

4th October

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will have received an email on Friday alerting you to the fact that we are reintroducing tutor time with all students from Monday 5th October. I believe this will be a very positive step in maintaining the pastoral care the students need, as well as providing a first point of contact for parents and carers.

Most of you will already be very familiar with the tutor group arrangements at Highgate Wood School. Ms Burniston will be writing separately to the parents of students in Year 7 who may not be so familiar with the system, and that letter will be available to all on the school website.

The changes will not impact on families' usual arrangements, except for those with students in the sixth form where the start time has moved to 8:40am (although we expect them to arrive between 8.30am and 8.40am). For students in Key Stage 3 there is no change. They will continue to arrive between 8:15 and 8:25 for an 8:25am pick up from their designated areas, similarly for Key Stage 4 where the arrival time remains between 8:30 and 8:40 for an 8:40am pick up. The difference is that they will be picked up by their form tutors and have a daily morning session with their tutors before starting their regular lessons at 9:00am.

It will involve one additional movement at the start of the day for the students and we have thus worked with Public Health Haringey to ensure school remains as safe as possible. Although students will now mix with additional students in their year group, we have ensured they will remain within their year group bubbles and not come into contact with students in other years. We will also be reminding students of the routine of sanitising their hands and using a disinfectant wipe at their workspace at the start and end of each session. Making this happen does present some additional challenges to staff, who are already working incredibly hard and doing a magnificent job. But we are so certain that this will enhance the student experience during this time that we are committed to making this change. Indeed, plans for the reintroduction follows discussions with staff about how students can best be supported during this time.

We continue to be vigilant about coronavirus in the school community, and whilst we have not had any positive test reports in the last week, we know this may change. We have thus set up a hotline so families are able to alert us immediately should their child test positive. That number is 0208 342 7975. We know that we have to work together to keep everyone safe and with that in mind I would like to remind you that

1. If a student needs to self-isolate according to the government guidelines, it is important that they stay at home indoors for the specified period. It is not sufficient to stay away from school.

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

2. All students (with the exception of a small number who are exempt for medical reasons) must wear a mask when moving around the school building. Please ensure your child remembers theirs.
3. The Government's 'rule of six' applies to school children travelling to and from school so it is important that you impress upon your child that they must not congregate or travel in groups larger than this on their journeys. Please also reinforce the importance of courtesy and consideration to others with your children so they are reminded of the conduct that is expected of them and are sensitive to the anxiety of others during this time.

We are continuing to develop our remote provision so that students are able to access the work they are missing should they be required to self-isolate, and teachers are also able to deliver their lessons by video link should they be required to be away from school. It is our expectation that any student self-isolating will be able to access the same work from home for all of their lessons that is being taught in school at the time that they would have had their usual lesson. If you have any queries about this, you can contact our teaching and learning lead, Ms S. Chaudhri (sci@hws.haringey.sch.uk).

We have already supplied many families who are unable to access remote learning with devices to enable this, but the demand is clearly growing. We are thus now asking families if they have any old but still functioning laptops that they may be able to donate to the school. We can then convert these to Chromebooks and provide them to those in need. If you do have an old laptop available please contact Mr Ashman (tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk).

During this month I am looking forward to the school's contribution to Black History Month. Though our involvement will be different this year, I am delighted that we will still be celebrating the month, and even staging a virtual Black History Month virtual performance. I hope that you will be able to join our celebrations.

On the subject of celebration, I wanted to end this letter with another special mention to my staff body. As you can imagine, it is a really tricky time for schools up and down the country (as it is for most business and places of work). Doing all of the things that need to be done has been such hard work and I have made big demands on staff. They have stepped up and I am proud of them. We are lucky here at HWS to have such a highly skilled and committed staff body. You and your children can also join me in thanking them. Monday is World Teacher's Day. You can thank a teacher by creating a card at <https://thankateacher.co.uk> – although I would urge you to think beyond just the teachers and embrace all members of staff at HWS irrespective of their role.

Take care and stay safe

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher