

6th June 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I trust you and your family are well and have been able to enjoy the good weather during the half-term break. I also hope the children are looking forward to their return to school and the start of the half term where we sincerely hope we will be able to see a move back to “normal.”

You will be aware there are a range of different views on whether the government will be able to move to Step 4 of the relaxation of restrictions for 21st June as originally scheduled. We know that infection rates have crept up recently, and we have experienced this locally with a small number of Year 10 students having tested positive for Covid-19, but we also know the data around Covid-19 leading to serious illness and hospitalisation as well as the vaccination programme is encouraging. As ever, we will continue to be guided by the information provided by Public Health and the Department for Education and our approach remains “safety first”, but I anticipate that we will be able to return to normal – with children moving much more freely around the school – on our new timeline from 21st June and we will continue to prepare for this during the coming days.

I know that many of my staff have not had the period of rest they needed during this half-term as there has been a great deal of other work that has needed to be completed. Foremost amongst these tasks have been the marking and moderating required for the Teacher Assessed Grades that will be taking the place of GCSE and A Level results this summer. This has been a colossal task and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff for giving up so much of their holiday time for doing this. On a much lighter note, I would also like to thank the PSA for their “Spring Dig” in the school during the break. We have already seen the benefits of their earlier “Autumn Dig”, with spring flowers brightening up the school environment during the last term. It really does make a difference. With gardens in mind, I attach with this letter a poster from Homes for Haringey promoting the Haringey in Bloom initiative. It is open to all Haringey residents and community groups.

I have previously written to you regarding our plans to move to a year group based pastoral system in September 2021. I am delighted to now be able to announce the names of our new Heads of Year. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all well in their critical new roles at Highgate Wood School.

- Head of Year 7 – Mr T Mayes (currently Acting Head of PE)
- Head of Year 8 – Ms E Brown (currently Acting Deputy Head of Seacole House)
- Head of Year 9 – Ms G Ward (currently Acting Head of Seacole House)

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



- Head of Year 10 – Ms J Key (currently Head of Edison House)
- Head of Year 11– Ms K Zwicky (currently Acting Head of da Vinci House)

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate three other appointments that have arisen from internal changes. Ms C Holmes has been appointed Head of History, Mr B Odei will be Head of Computer Science and Ms C Angove will be Head of Design Technology.

You may also be aware that there has been another significant change in personnel. Ms Kiymet Ozturk, who has been my PA for my entire time at Highgate Wood School, has now retired. I cannot begin to say how much of an asset she has been to Highgate Wood School, and to me personally, over the years. She will certainly be missed, but I wish all the very best for her new, and certainly less eventful life, with her family in Turkey.

As we begin the second half of the summer term and the continued warmer weather we will, as usual, be relaxing our rules on blazers. Blazers need not be worn at school during the remainder of the term. Please be aware, however, that no other jacket or top can be worn as an alternative to the school blazer.

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 02083427970 ext. 238 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.

For your information, the new term begins at the normal time for all students on Monday 7th June. It is Week One.

With thanks for your continued support

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher