

24th April 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well. This week we welcomed back our students following the Easter break. It was great to have our students in school and I am very pleased with how well they have settled back into successful learning routines. This applies to all students, but in particular I want to congratulate our year 11 and year 13 students who have had to remain calm and focused despite all of the uncertainty around the way in which they will be assessed this year. We had many year 11 students in school over the holiday (or attending online virtual sessions run by staff) revising and working hard towards their assessments. Their dedication to doing well is admirable. I would like to thank the many staff members who, despite how hard they have worked during the term, devoted some of their valuable holiday time to supporting our year 11s, and those who spent much of the holiday marking the year 13 assessments that occurred before the break. A very busy time!

I trust that you are enjoying the current weather and also sharing our feelings of optimism that we are steadily moving towards a much more “normal” school situation. Whilst there can be no significant changes until we receive confirmation from the government of the relaxing of restrictions on 17th May, we have already started planning for when these occur and will inform you of these as soon as it is prudent to do so. It is very likely that whatever changes we do make will be phased and gradual to fit in with whatever guidance we get from the government and our internal practicalities. However, like you and the students, we are all very keen to move back towards some type of normality. In the meantime, I ask you to bear with us, and encourage your children to continue to follow the existing processes and procedures.

As before Easter there are already some areas where we have been able to make changes. After-school sport sessions are continuing, as are music instrument lessons – including some Year 7 students whose lessons will start next week. Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to accommodate all Year 7 students who wish to learn an instrument, but if they are not starting now, they have been put on the waiting list to start as soon as possible. We are also continuing with the assessment checks that are required for exam groups, with Year 11 students starting their evidence gathering assessments on Tuesday 4th May.

We are now resuming our parental consultation around Relationships, Sex and Health Education in school. You may be aware that, having been an early adopter of the new RSE requirements, we had been involved in a pilot project with the Sex Education Forum and had conducted a number of parent information evenings before lock down. Covid-19 interrupted that process, but

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

we will be relaunching the consultation in the coming week so please look out for an email giving details about this.

I am very pleased to announce that, as from next week my regular letters will also be sent to the families of the 270 new students who will join Highgate Wood School in September. I hope they will find them a useful way to follow what is happening in school as we come out of the current restrictions. For them, I trust, once they formally join us next academic year, Covid-19 will largely be a thing of the past. I also hope that this years' transition process will see a return to our traditional face-to-face meetings and events. All the signs suggest that this will be possible.

Despite this optimism we should remain careful and vigilant, observing the "hands, face, space" mantra and alerting the school to any Covid-19 positive test results. I must apologise for the failure of our phone system on Monday. We were unable to receive any incoming calls during the day and though this has now been resolved there is still an issue with our internal direct lines. Until you hear otherwise could you please now dial the regular school phone number, 02083427970 and then key in the extension 238 to reach the Covid hotline to report any positive Covid-19 test results. The covid email address remains the same: covid@hws.haringey.sch.uk

With thanks for your continued support.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cozier', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Patrick Cozier
Headteacher