

27th June 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I do hope you and your family are well and, despite the current challenges of the Delta variant, share my optimism for the future, for the removal of all restrictions and the safe “return to normal” before the autumn term.

You will be aware of the surge in Covid-19 transmissions in our community. This has impacted on a number of our students, with students in Year 9 being the latest group required to self-isolate. You may also be aware that LCRC (London Coronavirus Response Centre) and Public Health England have responded to this development by asking schools to request students identified as close-contacts of individuals who have tested positive to take PCR test when they commence their self-isolation. This is to help track and monitor the transmission of the new variant. Please be aware, however, that this is a request and not a requirement. If your child needs to self-isolate, their return to school is not contingent on them taking a PCR test. We ask that you arrange for a PCR test and will provide a link through which you can report the results, but you can decline to do so if you wish. It is also important to note that a negative PCR test does not allow an earlier end to self-isolation.

With this in mind, I would like to remind you of Education Secretary Gavin Williamson’s request last week for all secondary school students to keep up with twice-weekly LFD covid self-tests. We have issued new test kits to students but if you have not received yours, please email admin@hws.haringey.sch.uk to receive on. Please remember that, 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.

Can I also, again, urge families to ensure their child has a face covering (unless they are exempt) for their journey into school and for school itself. Especially now, as we steadily allow greater movement of students around our buildings, it is imperative that we maintain our covid-safe precautions – amongst which the wearing of a face covering in communal areas is key.

The good news is, over the past week we have had students in Years 7, 8 and 9 carry out science experiments, visit our computer rooms and take part in practical lessons in Music, Drama, DT and Art. This has been a joy to see, especially for those groups who never before had access to our workshops and performance spaces (which had been converted to regular classrooms for the majority of the covid-response). It has clearly had a positive impact on the learning and engagement of the students and I look forward to it continuing during the coming week with a view to moving to a full return to restablising department areas for all subjects from 5th July.

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

Elsewhere there has also been changes that have made things feel much more “normal.” On Friday evening I had the privilege to attend our Year 13 Celebration Event in school, congratulating all our most senior students as they now begin an exciting new chapter in their lives. It was a marvellous evening, and I must thank Ms Pinnick, our Director of Sixth Form, and all her team for making it happen. I also want to thank all of the Year 13 teachers for the amazing support they have provided to our students during this challenging period. I look forward to a similarly enjoyable event on Monday, when we have our in-school Year 11 Celebration.

This coming Thursday we will have our Sports Day for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. This will take place in school, and you should have already received information about this from Mr Tom Mayes, our Head of PE. For students in Year 10 Thursday will be a PHSEE enrichment day and they will have already received information about this from Mr Dave Grimmett, Head of PHSEE\Life skills. For Year 12 Thursday has been given over to UCAS applications and preparations for next year.

Unfortunately, the postponement of the Government’s Step 4 in relaxation of measures has meant that we have had to cancel some planned events – including our Transition Day for our new Year 7 students and their families. These will now have to take place virtually, and information has already gone out to those families concerned by Ms Jen Burniston, Assistant Headteacher and Transition Lead.

As we look to the future, I would like to draw your attention to some other forthcoming dates, which you may want to note in your diary. Monday 12th July will be an INSET day, when the school will be closed to students to allow for staff training. The end of the summer term will be on Friday 23rd July, when school will finish early. The autumn term will begin on Friday 3rd September, when we fully expect to open to students as “normal” with no longer any requirement to maintain bubbles or restrict student movement.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher