

14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you all well. It is with genuine pleasure that we have been able to welcome back students from all year groups last week. There is no question that school is the best place for them to learn and thrive. I am delighted with the way students were able to settle back into the old routines so quickly and agreeably, with their teachers once again being able to engage them in the classroom.

Last week we also made strides in the Covid testing programme. We have now carried out all three tests with those who consented to be involved in Year 10, Year 11 and Post 16 and will be completing the third test with students in Years 7, 8 and 9 during the coming week. From then on, students will be self-testing at home. I attach here additional information for that programme, as there has been some new clarification provided by the government. It is important to note that a positive LFD test taken at home does need to be confirmed by a PCR test, but the school also does need to be informed of both so that we are able to take appropriate action with the close contacts of the students concerned. For tests taken at home the PCR test overrides the LFD test – this does not apply to any LFD tests taken in school.

Our Covid hotline details are 020 8342 7975 or [covid@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:covid@hws.haringey.sch.uk). Please use this to report any positive Covid-19 test result for a student in the school. If your child has to self-isolate because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive outside the school community, could you please contact us through the student absence line (0208 342 7970 and then Key 1) or 0208 342 7978 in the case of the sixth form.

Self-testing, together with the new requirement for face-coverings to be worn in classrooms as well as common areas of the school, are two additional measures now in place to help reduce the spread of the virus and maintain the safety of all and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who are now observing this. There is no question that the tests are unpleasant and the wearing of masks through the day is a challenge, but everything we do to help maintain a safe environment will help speed the end to the current situation, which is what we all wish to happen. Can I also implore families to encourage their children to maintain social distancing and safe behaviours outside of school, as required by the current national regulations.

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

I am pleased to announce we are already making plans for the relaxation of some of the restrictions now in place. Instrumental music lessons will re-start the week beginning 22nd March, and students in Year 7 will soon receive a notification from our Music Administrator, Mrs Hassan ([tha@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:tha@hws.haringey.sch.uk)) to enable instrumental music tuition for those students to start being scheduled. We are also planning for the return of extra-curricular sports. After requests from a number of students, particularly those in Year 11, we are also having the school photographers return to school on Friday 19th March, to take new portrait photographs of students in Key Stage 3 and 4. If you want more information on these photographs please contact Mr Ashman ([tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk))

In other areas we still need to maintain the restrictions currently in place, thus the Year 7 Parents' Evening this week will again be a virtual one, with parents and carers meeting their children's teachers online rather than face-to-face. The same will be the case with the Year 12 Parents' Evening later this month.

We do know that the restrictions, even after school return, put pressures on students and families and I attach here some additional information that has been recently been circulated by the Mayor of London, the Department of Health and also Haringey Council, to support children's mental health and family well-being. Can I also take this opportunity to remind you to contact Ms Burniston ([jbu@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:jbu@hws.haringey.sch.uk)), our designated safeguarding lead, for any serious safeguarding issues.

With thanks for your continued support.

Regards



Patrick Cozier  
Headteacher