

11/12/2020

Dear Year 11 Parent,

I am writing to give some further information about the evolving situation with Year 11 this year in order to keep you informed, I am sorry this letter is so long but there is a lot of issues as you can imagine.

Firstly, once again, I would like to extend my gratitude to parents and students. Our Year 11 have been wonderful both in the preparation and during their exams. It has been such a pleasure working with them this year, their dedication and compassion is truly inspirational.

Year 11 are back in school as normal on Monday. We have been very understanding of uniform issues such as shoes and hoodies / coats in the exam hall in the last few days due to it being a bit cold. Please ensure uniform is back to normal on Monday as I don't want year 11 to have a negative experience in what should be a week of some work but much celebration and relief. Re-sit exams will still go on during the week as we want year 11 to have a proper rest over Christmas. If they have an exam they go to their lesson after that and leave at the normal time of 3pm. Some resits for those still self isolating or ill will occur in the first week back and if your child has missed any exams then they should be prepared to sit these from the first day back.

Although lessons may be rather less intense in the final week of term I would still expect much useful work to be done. Exam papers might be looked at in some lessons to start to provide some feedback. Any information that might lead to a grade is embargoed as a school until the mock results afternoon on Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup> 2021, the same day as the Year 11 Parents' Evening (online). We find that the communal sharing of the joys and sometimes disappointments, provides a real sense of community and focus and marks the start of the next stage of Year 11. We will be using the predictions to put in place intervention for groups and individuals in order to maximise the outcomes for year 11 whilst also minimise the stress levels as much as possible.

In preparation for sixth form Ms Pinnick will be organising a sixth form taster day on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 which students find very enjoyable and useful. On that day they will be treated as sixth form students and take part in sixth form lessons for subjects of their choosing. A small group of students will take part in experiencing BTEC style lessons if this is more appropriate for them. More information will come from the sixth form team next 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 government has announced that there will be changes in order to reduce the demands on year 11 (and year 13) students in 2021 due to the disruptive impact of Covid 19. Some of these changes have been specified in earlier communications but not yet all. Suggestions around some more extensive formula sheets or notice of some topic areas have not yet been made clear but hopefully will be next term. The government is still committed to exams in England but of course we cannot guarantee that will continue – until we are told otherwise, that is what we must assume, despite different decisions been made in other areas of the UK. At Highgate Wood School we are committed to preparing for the exams as if they will definitely occur. This is the best way for our students to be ready and also to provide for any other outcome also. It is also the best preparation for post 16 study from next September, something that most not be lost amid all of the exam talk. We know the uncertainty is frustrating but this is just one of the many things we have to work with this year.

Once again I wish all of our Year 11 families a very restful and relaxing holiday. It is certainly well deserved. Please ensure that if your child does have some re-sits in the first week back after the holiday they do not work on this all holiday – they must rest too. The most that should be done is a day or two before their return to school to reacquaint themselves with the content. Next term is just as tough though my impression is that Year 11 have coped wonderfully with the demands of this year so far.

Once again, my thanks to all of our wonderful year 11 students and parents. Have a great Christmas holiday!

Yours faithfully,

A Hartley  
Assistant Headteacher