

25th October 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

I do hope you and your child had a good return to school in the first half of the autumn term and are now enjoying the half-term break. It has been exciting for us as staff members to finally have all students back in school. Although the term has been full on as you might imagine, it has also been rewarding and successful.

A great deal has happened in the last few weeks and we have an equally busy calendar ahead of us. You will already be aware that the Covid-19 vaccination programme for children aged 12 - 15 has been expanded so that any children who missed the first school session can now book an appointment at a local hub over half term. These appointments are available via the national booking systems which you can access here: [NHS Covid-19 Vaccinations](#). We are also having one further in-school vaccination opportunity for students aged 12-15. This will happen on Tuesday 9th November which is already scheduled to be an INSET day when the school is closed to students to allow for staff training. Families will receive details of this, together with the new e-consent link, in a few days' time.

You will be very aware of the current discussions around maintaining Covid-19 safety and security in schools and I would like to take this opportunity to assure to that, as ever, we continue to work closely with Public Health England to ensure that our procedures are robust and also responsive to any changes in the situation or in the guidance that we receive. I do urge families to continue with the twice weekly Covid-19 testing. If that LFD test is positive then please arrange for both the child who returned the positive test result and any siblings to have a PCR test – and keep them off school until you receive a negative test result. If you could email our Attendance Officer, Ms King (dki@hws.haringey.sch.uk) then she can enter the appropriate code in the registers so teachers know to set remote work for the children isolating (which they should complete if they are well enough to do so).

On the horizon we have a number of Parental Meetings. Year 8 and Year 9 parents' evenings are happening on 23rd and 30th November respectively, followed by Pastoral Review Day on Wednesday 8th December. In common with many schools, we are building on the success of last year's virtual parents' evenings and will run this year's parents' evenings as online video meetings through e-praise and Microsoft Teams. Fuller information about these events will be communicated to the relevant groups shortly.

Following the success of our Primary Transition Open Evening and Open Mornings where we welcomed hundreds of prospective families whose children will be starting in Year 7 next year, I am looking forward to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 18th November. This

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

will be an in-person event but will require tickets. These are already available from the school website. I am also extremely hopefully that we will again be able to stage our celebrated Winter Concerts again this year, and I will let you know more about this in due course. I would like to thank and congratulate the very many students who put themselves forward to represent the school at our transition open events. They are proud to represent their school and they did so magnificently. I am proud of them all!

You will know that we have now moved away from Wisepay, our previous online payment service, to SCOPAY and will be completing the work to join up the new payment service with our school systems in the coming days. Please be aware that this will have no impact on the money on your child's account. The balance that you used to see on Wisepay was simply the figure sent back to them from the school systems. Once we complete the move to SCOPAY that balance will appear on their systems instead. Neither Wisepay nor SCOPAY actually store any funds.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind families that daylight saving time will end at 2:00am Sunday 31st October, when the clocks will go back by one hour. Term begins on Monday 1st November at the usual time – and it will be Week Two. As always, it is important to remind all families that we have an extremely strict rule about fireworks at Highgate Wood School. With both Diwali and Bonfire Night falling in our first week back, I imagine there will be lots of firework celebrations in the area, but all fireworks are banned from the school premises. If any student is found in possession of any sort of firework on the school site then the issue will be dealt with extremely seriously, almost certainly resulting in a permanent exclusion. We will remind students about this, but I would also appreciate it hugely if you could support this safety message in conversation with your children.

I do hope the coming half term is a successful and enjoyable one for you and your children and, as ever, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher