

29th November 2020

Dear Parent\Carer,

Covid-19 Positive Test Results

From Tuesday the New National Restrictions will give way to the Tier Two restrictions. I do hope we are able to maintain good levels of social distancing, personal hygiene and alertness to help contribute to the drive to bring corona virus transmission to a minimum.

You will all be aware that there have been students and staff at Highgate Wood School who have returned positive test results in recent days and this has put us all under significant strain. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my staff for rising to this challenge, to our parents and carers for their support and good wishes, and also to our students who have coped exceptionally well.

We continue to develop and improve our remote provision, with the majority of lessons for isolating classes being delivered as live lessons. One of the issues that has emerged is that students are sometimes trying to connect using their private google accounts rather than their school ones. Invariably this will be because they are still logged in with their personal account and simply haven't noticed that fact. I hope you will appreciate that we cannot allow access to users "outside" our system so this will mean that they are not given access to the lesson. Could you please help us ensure that students login to Google Classrooms and Google Meets with their @hws.uk.com google school account. As ever, if there any other technical issues – or issues around access – please contact data@hws.haringey.sch.uk

Year 11 Mock Exams

This week we begin Year 11 mocks. Year 11 families will have already received information about this and the arrangements that have been put in place to help things run safely and without unnecessary stress. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Year 11 students well and congratulate them for the hard work I know they have already done to prepare for these mock exams.

Year 9 Parents Evening

We will also be running our second virtual Parents' Evening. This is for Year 9 students. As you are aware, we do have several teachers of Year 9 who have been required to self-isolate and will be trying to run their Parents' Evening sessions from home. After our last Parents' Evening I am confident that things should run smoothly, but with this additional complication there is rather more scope for things to go wrong! Thank you in advance for your patience and support in the event of any technical glitches during the evening.

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



Toilet Schedule

During the current situation it has not been possible for students to visit the toilet as easily as it was during more normal times. A practical solution was to instal temporary toilets and employ staff to escort students to them when this was required. A negative consequence of this, however, was that students in Key Stage 3 have begun to miss significant amounts of curriculum time in toilet visits. Therefore, from 7th December, we will be introducing a more controlled schedule for when students are allowed to be taken to the toilets. We are confident that this will not impact negatively on their well-being, and there will be exceptions for any student with an underlying medical condition. But I am sure all parents and carers will appreciate that we must do what we can to ensure that students do not miss out unnecessarily on learning time.

PSA Fundraising

With Christmas drawing ever closer, a reminder that the PSA have also teamed up with Christmas on the Hill, who will make a donation for the school on every Christmas tree sale that is placed through them using the code HWS20. Their web address is www.christmasonthehill.co.uk

Keeping Safe and reporting Covid cases

As we move from the current National Restrictions to the new Tier 2 restrictions, and as there also appears to be a rise in Covid-19 positive results amongst young people, can I please remind you to maintain the social distancing rules that have been laid down and to encourage your child to maintain safe behaviours, both on their journeys to school and during school time itself. Make space, cover face and wash hands.

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

With thanks for your continued support.

Regards



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher