

9th January 2022

Dear Parents\Carers,

As this is my first letter of the new year, I would like to begin by extending my warming wishes to all Highgate Wood School families for a safe, happy, and successful 2022. There are still challenges around the Covid-19 response during the coming weeks, but I trust that these will soon lessen, and we can return to a more normal way of working.

It has been a very positive start to the term, albeit only three days in (given the Covid testing that took place on Tuesday). It is always a joy to see the students back in school and they have made a very focused and calm start to this term.

I am particularly pleased with our year 11 students who have returned more fully to 'normal' lessons following their GCSE mock exams before Christmas. They know that the hard work in preparation for their exams continues throughout this period right up until the summer. I know they are also very excited (and no doubt a little nervous) about collecting their mock results on the 18th January. I am confident that they have done well.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish good luck to our year 13 students who are about to start their A level mock exams this coming week. The last few years have been particularly challenging for this cohort who have yet to take public exams during their educational journey. This makes these mocks really important as part of the process to prepare them for the summer, in addition to assessing where they are currently at. They are working hard. We are proud of them and they deserve to do well.

You will be aware that we had our Ofsted inspection on 17th and 18th November. Their final report has now been validated and confirmed. It will appear on the Ofsted website shortly and we are now allowed to share it with our families.

I am sure you will agree that the report reads very positively and shows that the inspection team got a very good grasp of the experiences of our students, the strength of our teachers and support staff, and the effectiveness of our school leadership. It confirms that Highgate Wood School continues to be a "GOOD" school.

Below are some headline comments that we have extracted from the report.

- *Pupils at Highgate Wood feel safe and well cared for. They enjoy school and behave well in lessons. They are committed learners who want to achieve.'*
- *'Pupils show respect for each other and the school celebrates the diversity of its community. The school has a strong sense of community among pupils and staff.'*

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



- *'Pupils learn to engage with the wider world around them. Leaders expect pupils to be responsible, critical citizens.'*
- *'Leaders are passionate about building a school with a culture of inclusion at its heart.'*
- *'At all ages, the school encourages pupils to develop their leadership skills.'*
- *'Leaders and governors support the well-being of staff and pupils.'*
- *'There is a strong cohesion between staff from different departments in the school. They are proud to work at the school.'*
- *'Subject leaders have given careful thought to the sequence of the curriculum. Pupils build their understanding of key ideas over time.'*
- *'Pupils in the school are well-prepared for their next steps in education. They make informed choices at key transition points.'*
- *'Leaders are proud of the destinations of pupils leaving the sixth form. The increasing numbers of pupils choosing to study in the sixth form is a sign of its success.'*

I attach the complete report with this letter.

As ever, we will continue to work on the things that we know we need to improve, as we know our school better than anyone, but I do hope you are as pleased as we are that the overriding picture of a happy school, where students thrive, achieve, succeed, and develop into good citizens has been confirmed by Ofsted.

With thanks for your continued support, particularly for the input that you and your children had in the Ofsted process.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher