

15th November 2020

Dear Parent\Carer,

### New Timings for the School Day

As mentioned in last week's letter, from Monday 16th November we will be shortening the school day by 10 minutes. I expressed our need to do this in last week's letter. Right now, in these Covid times, schools have had to completely change the way that they function. So far this term we have made huge demands on our staff which in the longer term are not sustainable. Now that it is more evident that schools will need to operate in these different ways for some considerable time, I have decided that now is the time to make that change.

We are blessed with amazing staff at HWS and I am proud of them and the work that they do. In order to give our students the best chance of making progress this year, I have to take care of the staff and ensure that they maintain the energy and the well-being needed to continue our excellent provision.

I attach an outline of the new schedule for the day with this letter. You will see that we have gone for the option of reducing the day by 10 minutes at the end of the day. This means that

- Students in years 7, 8 and 9 will finish school at 2.45pm.
- Students in years 10, 11 and post 16 will finish at 3pm (4pm if they in the sixth form and have a period 6 lesson).

We have done this by reducing the length of period 5 by 10 minutes for everybody.

However, you will see from the schedule that we have ensured that no curriculum time has been taken from students in Year 10, 11 or at post 16. We have instead shaved 10 minutes from their dedicated reading time earlier in the day and added it to period 2 (making those lessons 70 minutes rather than an hour. For students in Key Stage 3 we have not made this change so they have retained 20 minutes of daily dedicated reading time as we believe this is a critical element of their school day. I do hope that these changes will not cause you any inconvenience and want to thank you for the supportive messages that I have received about these changes.

### Covid-19 Positive Test Results

You may be aware that we had a further positive covid test result amongst the Year 10 year group bubble last week. This led to us asking all Year 10s to stay at home to work through Google Meet and Google Classrooms on Tuesday. By Wednesday we were able to welcome back most of the year group, whilst those who had close contact with the affected individual have been required to continue self-isolation for the required period. You may also have

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

heard that a student in another year group also tested positive this week, but as that individual was already self-isolating at the time and had no contact with anyone else in the school community, there was no need for us to take further action.

The need for students to self-isolate is likely to repeat itself again and again over the coming weeks and it is important that all families are as prepared as they can be. All students should have joined all their subject classrooms on Google Classrooms, and all should have provision for accessing this remote learning platform from their home addresses. If this is not the case please alert Mr Ashman ([tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk)) so the issues can be understood and resolved.

### **Virtual Parents Evenings**

I am looking forward to two important events this coming week. On Tuesday we have our first ever virtual Parents' Evening. Year 8 parents and carers will have already made their appointments and received information about the evening. We hope this will go smoothly, but we are also certain that it will provide some lessons that will help us with the Year 9 Parents' Evening on 1st December and with the Pastoral Review Day we have planned for Wednesday 9th December. These two will also be held virtually, using e-praise and Microsoft Teams. I attach here some general information about that system. We will be sending out more specific information about the events themselves later this week.

### **Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening**

The other event in the coming week is our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 19th November. This, again, will be virtual and I do hope that it will provide prospective sixth form students and their families with the information they will require for making that important decisions around continuing their education in 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Pinnick, our sixth form team and all our sixth form teachers who have worked so hard to support Year 12 and 13 students during the pandemic. Despite all the difficulties, we have been delighted by the way so many of our students last year were able to go to the universities, art colleges and design schools of their choice and also by the way our current post 16 students are thriving and making such good progress in their courses. If you wish to join the webinar on Thursday please register your interest at <https://hws.appicaa.com/events/21>.

### **House Badges**

In the coming week we are also going to be reminding students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 that they should now have a House badge ironed on to the pocket of their blazer. We will be allowing one further week for this task to be completed, after which the absence of a House badge will be viewed as a uniform infringement and sanctioned accordingly. If you have any problems with the badge please contact Ms Burniston ([jbu@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:jbu@hws.haringey.sch.uk)).

### **Music Lessons**

I mentioned in the last letter that we were ever closer to resuming individual music peripatetic lessons at HWS. There has unfortunately been a delay so they will not be resuming on Monday 16th November as we had originally planned. We apologise for the delay but we are determined to get it absolutely right and safe before resuming and we are almost there, but not quite. We anticipate being ready by Monday 23rd November. For further details and/or if you have any queries about this, please contact Mrs Hassan ([tha@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:tha@hws.haringey.sch.uk)).

### **Road Safety Week**

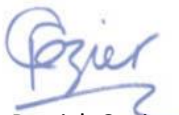
The coming week is Road Safety Week. It is well-scheduled as children returning from school at dusk gives rise to greater risks on the roads than when they came home during daylight. We have already an established programme within PHSEE to teach students to be careful on the roads (which has led to us receiving the Gold Award from TfL Stars) and support them learning to cycle safely. Mr Grimmett would like to draw your attention to the Free Online Cycle Training Course that is now available to help young people to cycle safely and confidently. On completion of the course, you will receive a 15% discount Halfords voucher to spend on locks, lights and helmets. For more information, please visit <https://cycle-skillsonline.tfl.gov.uk/>

### **National Restrictions and reporting Covid cases**

I do need to remind all students and families that we are now operating under the New National Restrictions and that this does put severe restrictions on meeting others outside of educational and workplace settings. Please reinforce this message with your children. I would also like to remind you of or students in the last week but I would like to take this opportunity to 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)

With thanks for your continued support.

Regards



Patrick Cozier  
Headteacher