

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well. Isn't it scary how quickly we progress through the year? As I began to write this letter, it surprised me that already I am writing the month of March in the date. For life at HWS, the speed of time is matched by the busyness of each day and week. We are all working hard and getting a lot done! Our students are progressing well and our staff remain as dedicated as ever.

As usual, there is a lot of information in this letter, which I very much hope you will find useful, interesting and informative. A warning though... This is not the most uplifting letter that have sent in recent times as I am using this letter to address several concerns that have been made by some of our neighbours about some behaviours experienced in the community by a small number of our students. Apologies for this as I know that these concerns will not apply to the overwhelming majority of our student population (who represent themselves and the school wonderfully), but I must address them nonetheless.

### Park Road Leisure Centre – A Letter of Concern

If you are a parent who comes to collect your child from school in the afternoon from Park Road, the communication below that we received from Fusion Lifestyle who run the Park Road Leisure Centre may apply to you.

*Dear Mr Cozier,*

*Please can you do something to prevent the daily idling vehicles in Park Road Leisure Centre Car Park awaiting pupil pickup. This goes on for up to half an hour each afternoon from about 14:30.*

*This is not just immoral but illegal too. Vehicle idling is an offence against the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002. The law states that is an offence to idle your engine unnecessarily when stationary. If you fail to turn your engine off after being spoken to you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice.*

*The school should be at the forefront of issues to tackle air pollution and climate change.*

*Kind regards*

*Fusion Lifestyle*

If this is you, please do take care to switch off your engines whilst waiting for your son or daughter. As well as the environmental and health benefits, it will also help us maintain our positive relationships with our neighbours.

## 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



### Lime Bikes

Continuing with the theme of being considerate to our neighbours, we have recently received a complaint from our neighbours on Montenotte Road and Glasslyn Road in relation to the proliferation of Lime Bikes being parked in random and inconvenient places on the road. The specific concern states...

*'We would all appreciate it if your pupils could be taught some etiquette regarding these bikes. They should know that it is not acceptable to block the pavements or property entrance gates. Nor should they be left in positions where they may damage cars or fences.'*

We will also be speaking to the students about this, but if you know that your child does use these bikes, we would be very grateful if you could have a conversation about this issue.

### W5 Bus Stop in The Mornings

We have had some concerns raised by a local person who uses the W5 bus service from Crouch End in the mornings. Her complaint refers to some of our students pushing to the front of the queue and showing a lack of consideration for other users of the service.

There are two issues for us to address as a school. The first one is to remind our students who use the bus to be aware of other members of the public attempting to get onto the bus. We always encourage them to let members of the public onto the buses first. The other issue for us is to discourage our students from using the bus service at all. The walk from Crouch End to the school should be very manageable for our young, fit and healthy students and we would encourage them to walk.

### Knocking on Doors of Local Residents

Lastly, on the issue of maintaining our relationships with our local residents – there are a small number of children who are knocking on the doors of local residents and then running away. I have no doubt that these students are regarding this as a game of fun, but unfortunately the impact on some of our residents (particularly those who are elderly or have young children) has been upsetting. I reminded the students about our expectations in the whole school assembly on Friday – but it would also be helpful if you could reinforce this with your children as well.

### Tassomai – A Plea from Mr Nayar

*"If you have already contributed, thank you very much, especially to those that have, without asking, contributed extra!"*

*As you are aware, we use Tassomai as our main science homework for all KS3 and KS4 students – you should all be receiving weekly emails asking you to log in and view your child's progress. Prior to lockdown, we used it for GCSE students only, with a small cost requested from parent/carers. As we found Tassomai to be so useful we extended it to KS3 and funded it during the pandemic.*

*As the financial situation of schools has changed, **we would like to request that all parents/carers please contribute £6 per year towards the cost of Tassomai.** Some of you have noticed that it has appeared on Scopay (our online payment platform) and it is through this that we kindly request that payment is made.*

*We have managed to negotiate a substantial discount for the school - as a private subscriber, Tassomai would cost either £29.99 or £44.99 per month, depending on school year.*

### ***Why do we use Tassomai?***

*It is based on the educational principles of spacing, interleaving and targeted repetition to help students improve their grades. It works by spreading their learning into bite-sized chunks over as long a period of time as possible. This reduces anxiety in students as revision is 'little and often' and does not leave students with a huge amount of revision before assessments. As students answer questions the algorithm begins to learn where their strengths and weaknesses are, allowing the site to target specific gaps in their knowledge - but also making it easier for our teachers to see where your child might need some extra help.*



*It is used in over 500 schools and has a proven impact on GCSE grades. Students that regularly complete their Weekly Goal succeed in meeting or exceeding their Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs). In our experience, students that regularly complete Tassomai perform very well in GCSEs and are much more confident in the classroom.*

*If you would like to know more about Tassomai, please go to [www.tassomai.com](http://www.tassomai.com) and click on 'HOW IT WORKS'. You can also email [admin@tassomai.com](mailto:admin@tassomai.com) with any questions – they are very helpful!*

*If you have any questions at all about Tassomai or if the payment would cause you hardship, please contact me at [dna@hws.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:dna@hws.haringey.sch.uk). Thank you for your continued support!*

*Mr Nayar'*

#### Free School Meal (FSM) Vouchers at Easter

We have recently received some news from Haringey Council regarding the provision of FSM vouchers at Easter for those families who are eligible. Unfortunately, due to budget restraints Haringey will only be providing FSM vouchers for one of the weeks at Easter. The voucher will be worth £15 per child for the week.

The Council has expressed regret that they have decided to not continue the vouchers in the new financial year so will not be providing them for the second week of Easter or any further holidays. The Council faces many challenges with setting a balanced budget for next year and has had to make some very hard choices to make savings.

If your family is impacted by this decision and this causes you significant difficulty, please contact your child's Head of Year to inform us so that we can discuss ways in which we can support you.

#### Supporting Great Attendance

I am sure that you would all agree with me that high attendance is critically important in helping children progress in their learning. We are doing well at HWS and our attendance figures are considerably better than the national averages. However, it remains a priority for the school and for the whole of the UK. It has been a major focus for the Department for Education (DFE) and for Ofsted, particularly since COVID.

In support of this and to guide parents, the NHS has provided some information. You can access this by clicking on the link below...

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/#:~:text=If%20your%20child%20has%20mild,have%20a%20high%20temperature>

The NHS document gives advice to parents about how to respond to various common childhood illnesses. I hope you will find this useful.

#### Parent and School Association (PSA) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

A message from the PSA...

**Wednesday 20th March 2024 - 7-8pm**

*"Please join us for an **online PSA meeting** in which our Chair, Osman Rankin, shares the PSA's current activities and fundraising goals and gives you the chance to ask questions and make suggestions about the things that matter to you.*

*Oz will be joined by headteacher, Patrick Cozier, and Co-Chair of Governors, Laurence Penn.*

***Please send any questions in advance of the meeting, if you can, so we can be sure to respond as fully as possible: [hwoodpsa@gmail.com](mailto:hwoodpsa@gmail.com)***

*Join us by Zoom meeting:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84951715801>

*Meeting ID: 849 5171 5801"*



### Oxbridge Offers – Well Done!

Three of our Year 13s are holding offers from Oxbridge – this is the largest number for several years and it's a pretty good success rate out of 10 applicants this year. It's a testament to the hard work of our students and to Mr Holmes who supports their applications that we have done as well as we have. We are proud of our wonderful year 13s and deeply grateful for the support (as I am sure the students are) from Mr Holmes.

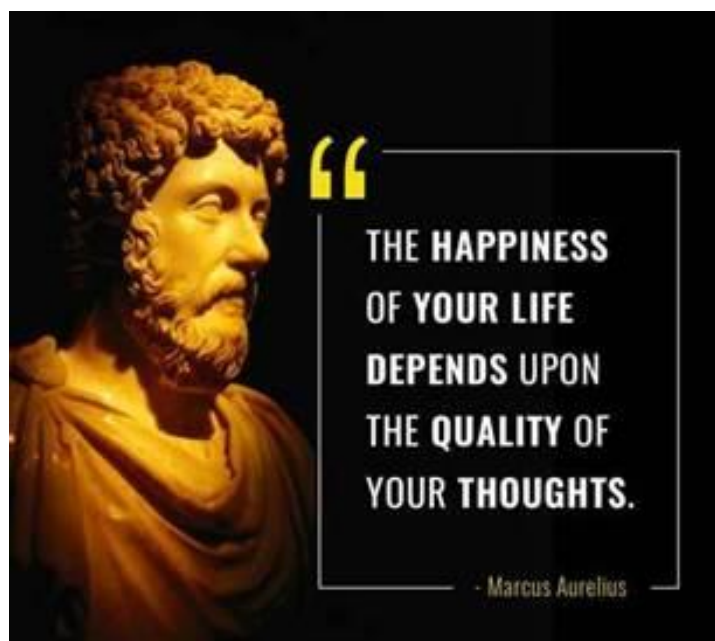
In addition, at the end of the month Mr Holmes will be taking twenty invited Year 12s on a visit to Cambridge to encourage more applicants next year.

### A few dates for your diary...

- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – **Year 12 Parent/Carers Evening (3.30pm to 7pm)**
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – **Global Majority Parents' Forum (5pm to 6pm)**  
**an online event – more on this in my next letter!**
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – **Year 8 Parent/Carers Evening (3.30pm to 7pm)**
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – **Last Day of the Spring Term (2.25pm finish)**
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – **First Day of the Summer Term (10.55am Start)**
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 – **Year 7 Parent/Carers Evening (3.30pm to 7pm)**

### ... And Finally

Thank you again for reading this all the way to the end! As ever, I will end with a quote.



This quote is one of my favourites because it reflects on a very profound level what school and education should be about. Teaching people how to think is just as important as teaching them the various subject disciplines. Some would argue that it is even more important. Either way, what we do matters, and the impact that we believe HWS can have on the lives of all of our students by developing the ways in which they think and process the world will undoubtedly impact their futures. This is what we try to do every day!

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

Regards

Patrick Cozier  
**Headteacher**