

8th November 2020

Dear Parent\Carer,

Despite the new National Restrictions our school continues to adapt to the “new normal” to provide a safe, secure but also engaging environment for our students. I was delighted to see Year 10 students once again engaged in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge last week, and also Year 7s involved in the Princess Diana Award Anti-Bullying training. In the coming days more of our regular events will resume – including Year 7 Cats Tests next week, Year 8 Parents’ Evening on 17th November, Sixth Form Open Evening on 19th November, and then pre-mock catch-up sessions for Year 11, the return of music instrumental lessons, preparations for our Winter Concert, practice for Model UN in February and many other things besides. These will all be different to how they used to be, but each will hopefully serve the same purpose and meet the same needs.

As I am sure you are aware, the continuation of the current situation and the need for us to adapt to its demands, has put my staff under significant strain both in terms of the work they do and the time that they have to spend to do it. The start of this term has seen staff required to work additional time to what we would normally ask. I must keep in constant review their well-being and working conditions, just as I constantly keep in mind the well-being of our students. In particular I have a duty to ensure staff well-being and working conditions are in line with national agreements. With this in mind, and in anticipation that things are unlikely to change within the coming months (given recent government announcements and decisions), I have had to review the timings of the school day.

In order to ensure that, over the year, we do not exceed the agreed 1265 hours of directed time for staff, we plan to shorten the school day by 10 minutes. We are considering different ways in which this could best be achieved but, most likely, it will mean school will finish earlier. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will finish school at 2:45pm, those in Years 10 and 11 will finish at 3:00pm and those in the Sixth Form will finish at either 3:00pm or 4:00pm, depending on whether they have a Period 6 on their timetable. We will communicate the final decision to you on Wednesday. We would propose to introduce the adjustment from Monday 16th November and, should it mean an earlier finish, we will make provision for those students who may need to be supervised for 10 minutes at the end of the day, to be able to do so until the end of this term.

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

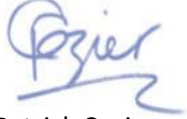


The New National Restrictions requires all schools to ensure that students and staff wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas. As you know, we already introduced this measure to Highgate Wood School and I would like to thank all those who have now made this a regular part of your child's school equipment. We do have a small supply of masks available for those who do not have them, and we ask for a 20p donation to charity when we supply one, but it would be very helpful if all students always had their own mask. It would also be very useful if they had their own hand sanitiser and pocket tissues. We are giving students small plastic bags in which to store their masks when they are not in use, and they are asked to sanitise their hands before and after using them.

We have not had a positive test Covid-19 test result from staff 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

With thanks for your continued support.

Regards



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher