

8th May 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well and that you continue to share our optimism for the future. We expect an announcement from the government in the next few days that will provide an update to schools' responses to the Covid-19 situation from 17th May. You will be aware that practical complexities, as well government guidance, will determine our plans going forward, but be assured that we will inform you of any changes as soon as we are able to do so.

It has been very useful to receive student feedback on what they have found particularly difficult during the covid emergency, and also what they have welcomed as part of our covid response. It is clear that for many students there are aspects to the systems and process that we have had to put in place over the past 12 months that they have enjoyed, and we will need to keep these in mind in our future plans. I will provide families with more details about these once the survey has been closed and the results fully analysed.

You may also be aware that there is a wider consultation across the country, run by the Childrens' Commissioner, asking all children and young people about their priorities and concerns for the future, so that the government can put children at the heart of the national recovery post-COVID-19. This survey, called The Big Ask, is online and open until 19th May. Please email big.ask@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk for further information or otherwise ask your children to visit www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/ to complete the survey themselves. It should take only 5 or 10 minutes.

May 10th begins Mental Health Awareness Week, with the 2021 focus about connecting with nature. There will be a number of different activities in school in the coming weeks to help support good mental health but I would like to take this opportunity to promote this initiative with families. Please visit www.mentalhealth.org.uk for more information. I also attach the Haringey's Smarter Travel outline for Highgate Wood School that promotes healthier ways of travelling to school. You may also recall me writing about www.kooth.com in earlier letters. This organisation has many resources to encourage good mental health, including some useful podcasts at [Kooth Spotify Podcasts](#) providing guidance on meditation, stress relieve and building resilience.

In the coming week we will be having the Year 10 virtual parents' evening, students in Year 11 will be beginning their second week of assessments and we will be beginning our visits to primary schools as part of the transition programme for the new students we will welcome in September 2021. It will also be the last week for the Relationships and Sex Education Survey I

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



alerted families to last week. Please do complete this if you have not already done so (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.) But the key event will be the government's announcement giving school's notice of the changes happening at Step 3 of their Roadmap out of lockdown scheduled for 17th May, and we look forward to that with great interest.

With thanks for your continued support.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cozier', written over the printed name.

Patrick Cozier
Headteacher