



# HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. As with previous updates, I will start with key take home messages, but please do read the more detailed information below.

- You are invited to our Art and Photography Exhibition (1600 on Tuesday 19 December) and Christmas Concert (1800 on Tuesday 19 December)
- Students will take part in a Festival of Light on Thursday 21 December. Sixth Form will be dismissed at 1330, Year 11 at 1415, and Years 7 to 10 at 1435.
- Christmas lunch will be served on the same day. Please make sure your ParentPay account has enough funds. If they do not want Christmas lunch, please provide a packed lunch.
- On the last day of term (Friday 22 December), students will be dismissed on a staggered basis from 1210.
- On the first day of term (Monday 8 January), students should arrive at school at 1100.

## Reflections on this half term

Although the days have been getting darker, our school has been illuminated over the past few weeks by the creativity, kindness and ambition of your children. An amazing Year 9 **Donmar Warehouse Project** was followed by a West-End-standard **Sister Act production**. Year 10 and Year 11 students shone in **one-to-one career and progression interviews**, and Sixth Formers have been celebrating receiving **early offers from Russell Group universities**. Celebration assemblies over the past week have highlighted students who have developed **habits of excellence**, and a visit to **Winter Wonderland** gave Year 12 and 13 students the chance to go ice skating for the first time. Students from all year groups were mature and sensitive whilst learning about the Palestine-Israel conflict **with Solutions not Sides**, and looked ahead to different careers paths during our **Futures Week** initiative. There have been **school trips** – too many to mention individually – but all marked by excellent student conduct.

All of this has happened during the longest, coldest, wettest and darkest half term of the year; thank you for all of the work you do with your children in preparing them to shine when they come to school.



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## Upcoming events

There is still more to come!

➤ On Tuesday 19 December...

Our annual **Art and Photography exhibition**, taking place between 1600 and 1800. No tickets are required – please just come to reception and you will be guided through.

A fantastic **Christmas Concert**, starting at 1800 in the Main Hall. Tickets are available on Parent Pay, or can also be bought on the door (card payment preferred).

➤ On Wednesday 20 December...

The launch of a new **Going Green** initiative, that will see more spaces in the school dedicated to green, wellbeing projects. Students involved will be informed before the day.

➤ On Thursday 21 December...

Our inaugural **Festival of Light**, marking the festive period and brightening up the shortest day. The normal timetable will be collapsed and students will eat lunch with their tutors, reflect on 2023, look forward to 2024 and enjoy a Christmassy assembly.

The arrangements for the day mean that Year 11 will be dismissed at 1415 and Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 at 1435.

**NB** The school catering team will be serving a traditional Christmas lunch on Thursday 21 December and there will not be the normal cold food offer. If your child would like to eat Christmas lunch, please make sure their ParentPay account has enough funds. If they do not want to eat Christmas lunch, please provide them with a packed lunch.

## End of term arrangements

The final day of term – Friday 22 December – will be a shortened day for all students. Tutor time, Period 1, Period 2 and Period 3 will take place as normal. Students will then be dismissed on a staggered basis at the following times:

Years 10 and 11: 1210

Years 7, 8 and 9: 1220

Sixth Form lessons will finish on Thursday 21 December.

## Start of term arrangements

The Spring Term begins on Monday 8 January. Students will start school at 1100 to allow for staff training and induction to take place. Some Sixth Form students may have a Pre Public Examination starting at 0900 – this will be clear on their examination timetables.

Thank you for reading this update all the way through. I will finish by wishing you a safe, warm, rejuvenating festive period, and health and happiness in 2024.

With all best wishes,



Matthew Sadler  
Head