

6th March 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I hope that you are all well and that you have had a good week. Our week has been incredibly busy and during this period our plans for school return have continued apace.

I am conscious that as well as the excitement of a move back towards some sort of normality, some students and families will also be anxious about the return to school given the length of time we have been away and concerns around Covid. I would like to reassure you that we are doing everything possible to make the school environment a safe place to be and we will support all students with the transition back into school in our usual caring and considered way.

Cleaning teams have been working through the classrooms, contractors have been servicing our boilers, technicians and support staff have been checking everything is in place and functioning and teachers have been adapting their lesson planning for the new more regular lesson times, and for the return to face-to-face teaching. Most significantly, our covid testing team has been administering LFD tests to students. I am delighted to report that 1130 students have now had their first test, and more delighted still that their behaviour was exemplary; maintaining social distance, waiting patiently and undertaking the test maturely and efficiently.

I imagine that families have also been busy preparing, getting out the school uniform that has not been worn for a while, checking all their school books and equipment are ready and trying to remember the old schedules for the school day. In an attempt to help with this process, and also to provide information for the weeks ahead, I attach here a "back to school" booklet that provides details of some of the systems and procedures that will be in place at school during the coming weeks.

As mentioned in last week's letter, we will not have a completely full school until Thursday. Up to then it will be a staggered model with different years starting on different days. Below I repeat the schedule that I included previously.

- **Monday 8th March:**
 - Late start. Period 1 and 2 cancelled.
 - Year 11 and Post 16 students will be invited back to school at 11.15am for tutor time and for face-to-face lessons from Period 3 (11.35am)
 - Years 7 to 10 remote live lessons from Period 3 (11.35am)
- **Tuesday 9th March:**
 - Year 10 students return to face to face lessons all day (with Year 11 and Post 16)
 - Years 7, 8 and 9: Remote live lessons all day
- **Wednesday 10th March:**
 - Year 7 and 8 students return to face to face lessons all day (with Years 10, 11 and Post 16)

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



Year 9: Remote live lessons all day

- **Thursday 11th March**

Year 9 students return to face to face lessons all day (with all other year groups) – All students in school for a normal school day

- **Friday 12th March**

All students in school for a normal school day

In concert with this we will be inviting students to come in for their 2nd lateral flow Covid-19 test. It is important to understand that these tests are not compulsory. No child will be prevented from returning to school because they don't have one, but testing is one of the measures that will help us all to be safer and I encourage everyone to take part. If you have not yet provided consent, please consider doing so.

For those who have, you will have already received or will shortly receive a text message giving you your allocated time. Year 10, 13 and some of Year 7 will be coming in on Monday, others in Year 7 as well as Year 8 and 9, are scheduled for Tuesday and the remainder in Year 9 will be Wednesday. As these students will now be coming into a "working school" I urge them to be additionally mindful about maintaining social distance. I should also extend that social distancing message to everyone coming into or travelling from school from Monday 8th March.

I am sure you share my good wishes and heartfelt thanks for everyone who has made it possible for schools to return and I look forward to a very successful remainder of the Spring term.

With thanks for your continued support.

Regards



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher