

11th September 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I do hope you are well and your children have enjoyed their first week back at school. We have certainly enjoyed seeing them. Whilst we have not yet seen the end to the pandemic and we know we must remain cautious and vigilant, it has been a relief to see the school function in a much more 'normal' way than at this time last year – despite the staggered start allowing us to carry out the recommended in-school Covid-19 tests for those who had given their consent.

As ever, the start of term has been extremely busy. We have enrolled record numbers into our Sixth Form (maintaining a sixth form of 300 students) and also welcomed our new Year 7 students into the Highgate Wood School family. The school photographer has been in to take photographs of our new students (those pictures are now available to order), and all students have now been provided with their required access to their accounts for their school email, Show My Homework, e-praise and Google Classrooms. There is still administrative work to complete and we expect to provide details for parental access to these systems during the coming week.

Our enrichment programme has already begun with Friday's PSA funded Year 7 Team Building Day, which despite the challenges of the weather, was hugely successful. Our information sessions for parents will start soon, with the Year 12 Parents' welcome evening webinar next Wednesday, and there are many other dates for parental diaries you will be informed of soon – including the PSA Annual webinar on Thursday 23rd September to which everyone is invited and where I will be speaking about our plans for the future as well as reflecting on the events of the last academic year.

I am particularly excited about how we have reintroduced the year group pastoral structure, together with the other major changes to ensure every student at Highgate Wood School can thrive, flourish and achieve their very best. These include the restructuring of our Learning Support department and the creation of the HWS Maya Angelou Centre supporting those going through periods of struggle to fully engage in school life (which includes a focus on supporting children with emotional and mental health needs). But I also welcome the return of the more established systems of the school that support every learner – including the return to setting in maths and science, all key stage 3 practical lessons being taught in specialist classrooms, and the reestablishing of full movement around the school that the ending of "bubbles" now permits.

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



Our response to Covid-19 remains as it ever was, following the guidance provided by the Department for Education and Public Health England. This includes requesting that all families continue with their twice weekly routine of self tests (test kits will be supplied to students during the course of next week), and asking that everyone follows the guidance of not attending school if they have Covid-19 symptoms, have tested positive or have otherwise been required to isolate by NHS test and trace. A useful summary of the current requirements is available on the DfE blog [here](#). We will, of course, alert you should any of the guidance change.

I anticipate continuing with a regular Headteacher's letter to families for the coming academic year so you are kept up-to-date with the school's progress and successes. This, however, will not need to be as regular as it was last year. Nevertheless, I will certainly write to you again before half-term.

In the meantime please accept my very best wishes for a successful academic year for your children, a heartfelt welcome to our new families and an equally heartfelt "welcome back" to those families whose children have been with us for longer.

With thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cozier

Headteacher