

13th June 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

As we continue to enjoy a period of very warm summer weather, I hope you and your family are well and continue to look forward to the future and the easing of restrictions that will inevitably arrive in due course.

Whilst we await the government's announcement on Monday about the timing of the move to Step 4, there does appear to be an increasing likelihood that it may be put back by some weeks. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we will continue to take a safety-first approach in our response and work in line with the guidance provided by the Department of Education and Public Health England. The changing situation has caused us to modify our original plans for our "return to normal" that we have scheduled to begin on 21st June. Rather than moving wholesale to freer school movement for students in Key Stage 3, from the 21st June we will instead begin a fortnight of relocation of individual classes for some Science, Art, Music, Drama, Design Technology and Computer Science lessons. This will allow all students to have that wider experience these subjects are able to offer in their specialist workshops, laboratories and working spaces.

In deciding on this we have carefully balanced the potential risks of relaxing our social distancing and "bubble" rules, against the educational, mental health and other concerns around the current system of teaching all subjects (with the only current exception being PE) in the same classroom. The broadly improving picture of covid-19 transmission, coupled with a less crowded school now that Year 11 and Year 13 students are no longer with us, as well as the way that our students have been able to adapt and respond positively to the challenges of the current situation, has made it possible for us to consider the change and we believe it will certainly improve the children's school experience. We have already trialled this with classes visiting the library and with a Year 8 class in Art and believe it will be both safe and welcomed.

These plans will be subject to there being no additional restrictions placed on us by the Department of Education or Public Health. They will also include appropriate constraints to maintain covid-safety and also accommodate the practical realities we face at this time of year – with events like Sports Day, Post 16 taster days and the Primary school transition day all taking place on the school site in the coming weeks. I will provide more detail on this in my next letter.

In the meantime, can I please remind you that we are still asking students to wear face coverings in the communal areas of the school building and that, unless they are exempt, they should come into school with a face covering every day. For those who are having regular LFD covid-19 self-tests, please continue to do so. If your child tests positive on one of the LFD self-tests or the PCR test, please contact us by email covid@hws.haringey.sch.uk or leave a message on 02083427975 (the Covid-19 direct hotline is now working again) and ensure that your child self-

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



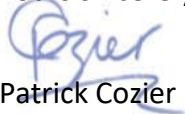
Bring your own bag

isolates. Similarly, if your child has any Covid-19 symptoms – a high temperature, a new persistent cough, or a loss\change to their sense of taste or smell – they should stay at home and self-isolate whilst you arrange for a PCR test.

I would also like to ask you to congratulate your children on the way they have continued to respond so well and so positively to such a challenging situation. It has been extremely tough for them, as it has also been for my staff, but they have coped magnificently. Despite the concerns around the Delta variant, we are now beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and I do look forward to a steadily more “normal” school in the coming weeks.

With thanks for your continued support

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher