

14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you have had the opportunity to enjoy some family time with your children over the two-week school holiday. I also recognise that this has been a very significant period of time for religious festivals, so I also want to acknowledge those of you who have celebrated Easter, Eid or Vaisakhi during this period. I hope that your celebrations went well! We are now very much looking forward to greeting your children as they come back to school.

It has been a while since I last wrote to you back at the start of March. Today's letter has some important updates for you on some key issues so I hope that you find the contents of this letter useful.

### Uniform from September 2024

You will be aware that we have been considering some changes to the uniform for September. Following the student survey outcomes that I shared with you previously and some important contractual conversations with our school supplier, we have arrived at the following decisions...

#### **Changes from September 2024:**

- **Blazers will no longer form a part of the school uniform**
- **Students will be allowed to wear plain black trainers (as well as plain black shoes)**
- **We will retain the same skirts, but the flap that currently exists will be stitched to the rest of the skirt so that they are more secure in windy weather**
- **The school jumper will be compulsory – but we will have the logo stitched onto them**

#### **What Stays the Same:**

- **We will keep year group ties and lanyards**
- **We will keep white shirts**
- **Black trousers will be the same**

We will share more details about this later this term, but for now I wanted to give you the heads up as you may already be thinking about purchases for the start of the next academic year.

### Revision for Public and End of Year Exams

As we move ever closer to the public exams for years 11 and 13 and the end of year pre-public exams for years 10 and 12, it is a timely reminder about the importance of revision. Our expectation is that students in KS4 should be revising for at least an hour and a half per subject each week. At post 16 this should increase considerably per subject as they only study three or four. Good study habits at this stage make a huge difference to the outcomes that students receive in the summer. Your help with making this happen is hugely appreciated.

## 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



### Supporting Great Attendance

I want to take this opportunity to again emphasise the significance of regular school attendance for your child's education and well-being.

At Highgate Wood, we believe that consistent attendance is crucial for academic success. When students regularly attend, they are better able to engage with the curriculum, participate in discussions and build relationships with other students and staff. This leads to improved learning outcomes and a positive school experience. The situation at HWS is a positive one compared to what is happening nationally. In 2022/23 our overall attendance figure was 92.6% compared to the national average of 91%. We know that this year we have continued to remain above the national average.

Being present in school, every day, helps students, along with their understanding of the curriculum, develop important skills such as time management, responsibility, and perseverance. These skills are essential for their future success in further education, employment and life.

Together, we want to create a supportive environment where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. We very much appreciate your co-operation in prioritising your child's education by ensuring they attend school regularly and punctually. We thank you for your support in ensuring that every child is in every lesson learning.

If you need any support with ensuring your child attends every day, please do contact their tutor, Head of Year, or our Attendance Officer, Ms King, to arrange time to share information and agree strategies to help improve their attendance.

### **EFFECTS OF NON-SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

<b>Overall school attendance</b>	<b>Equates to days absent per year</b>	<b>Which is approximately</b>	<b>Which means the number of lesson missed</b>
94%	10 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

I also want to draw your attention to the advice that we have received from the Haringey Education Welfare Service who oversee school attendance and intervene where attendance is low. The information from Haringey points out the need for any unavoidable absences to be authorised by the school and points out the possible implications of unauthorised absences, which include the serving of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) in extreme cases. Obviously, our hope and desire are that it never comes to that situation. I have attached the letter from Haringey separately for your information. There are numerous attachments as the letter is available in a number of community languages.

### Acrylic Nails Are Not Allowed in School

We have seen an increase recently in the number of students wearing acrylic false nails. These acrylic nails are not permitted at school. As we know that removing these nails is not easy and typically require a trip to a professional nail technician we have, up to now, been very patient with that process. However, our desire to give time has proven to be ineffective in getting situations resolved quickly. The message on the next page was shared with students before the Easter break.



# Acrylic Nails



Highgate Wood is calling time on Acrylic Nails. These will no longer be allowed, and failure to remove will result in being placed OOC. Please do not return after Easter with Acrylic Nails.

As a result, from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April we will be placing any student wearing such nails out of circulation until such time that the situation is resolved. Ultimately, what we want is for students to respect the rules of the school so that this is a non-issue.

## Global Majority Parents Meeting – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

We are looking to re-launch the Global Majority Parents Forum later this term with an online event on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 6pm. This event is aimed at anyone who is a parent of a child from a Global Majority Background. I recognise that you may be unfamiliar with the term Global Majority.

“Global Majority” is a collective term for people of Indigenous, African, Asian, or Latin American descent, who constitute approximately 85 percent of the global population. It has been used as an alternative to terms which are seen as racialised like “ethnic minority” and “person of colour” (POC), or more regional terms like “visible minority” in Canada and “Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic” (BAME) in the United Kingdom. It roughly corresponds to people whose heritage can be traced back to nations of the Global South.

At the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May we will say a little more about this and why we think it is important to have this forum for parents as a means of supporting us to ensure that children from Global Majority backgrounds have the best possible experience at HWS, which statistically is not the case in many schools.

## A few dates for your diary...

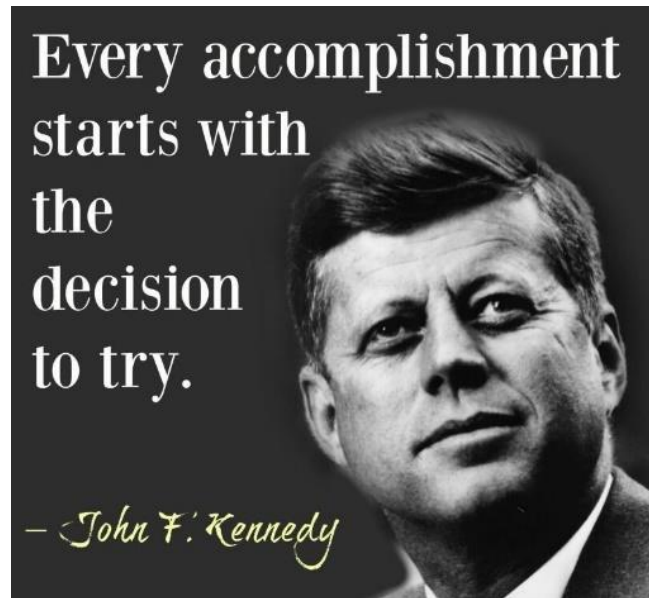
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| • Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 –                 | <b>First Day of the Summer Term (10.55am Start)</b>                    |
| • Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024 –                | <b>Year 7 Parent/Carers Evening (3.30pm to 7pm)</b>                    |
| • Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024 –                  | <b>Global Majority Parents’ Forum (5pm to 6pm)<br/>an online event</b> |
| • Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 –                    | <b>Bank Holiday – School Closed</b>                                    |
| • Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> May to Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May | <b>Half Term – School Closed</b>                                       |

## ... And Finally

As ever, I will end with a quote.

**[Please see next page]**





This sentiment fits perfectly into the ethos that we have at HWS. We remind our students all the time to give of their best and to never give up. Constantly and persistently trying out new things and pushing yourself beyond your comfort zone yields the biggest opportunities for learning and growth.

I will write to you again soon. Thank you for your continued support!

Regards

Patrick Cozier  
**Headteacher**