

11th July 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I do hope you and your family are well.

As you know, last week we returned to having the department areas of the school re-established and students in all years able to travel across the site to their different lessons. We had approached this change with a good deal of caution and care, uncertain how well the children would adapt to the challenges it presented. I am delighted to now confirm that they responded magnificently. The overwhelming majority of students around the school have been wearing their masks properly, making their way to their lessons swiftly and settling down promptly to begin their various lessons in their different classrooms. The mood in the school has noticeably lifted. Both staff and students seem happier, more relaxed and have also found a new burst of energy and enthusiasm, which is no small achievement at the end of a very long and challenging school year. I would like to thank staff and students for making this important transition so successful, and also thank families for their support in making this happen.

Together with this exciting development in school life, last week we also began the transition process for our new Year 7 students. We ran a parent Zoom webinar on Tuesday and a question-and-answer session for our new students on Thursday. This Monday, 12th July, we will be hosting a virtual Meet the Tutor event for them on Microsoft Teams. Whilst we would much preferred to have been able to conduct these events in real life, I hope these virtual events will still provide an insight into what Highgate Wood School is all about. Our new Year 7 families are now included in the mailing list for this letter and I would like to take this opportunity to again welcome them to our school.

This week there are also a number of events happening for our current students. Many of our Year 11s will be spending this week on their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Challenge and on Friday our Year 7s will be enjoying their Team Building Day – postponed from last September. I do hope the weather holds out for both of these events.

During the coming week Year 9 students will also receive confirmation of their Option choices for next year. This will come together with a form for parents and carers to complete should there be any appeals for changes. I would be very grateful if these were completed as swiftly as possible.

This Monday is an INSET day when the school will be closed to students and my staff will be working to develop their plans for teaching and learning in September and how we can best address some of the issues that has raised by the pandemic and the disruption to schooling over

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

the last 18 months. We all hope that the new academic year will be much more “normal” than the current one has been, but we do know there will be challenges ahead.

You may have heard that the government has requested all secondary schools to again test students for Covid-19 on return from the summer holidays. Details have not yet been finalised but we expect that this will involve gaining formal consent from parents and carers for their child to be involved in the process. We anticipate requesting this consent from families during the coming week and do hope you will be able to respond favourably. Whilst testing is not compulsory, we know it is considered to play a significant part in the forward plans for us living with the virus whilst maintaining relatively normal lives.

With this in mind I would again like to remind you of the importance of the twice-weekly LFD covid self-tests and that, if your child tests positive on one of the LFD self-tests or the PCR test, to 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.

And finally, there is a small game of football taking place this Sunday! I am sure that many of you have been following the Euro 2020 tournament and will be watching the game. I will be cheering for an England victory, but whatever your allegiance, enjoy the match and have fun safely!

With thanks for your continued support

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher