

2nd October

Dear Parents\Carers,

I hope you and your family are well and your children have been able to happily settle into the routines of regular school life.

As I am sure you are aware, the government has now introduced a programme of Covid-19 vaccinations for young people between the ages of 12 and 15. You may also have kept up with the news through the dedicated page on our school website [here](#). We have now been alerted that Vaccination UK have scheduled Tuesday 12th October as the day when their team will attend Highgate Wood School. Details have still to be finalised, including the E-consent forms which we will be asked to send out to families to complete on-line. We anticipate sharing this information with you early in the coming week. In the meantime I attach a letter from Dr Will Maimaris, Interim Director of Haringey Public Health, and Eveleen Riordan, Assistant Director, Schools and Learning, that provides some additional information and links. Please be aware that the school has no direct involvement in the vaccination programme and thus it would be far more effective to use the contact details from this letter (Tel: 0208 017 7925 and email haringey@v-uk.co.uk) if you have any questions or concerns.

Now that the school term has got firmly under way, we have been able to review and adjust some of the systems we put in place for the start of the year. The designated entrances (Park Road for Years 7 and 8, Tennis Courts for Years 9 and 10 and Montenotte Road for Years 11, 12 and 13) have worked well to avoid congestion in the mornings for arrival and in the afternoons for departure, but we have found the morning line ups are not required. Indeed, we have already had to cancel a number of them because of inclement weather. Therefore, from Monday 4th October, though students must still be on site by 8:30am, they should make their own way to their registration rooms in the morning, where they will be greeted by their tutors. Please remind your child to continue to use the designated entrance, though we are also now allowing students who arrive **before 8:15am** to use any entrance.

On a separate issue connected to the start of term I would like to congratulate so many students for an excellent start to the term. So many of our students have already received well over 100 merits since we returned in September and I am delighted that I have just been able to present hundreds of students with their 5-merit Fortnight Award for perfect attendance and conduct in the last two weeks. If you log into your epraise account you should also be able to see your child's achievements this year and, hopefully, congratulate them on their successes.

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

Having said this, there are a couple of matters that I would like to draw your attention to, one as a reminder, the other an important focus for our school for throughout the remainder of this academic year.

1. **Mobile Phone Rule** – Just a quick reminder that although it is ok for students to travel to school with their mobile phones, they must not be seen or heard when on the school premises (irrespective of the time of day).

This means that they should be switched off or in silent mode from the moment a student walks through the gate in the morning until such time that they leave through the gate at the end of the day. If phones are seen or heard, then they are confiscated and kept for seven days. We apply this rule for all students consistently, only making alternative arrangements in a very small number of exceptional cases where there are specific safeguarding concerns we are aware of.

2. **Non-Acceptance of Any Form of Discrimination** – This year we are upping our efforts to educate our students about the offence, hurt and damage that is caused by discriminatory attitudes, words and behaviours. As a truly diverse community, the harmony, understanding and celebration of our differences is central to our positive school ethos. At HWS we are against all forms of discrimination. I attach a letter that was shared with all of our students on earlier this week outlining the school's position on discrimination.

I would also like to take this opportunity to alert you to our plans to move away from our current online payments system, Wisepay, over the coming half term break. You may be aware of the issues there have been with this system since their website was hacked in October 2020 and we now believe the only long-term solution to these problems is to move to a different provider. This will have no impact on any credit on your child's account. No funds are actually held by Wisepay, it is simply the gateway for payments to be made to students' accounts. There will therefore not be any practical impact beyond asking you to register and use a different online provider, but I did want to alert you know so you are aware of the changes in prospect. Mr Ashman will be sending out more information about this in the coming weeks.

As mentioned above, I do anticipate writing to you again in a few days with fuller details of the Covid-19 vaccination programme. In the meantime I thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher