

17th July 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

As we approach the last week of this academic year, I hope you and your family are well and looking forward to the summer break. It has been hugely challenging for everyone and I trust that we will all be able to use at least some of the coming days to rest, relax and recharge.

We will shortly be at Step 4 of the government's roadmap. This has some implications for schools, including a change to how Track and Trace operates. These changes are detailed in the attached letter from me, authored by Public Health Haringey and will make quite a difference in the new academic year. In the remaining few days of this term, however, we will be following Haringey PHE advice to "not make any changes to our control measures such as bubbles and face coverings and continue to adhere to what is already in place until the end of summer term due to increasing case rates at present." A recent rise in local transmission has led to all students in Year 12 and some teaching groups in other years having to work remotely, and we want to ensure we maintain Covid-19 safety for all others prior to the summer holidays.

However, one change that we will be making this week (which we do not believe will impact our Covid control measures) is to remove the need for students in years 7, 8 and 9 to line up at the end of break and lunch time. We believe that it is time to start preparing the students for what life will hopefully be like in September, and this is a key step.

The changes after Step 4 on 19th July as well as those being proposed for the start of term are now being detailed on the school website. This includes the programme of in-school LFD testing now planned for September. If you have not already given consent for your child to be tested, or you simply want more information, please visit the site [here](#). We will be continuously updating the page over the summer so it may be wise to bookmark it. It is likely that we will have to stagger the start of the term in September to accommodate the testing of students. We will share the schedule for this in due course.

You will be aware that the school was closed to students on Monday 12th to allow for staff training. Throughout the day my staff were engaged in plans for the September, preparing the support students will need following the experiences of the past 18 months and also planning for the fresh challenges that lie ahead. I believe we are now extremely well placed for a successful academic year ahead. That belief was reinforced on Friday when Year 7 finally took part in their long-delayed PSA-sponsored Team Building Day. It was a splendid occasion and demonstrated once again how inventive, resilient, creative and co-operative our students can be. I would like to thank all those who took part, but particularly to Ms Burniston who organised the day.

At this time of year, we often say goodbye to colleagues at Highgate Wood School who are moving on to new positions elsewhere or different stages in their lives. This year is no exception and includes members of staff of extremely long-standing who have been part of the very fabric of the school. Ms Gillespie, who has been with our admin team for over 21 years; Ms Isaac, who has been part of our Learning Support

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

Department for 19 years; Ms Philips who, following a period of sabbatical will be leaving our Maths Department after 18 years, Ms Harding who has been with the History Department for 17 years, helping to make it one of the most outstanding departments in the school; Ms Rowe who has served our Food Technology department as their technician for 15 years and Ms O'Donnell who has been with Learning Support for 14 years. Their contribution to the school has been immense and deeply appreciated.

We will also be saying goodbye to Ms Chaudhri, who has served as Head of REP and more recently Acting Assistant Headteacher since for 2015, and Ms Grayson, who has been with the Maths Department since 2016 and recently acting Assistant Head of DaVinci House. Other leavers, whose time with us has not been quite as long, include Mr Tsang from PE, Ms Blake and Mr Custodero from Science, and much more recently Ms Otubushin and Mr Hunt who have been part of the REP and Economics Departments respectively.

Other key members of staff who have left this term include Ms Bayat, from our Learning Support Department; Ms Erbil, our Family Support Officer; Mr Alaba, our Network Manager and Ms Ozturk, who was my PA for many years and whose retirement I mentioned in an earlier letter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their contributions to school life and wish them all the very best for the future.

Though you will continue to receive information from the school (particularly about the start of term arrangements for the new academic year), I do not anticipate writing another letter to families until September. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank families for their support, students for their energy and enthusiasm and staff for their incredible hard work during this year.

With all good wishes for an enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cozier', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Patrick Cozier
Headteacher