

Headteacher: Patrick Cozier BSc (Hons), MA, NPQH

10th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you having an enjoyable weekend. It's been a really positive first week back at school following the half term break. The students have settled back in quickly and the atmosphere in the school is a pleasant and focused one. It has also been a very busy start to the half term already with a thriving Careers Fair on Thursday the key highlight alongside a variety of strong performances in the sports arena from students representing school.

Also, a big thank you to all of you, staff, students and parents/carers who played a part in making the last week of last half term such a successful week. We have three very positive and well-attended Open Mornings with our wonderful year 9 guides showing prospective parents and year 6 children around the school. We also had a very successful year 11 parents evening on the Tuesday. The half term then ended with the amazing year 7 Halloween Disco on Thursday. There is literally never a dull moment!

Below I am writing to you with some key updates.

Positive Noticing Day – Wednesday 13th November

We are excited to announce that this coming Wednesday, 13th November, students will take part in an activity designed to help them recognise and celebrate the positive qualities in one another - *consideration in action*. Each student will write a positive note for a peer, noticing something admirable or encouraging about them.

At the end of the activity, they'll exchange their notes, leaving them with a personal message that acknowledges their strengths. This small but impactful gesture is aimed at boosting self-esteem, promoting kindness, and reinforcing that *everyone matters* at Highgate Wood.

Cygnets Autism Parenting Programme is Starting in January – Plus Other Haringey Events

Barnardo's charity are working with Haringey to provide a support programme for parents and carers of children and young people who are 5-18 who are autistic. Parents of autistic children may face the usual positive and difficult challenges of parenting. Attending a Cygnets autism support programme may give parents and carers an opportunity to develop their understanding of autism and consider ways to support their child. It also provides the opportunity to meet other people in a similar position and hear about their experiences in an informal but supportive atmosphere.

More details about the programme and details of how to sign up are attached here: <https://barnardos-parenting.org.uk/>. Parents/Carers can search for the Haringey programme on the website.

In addition, alongside this letter I have also included a Haringey flyer inviting parents/carers to two events coming up later this month.

- **In person - Wednesday morning November 20th 2024.** *Please ask parents to arrive from 9.30am for a 10am start.*
- **Online - Tuesday evening November 26th 2024.** This runs from 7pm to 8pm.

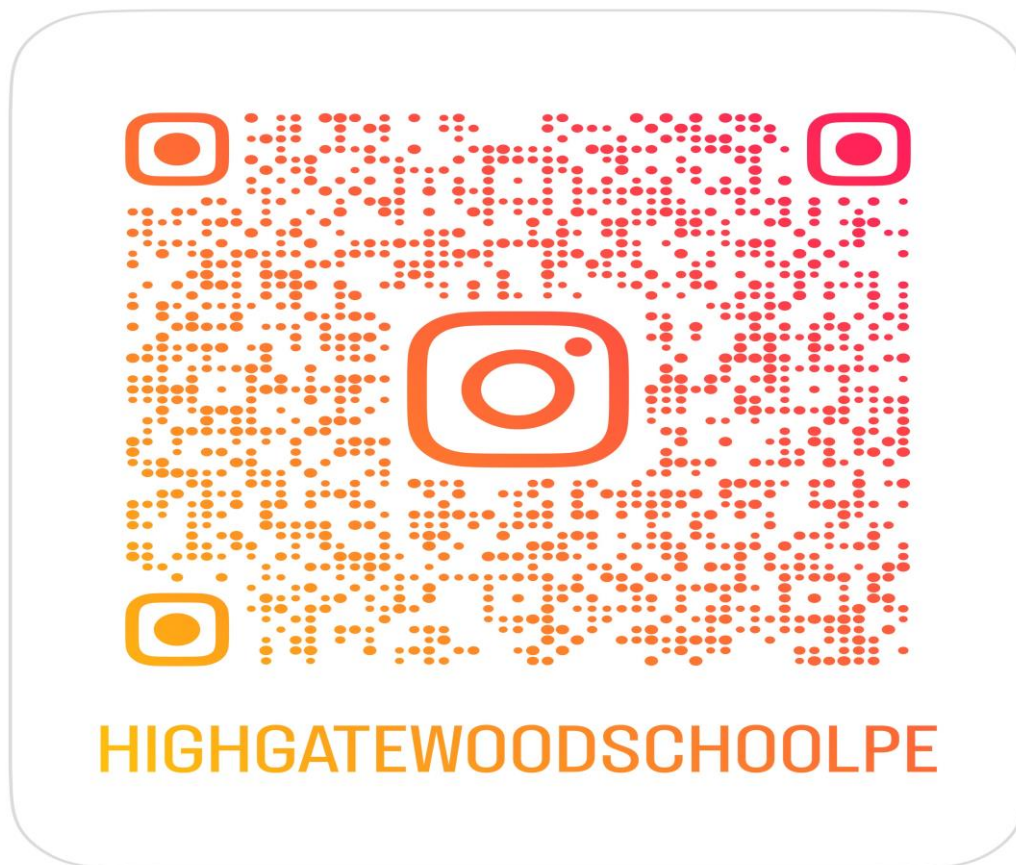
The events are relevant for parents/carers of Autistic children/parents of children awaiting Autism diagnosis. These events are essential for parents of children completing The Autistic Identity project (formerly the All About Me project)

New PE Instagram Account

As shared in my previous letter, our PE department have recently launched a new account on Instagram. The purpose of the account will be primarily to showcase and celebrate the consistently wonderful achievements of our students in the PE department and to share information regarding extra-curricular.

The account is doing really well so far and already has over 300 followers – but we want more! You can follow the page one of two ways:

1. **Scan the QR code (attached to the email) and this will open the page automatically.**
2. **Search the page via username: highgatewoodschoolpe (all lower case)**



























PE Department Extracurricular Programme for This Half Term

Overleaf is the extracurricular schedule for PE. A bigger and clearer version is available on the Instagram account referred to above.

HWS PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE (MON 4TH NOVEMBER – FRI 20TH DECEMBER 2024)

EXTERNAL CLUBS* ALL CLUBS BELOW ARE FREE! NO SIGN UP NEEDED – JUST TURN UP.

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Lunch	KS4 Basketball Gym WEEK 1 ONLY (VTR) 	Year 8 Boys' Football  Astro (SAL) Year 7/8 Netball Back Playground (DFR) 	Year 7 Boys' Football Astro (VTR) 	Year 9 Boys' Football Astro (DFR)  KS3 Boys' & Girls' Basketball Sports Hall WEEK 1 ONLY (VTR) 	KS3 Trampoline Sports Hall WEEK 1 ONLY (DFR/KMC) 
After school	GCSE Practical Intervention Sports Hall (SAL/DFR)  Year 9/10/11 Netball Back Playground (KMC)  All Years Dance Gym (EXT)  KS4 Boys' Football Astro (TSI)  Sixth Form Boys' Football Astro – 4pm-5pm (VTR) 	All Years Cricket Sports Hall (EXT)  All Years Girls' Football - Squads ONLY Astro (EXT) 	 Year 8-11 Badminton Sports Hall (SAL) GCSE Theory Intervention Hut 1 (KMC)   Year 7 Boys' Squad Football Astro (VTR)	All Years Tennis Tennis Courts (EXT)  All Years Table Tennis Sports Hall (EXT)   Year 8 Boys' Squad Football Astro (SAL) WEEK 2 ONLY Year 7 ONLY Badminton Sports Hall (SAL) WEEK 1 ONLY   All Years Fitness Gym (TSI)	All Years Rugby Astro (EXT)  All Years Girls' Football Astro (EXT) 

IMPORTANT POINTS:

- Lunch clubs – trainers / appropriate footwear needed
- After school clubs – full HWS PE kit and appropriate footwear needed
- Clubs dependent on availability of staff / spaces (i.e. exams/fixtures/weather)

A Request for Help for External Funding – Repeated Message

Given the current financial challenges facing schools, I am asking if any parent has any contacts that might be useful to gain some more funding for the school to help our students. Perhaps you yourselves or a friend or family member know someone in a company / Livery company / charity that make charitable donations to schools that you can put us in touch with? If so, please email Mr Hartley (aha@hws.haringey.sch.uk) with details, any help would be much appreciated.

New Arrangement for Teaching Groups from September 2025

Thank you to those parents who came to the meeting prior to half term on Monday 21st October. At the meeting I was able to explain that due to changes in the way that HWS is funded we have made the decision to base our curriculum timetable on class sizes of 30 (as opposed to the current model which is based on 27). I very much hope that those present were able to better understand the decision that the school has taken, the reasons and the implications.

We will be holding a follow-up online webinar event on **Wednesday 20th November from 6pm to 7pm** for those parents/carers who were not able to make to the meeting. I will send out a separate message to parents and carers in the next few days with a link to the event so that you can join.

A few dates for your diary...

- Thursday 14th November 2024
- Wednesday 20th November 2004
- Friday 22nd November 2024
- Monday 25th November 2024
- Tuesday 3rd December 2024
- Wednesday 4th December 2024
- Thursday 5th December 2024
- Tuesday 10th December 2024
- Monday 16th December 2024
- Tuesday 17th December 2024
- Friday 20th December 2024
- Mon 23rd Dec 24 to Friday 3rd Jan 25

Post 16 Open Evening from 5pm to 7pm
Class Sizes from September 2025 – Information for Parents - Online Webinar from 6pm to 7pm
PSA Curry and Quiz Night from 7pm to 10pm
Year 11 Parents' Revision Skills Eve. – Details tbc
Year 9 Parents' Information Evening – 5pm to 7pm
HWS Musical – High School Musical – 7pm to 8.30pm
HWS Musical – High School Musical – 7pm to 8.30pm
Year 10 Parents' Information Evening – 5pm to 7pm
HWS Winter Concert – 7pm to 9pm
HWS Winter Concert – 7pm to 9pm
Last Day of Term – Students finish at 12.15pm
Christmas Holiday

... And Finally



Thank you all for your continued support. I wish you and your families all the best for the coming half term.

Regards

Patrick Cozier
Headteacher