June. Therefore, we have had to revise our plans – details below.

As I said previously, we are all desperate to return to work and to resume doing the very thing that we are passionate about... helping children be the best that they can be. However, we intend to adopt a cautious approach to any return, as safety is our biggest priority.

I also want to remind you again that you can keep up to date with what is happening at HWS via the School's website www.hws.haringey.sch.uk and the School's Twitter account www.twitter.com/highgatewood.

Return to School Planning – an Update

The two year groups that the government has chosen to prioritise for school return before the end of the summer term are year 10 and year 12 because these students will be taking public exams this time next year. Our approach involves year 10 coming into school in small groups, but we will not be asking year 12 students to return at the current time. The key points are below:

- In the first phase (the fortnight beginning 15th June), we will be inviting year 10 students in for one morning each. They will attend three one hour long 'progress tutorials' with teachers of English, maths and science
- these will supplement their remote learning by reviewing work they have completed, offering feedback and setting them up for the next steps in their learning
- the number of students coming in for the in-school progress tutorials each day will be very small and they will be in 'bubbles' of no more than 12 students
- we have done a thorough risk assessment and will have a range of measures in place to ensure good hygiene and social distancing e.g. students will stay in one class for all of their tutorials and there will be no contact with any of the other students in school (see protective measures below)
- we hope to enhance and extend this provision in the next phase (from 29th June) but this will depend upon our assessment of the level of risk
- we hope to extend students' face-to-face experience with some online video tutorials in options subjects in the coming weeks (we are currently piloting this with Year 12)
- families will continue to receive regular phone-calls from form tutors to pick up any more general queries around schoolwork and related issues

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

If you are a parent of a year 12 student, you should have received a letter from Ms Pinnick (Director of Post 16) on Thursday given more details of the plan for year 12s. If you are a parent of a year 10 student, you will be receiving a letter from Mr Hewitt (Deputy Headteacher) at the start of the coming week that will explain the plans in greater detail.

In addition to the onsite provision for year 10 students, I want to confirm that we will continue to run the small school for children of key workers and vulnerable students every day. We will also be extending the year 12 small school for vulnerable students to five days a week. Each of the small schools will be staffed by separate staff teams from the English, maths and science progress tutorial team.

A reminder of some of the protective measures we will put in place are shown below:

- Significantly reduced numbers of students in school at any one time to allow for social distancing measures to be implemented
- Temperatures of all students taken on arrival
- Redesigned classrooms so children have maximum space to spread out.
- Staggered arrival and departure times for different groups of students
- Regular scheduled handwashing throughout the day
- Cleaning of the school site throughout the day.
- Students only in contact with other students within their groups and minimised the movement around the school
- Handling and sharing of resources will not be allowed

For further information, we have also produced an FAQ page for parents about our arrangements on the school website. You can find the FAQs [here](#) .

If you have any queries about our arrangements from the 15th June, please use the following contact information.

Provision	Staff Contact
Year 10 English, maths and science progress tutorials	Mr Hewitt (che@hws.haringey.sch.uk)
Year 12 online video lessons and progress tutorials	Ms Pinnick (lpi@hws.haringey.sch.uk)
Small School – children of key workers and vulnerable students	Ms Burniston (jbu@hws.haringey.sch.uk)
Year 12 Small School	Ms Pinnick (lpi@hws.haringey.sch.uk)

For all online provision (which will continue to be our main provision for all students), queries should be directed at the relevant Head of Department depending on the subject you are querying. Email addresses for all staff can be found on our website.

Phone calls Home to Families – Now once per fortnight

As you will be aware, we have been asking our form tutors to call all the members of their tutor groups on a weekly basis to touch base. We are really pleased with the feedback we have received from families about those calls and how valued they are. Consequently, the contact will be continued, but having reviewed that feedback, we have decided to reduce the frequency to once per fortnight for most students. A few will continue to have more regular contact where we feel it is needed, but for the vast majority, it was felt that once per fortnight would be sufficient to check on engagement and wellbeing.

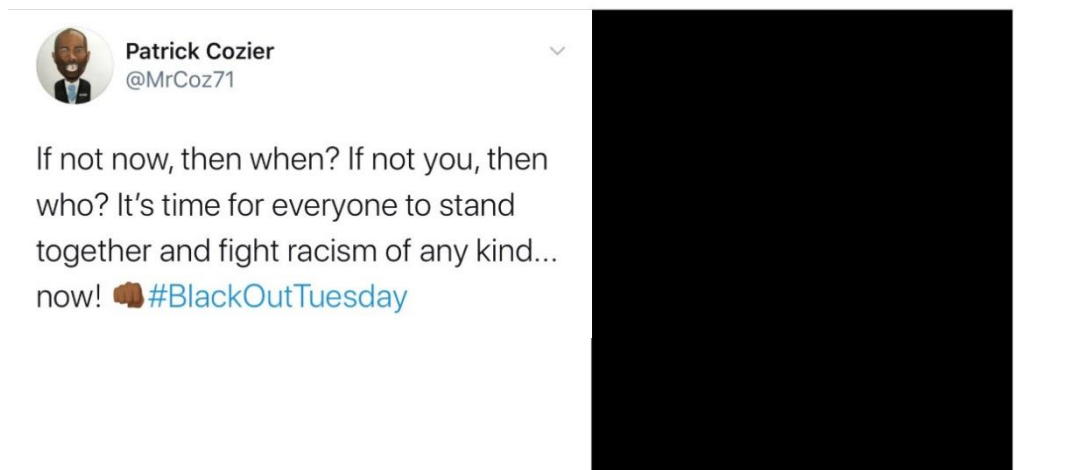
Recent Events in America – HWS Response

You will no doubt be aware of the tragic events in America following the death of George Floyd at the hands of the Minnesota police force. Like everybody all over the world, we have been hit hard at HWS by these events and what they symbolise. The picture below sums up how many Black people feel.



I am clear through my own personal experience as a Black man in the UK that the problems we see in America are not American problems. We have very similar issues in the UK and the statistics bear this out. We must look closer to home and ask if we are doing all that we can to address issues of racial prejudice and discrimination both collectively and individually.

It is something that I feel personally very passionate about and I recently tweeted the following:



We are determined that at HWS we will not sit, watch, and do nothing. We will be active. We want our voice to be heard and our activity to be felt in fighting all forms of racial prejudice. We are currently planning our response with students and staff. Ms Chaudhri will lead this work. For more information or to contribute to our work you can contact her via email (sci@hws.haringey.sch.uk).

Parent/Carer Fund (PCF)

I would like to take this opportunity to repeat the notice from my last letter regarding the Parent/Carer Fund. As I mentioned the PCF allows our parents and carers to donate to the school. Currently, 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. This includes having outdoor covered spaces. These are part of the plans that we have to implement our split lunches approach in September. The plans that we are seeking to implement do 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 want to 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

Rather than repeat the links and notices regarding support and helplines for parents and carers during these challenging times, 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 can register with the school and a reminder to parents that, should your change of circumstance mean that you may now be eligible for Free School Meals, you should apply without delay.

Take care and stay safe!

Regards


Patrick Cozier
Headteacher