

18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent\Carer,

I would like to start my last letter of our first half-term under Covid-restrictions by thanking our supportive families, our wonderful students and especially my amazing and hardworking staff for all their help, support and patience during these difficult times. It has not been easy for any of us, but we have maintained our energy, enthusiasm and appetite for making things the best they can be. It is heartening to walk around the school and see children learning, working hard, having fun and enjoying each other's company just as it ever has been.

### Year 10 Positive Covid Tests

Families with students in Year 10 will have already heard that we have been alerted to two positive test results in that year group bubble, who will thus be required to stay at home on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October (in the first instance) and learn remotely whilst we carry out our investigations with Public Health on our next steps. I am very grateful that we were alerted to these promptly by those concerned. I should remind you that our "hotline" for reporting positive test results is: 0208 342 7975. and our "hot email" is [covid@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:covid@hws.haringey.sch.uk)

Our provision for remote learning means that students in the affected should now be ready to go to their regular classes online in google classrooms and follow their usual daily timetable. This will be maintained for as long as the whole cohort are being asked to stay at home. When the majority of students return to school, the work available on Google classrooms will allow those have been asked to continue their isolation to keep up with the work that is being done in class. If you have any issues with accessing the Google classroom, whether that is because of lack of equipment or other technical issues, please email Mr Ashman ([tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk))

### End and Start of Half Term Arrangements

We continue to review and refine our approach to the current situation and we will be introducing some new changes for after half-term. I will share the details of these changes in my next letter to parents which will go out to parents and carers during the half term break. To allow for these changes to be made effectively, and also to ensure that all our other measures continue to be effectively in place, we will require additional staff training and preparation time. We shall thus be having an early finish for all students on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

- Year 7, 8 and 9 will finish at 12.30pm and leave from their usual exit points
- Year 10, 11 and Post 16 will finish at 12.45pm and leave from their usual exit points

After half term there will be a late start for students on the first day back on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

- Year 7, 8 and 9 will arrive at 10.20am for a 10.30am start
- Year 10, 11 and Post 16 will arrive at 10.35am for a 10.45am start

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



We will be setting up year group bubble classrooms for those students who are unable to be at home on Friday afternoon and if you require your child to be in school all day please contact [admin@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hws.haringey.sch.uk). Students eligible for free school meals will be given a packed lunch before they leave.

### **Online Concerns**

We have been alerted to some issues around on-line safety, particularly with the use WhatsApp and Tik Tok, and Mr Ashman and Ms Burniston will be putting on a webinar on this issue after half term. In the meantime, I recommend that you visit the Parentzone site at <http://bit.ly/hwspz> where you will find guidance on setting up parental controls as well as a lot of other useful information.

### **PSA – Seeking Wider Participation**

We continue to be indebted to the support of our PSA. Every single parent\carer is automatically a member of the PSA, but its driving force are the members of the PSA committee. They have asked me to relay the invitation shared through their network to extend the diversity of the group. This is something that I am more than happy to do below:

*'In light of recent events and especially the Black Lives Matter movement, we at Highgate Wood PSA have been reflecting on issues of race, gender, class and equality. This has included taking a critical look at the PSA Committee itself. It's clear that we don't yet reflect our wider school community – we don't have enough BAME members, there are not enough men and we are not fully representative of the social demographic of the school. We need to change that situation so that the PSA collectively can draw on more diverse experiences and properly understand and address the challenges which all our children and Highgate Wood families face. So if you belong to a group which you feel is under-represented, we are asking you: please, come along, join us and make us stronger.'*


If you are interested in getting involved in the PSA and you come from one of the under-represented groups referred to in the message from the PSA, please contact [hwoodpsa@gmail.com](mailto:hwoodpsa@gmail.com) or Assistant Headteacher Tristan Ashman [tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk)

### **New House Badges**

We will be handing out the new house badges during the course of this coming week. Students will be bringing them home for parents and carers to attach to their blazers. Separate instructions for doing this are being sent along with this letter. Students will also be given a paper copy of the instructions to bring home. In addition, we will also share with you images of the blazer complete with house badge via our various media platforms so that you can get a clear sense of where we would like them positioned. Students will need to have them on their blazers for our return to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a pleasant week, and also a good half term when it comes. It is a pleasure to serve this school community and work with you all.

Regards

  
Patrick Cozier  
Headteacher