

2nd May 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying the extended weekend.

The optimism over the relaxation of restrictions continues and we have every reason to believe we will see a significant return to some normality before long. With that in mind we are already planning a face-to-face transition day for the new Year 7 students joining the school, and a “team building” day for our current Year 7s. There is a certain irony to this since our Year 7s have spent the past year in the same location and have thus bonded so well that we couldn’t wish for a better “team”. But it is an enjoyable occasion for the children and one which we wouldn’t want them to forego. And these are just two of the things we have planned to happen later in the summer term. We are continuing to make plans towards other changes that we can make to move back to normality. As mentioned in my previous letter, we will inform you of these plans in due course.

However, we are not there yet and the current guidance from the Department for Education remains in place. We must continue to maintain our current systems and procedures. We need to keep year groups in bubbles as well as all the other things we have in place to maintain Covid safety. I fully understand the impatience of many to get back to how things were before (and we share this desire), especially as the weather improves and the days get longer, but we can’t do that just yet. You may have heard some students spent break time or part of their lunch times practicing line ups. We did this because of the need to re-establish our expectations for lining up at the end of break and lunch so that students can be escorted safely back to class without the risk of “crossing bubbles” or interrupting other year groups’ break. We have been doing the line ups since September, but unfortunately they were recently not as successful for a couple of year groups as they had been earlier in the year. I do hope we won’t need to repeat this (although we will if necessary) and that practice does indeed make perfect. It certainly seems to have worked judging by the superb conduct of our students when lining up for safe return to lessons later in the week. It is one of our key safety measures during this time to keep all students and staff safer.

The Department for Education has asked schools to encourage families to maintain their regular Covid-19 self-testing routines and there have also been regular reminders for us all to remain cautious and not relax things before it is safe to do so. I urge everyone to follow these guidelines so we have the best chance of things returning to normal swiftly. During the past week we have distributed another set of self-testing kits, which children taking part should have brought

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

home. If your child is involved in the programme and returns a positive covid-19 test please contact the school (covid@hws.haringey.sch.uk or 02083427970 ext. 238) and keep them at home whilst ordering a confirmatory PCR test.

We need to be mindful of different people's thoughts about the relaxation of restrictions. We know there are mixed feelings amongst both staff and students, but are uncertain what these are or to what extent they are felt. We have thus launched a survey for all students to ask them to give their thoughts about a return to normality, what they are looking forward to and what they might feel anxious about. Your child will have received that through Show My Homework and I would be grateful if you could encourage them to complete it as fully and honestly as they can.

In my last letter I alerted you to an upcoming survey for parents, resuming the consolation about Relationships and Sex Education. You should have received that now and I do hope that you will be able to find time to complete it. With recent issues, both locally and nationally, not least the #MeToo, #SheWasOnlyWalkingHome and Everyone's Invited campaigns and the more general impact of Covid-19 and lockdown, it is a critically important subject. Please visit <https://hws.haringey.sch.uk/2021/04/29/relationships-and-sex-education/> for general information and <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QC59WPS> for the survey.

You may be aware that the Year 11 assessments will begin on Tuesday 4th May and I am certain that those involved will be working hard this weekend to prepare for those. I also know that other staff and students have other school work that needs to be done. But I do hope that all will have a chance to spend some time over this weekend relaxing and recharging.

With thanks for your continued support, and particular good wishes if you are the parent of a child in Year 11.

Regards



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher