

11th October

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted that we have had so many positive responses from students and families following the return of Tutor Group time this week. It has added one extra complexity to our routine, but that has been more than made up for by being able to re-establish that critical daily contact between each student and their form tutors (and for year 7s it has been good to begin to establish that link and begin to build those relationships). It has also helped us to reinforce with students those important messages about procedures we need to follow to keep safe: wash your hands, wear your mask and keep your distance.

We had our third alert to a positive coronavirus test last week. This incident was with a sixth form student which resulted in the entire Post 16 bubble being asked to stay at home on Monday whilst we investigated. With the whole group at home, teachers were able to run Google Meet video lessons for the classes that day. From Tuesday onward, most of post 16 students were back in school and enjoying normal lessons. For those few who had been identified as having had close contact with the infected student, they were able to access the work being set through Google Classrooms. This is the model we will follow for all similar incidents moving forward.

Families will also be aware that, during the earlier part of the week, there was a significant issue brought to our attention by our online payment service, Wisepay. They told us that they had experienced a cyber-attack on their website on or around 2nd October. That attack had led to the security of the bank card details of users from around 300 schools, including Highgate Wood School, being compromised. After receiving this information from Wisepay on Wednesday evening we alerted all families of the potential risk. Subsequently, once Wisepay had provided us with the names of those who had been on their website at the time of the issue, we also alerted those 200 users specifically to advise them to contact their banks and cancel the credit or debit cards they may have used. We also recommended that all families who have used Wisepay be extra vigilant regarding the activity on their bank accounts. Wisepay have confirmed that no card details are retained on their site so the risks are restricted to those who accessed the site during the identified period.

Wisepay have assured us that the vulnerability on their website has now been resolved and the site is now back up and running. However, as they reset all users' passwords as part of their response to the attack, there will be ongoing issues that will need to be resolved before everyone is able to get back onto their system. Please accept the school's apologies for the inconvenience this has caused. If you have any questions or concerns please email Mr Ashman tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk

If you are a parent of a child in years 8, 9 or 10 you will be aware that we have now received the new year group coloured ties. The ties are black with coloured stripes. The striped colours are orange (year 8), purple (year 9) and red (year 10). These are now being worn alongside the year 7 ties that have been in place since September with the white stripes. We have also asked that all old house

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

team times are handed in to school. Year 11 students are not affected by these changes and should wear their house ties as normal.

I am looking forward to our virtual Open Evening on Thursday 15th October when we will be running a live question and answer session for those Year 6 students who may be joining the school in September 2021. I particular excited that this will also be the date when we launch the school video that we completed this week. I have already seen an early draft of this production and am very pleased with how it turned out. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who were involved in the production. Their contribution was absolutely fantastic.

We are steadily moving towards some renewed normality. Over the next few weeks we will be carrying out work to our music practice rooms to enable some return to instrumental tuition. Though we are still not able to make full use of our Learning Resource Centre we are now able to open it to small groups during lesson time, and we are also able to have book loans – with returned books being quarantined before being returned to the shelves. You will also be pleased to know that we have now installed several portable toilets, helping to solve the problems that we had earlier in the year when there simply was not enough toilet facilities available to students.

Last week I made a request for families with old laptops to consider donating them to the school so that we could convert them to Chromebooks for students in need. I would like to thank those who responded to that request, it really will make a difference. If you are able to contribute but have not yet done so, please email Mr Ashman tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk.

Take care and stay safe

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cozier', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Patrick Cozier
Headteacher