

16th April 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I trust that you have enjoyed the Easter break and the children are now looking forward to returning to school on Monday 19th April. Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 should arrive at the usual entrances for 11:10am, students in Years 10, 11 and Post 16 at 11:25am, ready for a shortened tutor time and Period 3. It will be Week One.

You may have seen the government announcement at the start of the holidays that face coverings should continue to be worn in secondary school classrooms after Easter. The Department for Education explained that *"This cautious approach will help limit the risk of transmission and enable continued monitoring of the effect of school and college returns, as twice weekly testing is established and embedded in pupil's routines."* This means that our current Covid safety control measures will remain in place for at least the first three weeks of the summer term.

These measures include:

- The wearing of facemasks by staff and students in classrooms as well as all other internal communal spaces
- Regular washing/sanitising of hands throughout the day
- Maintaining social distancing wherever possible to minimise contact with others
- Continuing to minimise the movement of students and the mixing of bubbles, hence
 - Staggered start and finish to the day, break times, lunch times, etc.
 - KS3 lessons being taught in the same room for all lessons (apart from PE and tutor time) – this means that for years 7 to 9 there will still be no setting in the core subjects and no teaching in specialist rooms
 - Line ups for KS3 and KS4 first thing in the morning and for KS3 throughout the day
- Continuing to facilitate rapid Covid LFD testing amongst students at home by providing test kits to students for whom we have received consent to take part in the programme

The government's announcement did point to a relaxation of these rules at Step 3 of the roadmap, which will be no earlier than 17th May and we are thus working on the plans we hope to be able to implement during the course of the summer term to phase in a return to more normal school routines. However, all of this will be subject to whatever advice and guidance we get from the DfE, so the time frames will not necessarily be within our control.

Though national restrictions have been relaxed and there is certainly good reason for optimism for the future, I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise the "hands, face, space" mantra and to also remind families that children with covid symptoms (a high temperature, a

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



new continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of smell), or those who have tested positive either using home testing kit or from a PCR test should not come to school.

As ever, the upcoming term is likely to be a very busy one but it is with a genuine sense of pleasure and excitement that I also anticipate it being one in which we steadily return to much more normal and familiar experiences of school life

With thanks for your continued support and my best wishes to all, especially to those who are currently observing the holy month of Ramadan.

Regards



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher