

3rd July 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

As we approach the last few weeks of term I do hope you are well and are looking forward to the summer holidays.

I would like to begin this week's letter with a heartfelt thanks to staff and students involved in all the various activities happening on Thursday 1st July. For Key Stage 3 we had the return of Sports Day. It was a thrilling occasion and one that the children thoroughly enjoyed. The RSE\PHSE\Lifeskills enrichment day was similarly successful, with our Year 10 students involved in a series of workshops and activities to help them develop their understandings of healthy relationships and safer behaviours. For Year 12 we benefitted from the experiences of several external speakers to help students prepare their statements and applications for university admission through UCAS.

As I have mentioned in the past, the school is committed to returning to more normal practice as soon as we possibly can. We have now completed a successful fortnight where students in Key Stage 3 have been able to visit specialist workshops and labs to provide that broader educational experience that has been missing for so long. We now feel confident to develop this further and allow fuller movement of students around the school. During the coming week we will be moving away from year group zones, returning instead to department areas and students travelling across the site for their different lessons.

We still need to maintain the integrity of year group bubbles so the staggered timings for the different groups will remain in place. We will also need to insist on children following the one-way systems in the school, ensure that there are no delays in them travelling from one area to another and also have a few days of induction to be certain they understand and follow the expectations that will be required. As an additional measure we will be asking all students to wear a face covering to again do so both in the communal areas and within the classrooms. All students will be issued with a new timetable before the increased movement begins so they can be absolutely clear of where they need to be when.

I am aware that this has meant a very significant amount of extra work for staff for just a few weeks of schooling but I believe the learning experience of children going to a classroom to be greeted by a teacher ready to receive them is so much better than teachers travelling all across the school that we mustn't delay it for a moment longer than necessary.

We still need to be very mindful of the current restrictions and, even with the 19th July fast approaching, the need to maintain vigilance and caution in everything that we do. 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

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 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.

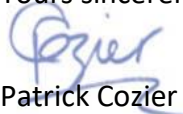
You will have already received notification of a Zoom meeting on Thursday where an outside organisation, TrustElevate, will be discussing online safety and their work with the government on providing age verification systems to help protect young people in the future. This is one of a number of different initiatives that are now addressing various issues that have been highlighted by the pandemic. I do hope you will be able to consider attending. Please email Mr Ashman (tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk) if you require further information.

I would also like to remind you that we will have an INSET day on Monday 12th July, when the school will be closed to students. This day too will focus on many of the issues that have been highlighted by the pandemic and help prepare staff to be able to address these in our approaches to teaching and learning from September.

As mentioned last week, 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.

With thanks for your continued support

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher