

26th October 2022

Dear Parents\Carers,

I do hope you and the children are well and enjoying the half-term break.

The holiday follows a range of events and activities we held in school to mark Black Heritage Month, all of which were exciting and well received by students and staff.

- The Q and A sessions with successful black people were a real strength of the month – all three events were well attended and the quality of the questioning from our students were really impressive.
- The link-up between our black heritage students in KS4 and KS5 with their counterparts in New York was a very exciting exchange that we will repeat moving forward.
- The themed dinners representing the black heritage served in the canteen were very welcomed.
- The film clubs run by members of the English and Media staff were particularly popular among our younger students.
- Our subject heads also ensured that Black Heritage featured prominently in their curricula during this month.
- I was particularly proud of how our students responded so positively to Wear Red Day, standing up to racism, on the last day of term. This truly demonstrated the social awareness of our young people and how they are demanding a better and fairer world.

You will be aware that we have had a focus this year on establishing the Highgate Wood Way. Through this we continue to embed the positive values of Courtesy, Consideration, Cooperation and Contribution into every aspect of school life. I have been delighted by how well this has been so received by students, staff and families and we will be building on it further in the coming months.

I would like to reinforce the importance we place in our students demonstrating the 4Cs and the Highgate Wood Way outside of school, as well as within it. In recent weeks we have had some instances where a few of our students have risked bringing the school into disrepute because of their conduct on the way home. This is something we take very seriously and want to ensure does not happen again. We will be increasing our after-school patrols and there will be significant consequences for any poor behaviour from our students in the local community.

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



That said, I also want to stress that I continue to receive thanks and praise from those outside Highgate Wood School for the many times when the overwhelming majority of our students have demonstrated kindness, courtesy, help and consideration to others. I am heartened by these calls, which make the negative reports that we sometimes receive from the public that much more disappointing.

I would like to thank those many students who were ambassadors for Highgate Wood by acting as helpers and guides on our recent Primary Transition Open Evening and Open Mornings. It is inspiring to see them in action showing pride in and championing their school in the way that they do. We welcomed hundreds of prospective families whose children will be starting in Year 7 next year, and it was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. I am now looking forward to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 17th November. This will be an in-person event but will require tickets. These are already available from the school website

On the horizon we have a number of Parental Meetings. Year 9 Parents' Evening is happening on are happening on Thursday 1st December (a slight change to the original schedule), followed by Pastoral Review Day on Wednesday 7th December. Both these events will be virtual, and we will be using a new system, School Cloud, about which families will receive details very shortly.

Attached please also find details of some other Key Dates that you might like to add to your diary.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind families that daylight saving time will end at 2:00am Sunday 30th October, when the clocks will go back by one hour. Term begins on Monday 31st October at the usual time, 8:30am – and it will be Week Two. Can I also remind you that we have an extremely strict rule about fireworks at Highgate Wood School. With Bonfire Night falling at the end of our first week back, there is likely to 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, most likely resulting in suspension or expulsion from HWS – such is the seriousness with which we protect the health and safety of our students.

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

HIGHGATE WOOD SCHOOL

KEY DATES

NOVEMBER						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DECEMBER						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Monday 31st October 8:30am
Return to school (it is Week Two)

Tuesday 1st November – **Start of the PSA Auction**
Details coming very soon

Tuesday 8th November:
INSET DAY School closed to students

Friday 11th November:
PSA Quiz and Curry Night
Enjoy a great evening out.
Visit <https://bit.ly/hwsqc22> for details

14th November:
Anti Bullying Week
Lots of activities in school including focus on the new tootoot alert system.



Wednesday 16th November:
HWS Careers Fair
In school careers show for students in Year 9, 11 and 13

Thursday 17th November:
Sixth Form Open Evening
Welcoming prospective students to our successful Sixth Form.
Visit <https://bit.ly/hws6oe> for tickets and info.

Tuesday 22nd November:
Anti-Racism Parental Engagement Evening
Details coming soon



24th November—2nd December:
Year 11 Mocks.
First mocks session for Year 11s.

Thursday 1st December:
Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening
We will be using a new system for our Virtual Parents' Evenings.
More information on SchoolCloud will be shared soon



1st December:
World Aids Day

Wednesday 7th December:
Pastoral Review Day
10 minute virtual appointments with your child's tutor during the course of the day.
(All years except Year 11 using Schoolcloud)



Thursday 8th December:
PSA Staff Appreciation Tea
Contact hwoodpsa@gmail.com for details.

Thursday 8th December:
Full Governors Meeting



Friday 9th December
PSA 2nd hand uniform sale
Contact hwoodpsa@gmail.com for details.

9th—15th December
Rewards Assemblies



Monday and Tuesday 12th and 13th December
Highgate Wood School
Winter Concerts
One of the highlights of the season. More information, including where to get your tickets, will be available soon.



Thursday 15th December:
Non Uniform Day

Friday 16th December:
Last Day of Term

Monday 3rd January 2023:
10:30 Spring Term Begins



Monday 13th—17th February 2023
Half term

Friday 31st March 2023
End of Spring Term