

20th June 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I trust you and your family are well and are keeping your spirits up despite the government's postponement of the date for full relaxation of the restrictions around Covid-19. The rationale behind this was that there has been a surge in transmission due to the Delta variant, which our own experience this week confirms. A number of Covid-19 positive results has led to a return to remote learning for groups in Year 7 and Year 8 who have been required to self-isolate and we anticipate there may be more in the coming days. I am sure this will have been hugely disappointing to the children and families concerned, but we must continue to have confidence that we are steadily coming out of this challenging time. We hope that we are in the very last stages before we properly return to a much more normal situation.

Gavin Williamson, the Education Secretary, wrote to all secondary school parents and carers on Friday thanking them for their efforts so far and stressing the importance of keeping up asymptomatic testing. A new set of test kits are now being distributed to the children and I would encourage as many families as possible to be involved in the process. In his letter, which is available [here](#), Mr Williamson also reminds parents of the importance of reporting all test results, positive and negative, as this helps health experts have a clearer understanding of the national picture. We will be writing to families about this in the coming week.

The coming week will also see Key Stage 3 students start enjoying a fuller curriculum experience. As you may know, in order to create our year group zones we had to convert our music rooms, art rooms, Design and Technology workshops and ICT suites into regular classrooms (to teach English, Maths, History, Geography and so on at Key Stage 4 and 5). Staff have spent the past week converting these back, as well as reworking their teaching plans and developing the systems that will allow for the safe movement of classes around the school. From Monday we will thus be able to start having Music, Art, Drama, Design Technology and Computer Science lessons in these specialist spaces, and classes visit the science laboratories for practical lessons. This will not all happen at once; it will be a phased process. But we do anticipate it being fully in place within the coming fortnight.

During the next few weeks, we have a number of other important events. There are upcoming celebration events for Year 11 and Year 13 students, and assessments for Year 10 and 12. We have Post 16 taster days for internal and external applicants to our sixth form this coming Tuesday and Wednesday, and we also have Sports Day taking place on Thursday 1st July. This will be happening on the school site, rather than at the New River Stadium, and will be subject to change if the weather is either torrential or scorching hot (due to the lack of suitable shelter),

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

but I am sure it will still be a marvellous event for all students in years 7, 8 and 9. Mr Mayes, Head of PE, will keep families more fully informed about this as the day approaches.

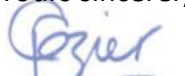
Unfortunately, there are also a number of events that we have now had to cancelled. There will be no MADFest this summer, and the planned Transition Day for our new Year 7 students will not be able to go ahead. Nevertheless, these events have not been abandoned. We plan to have MADFest in September, and there will be a transition process for our new students – both this side and the other side of the summer holidays (albeit a different one) – which will ensure they have a good settling-in experience to Highgate Wood School. More information about these will be circulated by Mr Ashman and Ms Burniston respectively in due course.

I have received some complaints from the public about our students not wearing their face coverings when travelling on public transport. We are also aware that there is a growing number of students who are not bringing in their face coverings and thus need to be supplied one by the school. As we enter into what is very likely to be the final phase of the national covid response, can I urge all families to encourage their children to maintain safe behaviours, to keep social distance, wear their face coverings and wash their hands frequently.

Can I also please remind you to keep up with the 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 and ensure that your child self-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.

With thanks for your continued support

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher