

25th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the half-way point of this academic year, I trust you are well and looking forward to the spring months ahead.

This term has been a busy one thus far, and a rewarding one as well. I have been delighted with how our students and staff have got behind the Highgate Wood Way. Each Friday we have a whole school assembly highlighting students' achievements in demonstrating the 4Cs, and I never have the any difficulty finding scores of successes that we can proudly share. The large number of students who qualified for this week's Key Stage 3 Rewards Trips is some testimony to that. With the Rewards trips in mind, I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to the PSA, and to all who have participated in their various fundraising events across the year. This allowed for the Rewards trip costs to be fully funded, with no financial outlay from the students themselves.

The rescheduled Winter Concerts were a triumph. These student performances, for so long missing from the Highgate Wood School calendar, show how brilliant and talented our young people are, and also the dedication of our staff who support them.

We will return to school on Monday 20th February at the usual time of 8.30am. We hope then to have our pilot opening for the new Breakfast Club for students. On Tuesday 21st we will be having our second in-school meeting of the parents of Black and Global Majority Heritage Children Engagement group. Then, on Wednesday 22nd February there is the PSA AGM, where the Parent School Association will be highlighting their plans for the year and Mr Ashman will be discussing the current concerns around digital safety. More information on all these three meetings will be shared in the next few days.

The coming weeks will be challenging ones for all our students, but none more so than those in Year 11 and Year 13. They must be more serious and more focussed than ever, preparing for the exams that could determine their future. We have the highest expectations for what they can achieve and feel very confident that, with hard work and a commitment to avail themselves of all the revision opportunities available, they will be extremely successful. We will support them all the way.

As ever, there are some things that I would like to see improved when we return to school. I am very pleased that behaviour at the bus stops and surrounding areas outside of the school, which had been a concern, has got immeasurably better. However, I am still unhappy about some students' punctuality to school, and I do hope that this will be better when we return. I also hope the excellent conduct that many students demonstrated during our courtesy fortnight is maintained. Things like saying "please" and "thank you" are so easy, but they are also so important.

CONSIDERATION • COOPERATION • COURTESY • CONTRIBUTION



Highgate Wood School supports individual actions to address the issues of Climate Change and promotes the United Nations top 10 recommendations



5-Minute showers



Drive less



Lights off



Local produce



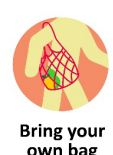
Refill and reuse



Meat-free meals



Zero waste fashion



Bring your own bag



Recycle



Unplug

I attach here a letter from Ms Bradley, Head of PE. She is very pleased with our students' participation in PE this year and the number who are taking part in their extra-curricular provision, but she has noticed an increasing number not having the correct PE kit for the lessons. In her letter she outlines the PE kit required and I do hope you will be able to support her in ensuring that the correct kit is brought in.

Whilst I know it is long into the future, I would like to also draw the attention of families of our current Year 8 and Year 9 students to the skiing trip. This will take place in the February half-term of next year and will be to Vallnord in Andorra. Mr Mayes will be circulating more information about the trip when we return to school. Though it is not until 2024 we need to start taking bookings very shortly. Please be aware that we do expect to be able to offer cost reductions to disadvantaged students and Mr Mayes will also share information regarding this.

You will be aware that there has not been any sign of a solution in the dispute between the National Education Union and the government. The NEU has indicated that they will continue with three further days of strike action, planned for 2nd March and the 15th and 16th March. I will write to you closer to the time on how this will impact on Highgate Wood School. In the meantime, I would ask that you look for alternative childcare arrangements should it be necessary to close or partly close the school.

Finally, if you visit our website, you will see that we currently have an opening page requesting people to donate to the Disaster Emergency Committee Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal. This is a part of our response to the devastating events in that region and the knowledge that there will be many in our community who will be close to some who have been affected. Our hearts go out to all those who are now dealing with the aftermath of the earthquakes.

With thanks, as ever, for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher