

6th December 2020

Dear Parent\Carer,

Covid-19 Situation

Like so many other schools, the current situation is having a very significant impact on our normal routines. We are all heartened by the encouraging news around the development of vaccines, but we know that this will not change things for a while. We thus continue to develop and improve our online provision so students who do need to self-isolate are able to continue with their learning as effectively as possible.

We are also continuously reviewing our systems for responding to positive test results so these can be increasingly efficient and speedy. We go through a rigorous process every time we get a positive test at HWS. We prioritise thoroughness and accuracy over speed, but we also recognised that the swifter we can draw conclusions, the better.

I would like to thank all those parents who have sent such encouraging and complimentary comments about the work we are doing already and for your patience. I would also like to thank those who have alerted us so swiftly when their child has returned a positive test result. It is very important that everyone who finds themselves in this situation does contact us without delay.

Lastly, I would like to remind all parents that if your child is showing any of the Covid-19 symptoms it is critically important that you do not send them to school. This places others at unnecessary risk. Instead, keep your child at home and get them tested for Covid-19. If they test positive, please follow the advice at the end of this letter.

Mock Exams and Examinations in the Summer

I would like to congratulate our Year 11s on their performance during the mock exams so far, which continue this week. I should also assure those who have been unable to attend that alternative arrangements will be made. No student will be disadvantaged because they have been unable to attend their mocks because of Covid-19. Looking forward, we cautiously welcome the government's recent announcement regarding summer exams and will give a detailed response to the groups concerned – Year 11 and Year 13 – very shortly.

Pastoral Review Day

You will be aware that school will be closed to most year groups on Wednesday as we have Pastoral Review Day for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and Post 16. This event has always been very positively received by parents and carers as it gives them the opportunity to discuss with their

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

child and their child's form tutor how things are going at school and what plans they might make for the future. I suspect at this time these meetings will be even more valuable.

As with Year 8 and Year 9 Parents' Evenings, these virtual meetings will be scheduled through e-praise and conducted through Microsoft Teams. Families should have already received the information they require for arranging their meetings but if you have any questions please contact Mr Ashman tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk

Highgate Wood School PSA

I mentioned last week that the PSA have 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 I did not mention the PSA auction, as that event had already closed. But I can report here that the auction raised a staggering £6,000.

We continue to be in debt to our PSA for all their support for the school, and the practical help they provide – especially to students facing hardship – through their fundraising activities. I would like to take this opportunity to offer particular thanks to Tahra Zafar who is now stepping down from her role as Chair of the PSA. Together with Lindsey Reed, Tahra's contribution over the years has been incredible. She really has transformed the PSA in so many different ways, making it into an absolutely critical part of the Highgate Wood School community.

Every parent and carer at Highgate Wood School is automatically a member of the PSA. If you would like to sign to their mailing list to keep abreast of their news and events please visit <https://bit.ly/hwspsa2020>

FSM Vouchers over Christmas

I am delighted to report that Haringey has agreed to fund supermarket vouchers over the Christmas break for those students who are eligible for Free School Meals. It is so clearly the right thing to do. We will distribute these through Wonde before the holidays begin.

Keeping Safe and reporting Covid cases

In closing I would like to remind you again of the importance of maintaining social distancing rules and encouraging you to help us help your child maintain safe behaviours, both on their journeys to school and during school time itself: make space, cover face and wash hands. Please ensure they have a face mask for school and, if possible, bring their own hand sanitiser.

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