



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

13 October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Half Term Update

Firstly, thank you for your continued support over what has been, and continues to be, an extraordinarily busy half term.

We returned in September to a very pleasing set of examination results across virtually all indicators. Our results in Key Stage 4 were up on the previous year (whilst nationally they went down) and our Key Stage 5 outcomes were particularly strong and improved. Simultaneously, we welcomed a large number of high calibre new staff who have quickly settled into the school.

No sooner had the term started, and then we had an Ofsted inspection on the first possible day for any school in the UK. Thank you for your overwhelmingly positive responses through Parent View and your heart-warming comments and best wishes. The inspection went very well and will be published, hopefully, this week. You will be able to access this through the link on our website.

School life in general, of course, has been dominated by our ongoing construction work and the imminent relocation into the new East Block and Sports Hall.

May I remind you that for health and safety reasons, the school is closed to all students on Friday 21 October, Monday 31 October and Tuesday 1 November 2016. After the half term break, Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 only return to school on Wednesday 2nd November, followed by the rest of the school on Thursday 3rd November. I regret that we have to close on these extra days, but I am sure you will appreciate that health and safety is paramount during our relocation; not a small task.

After half term there will no longer be access to the 1960s block, which will be demolished to create space for outdoor sports facilities, recreation, and outdoor seating and dining. At the same time the old science block, (renamed South Block), will be remodelled into general purpose classrooms for mathematics and modern foreign languages. Consequently, from November 2016 until early May 2017, we shall be some dozen classrooms short. This will necessitate some creative rooming occasionally, as there will be considerably less teaching space whilst the new rooms are made ready. It will be very tight.

In the week before half term, in assemblies, I shall be reflecting on the demolishing of our 1960s block. You may be interested to know that it was originally opened in 1967 at a cost of £52,000. During its life time some 11,000 students have been educated in it, some ¼ million exams have been taken in the Hall and over 21¼ million lessons delivered. Who knows how many lives have been changed for the better as a result? Quite a legacy.

Thank you for your help in our smooth transition to becoming a totally cashless school from 1st November 2016. Can I remind you that from that date, we will no longer be able to take cash for any transactions. All products in our new restaurant will be cashless and paid for through biometric technology.

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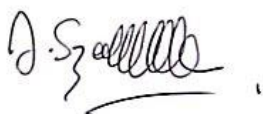
I also need to inform you that, following considerable representation over many years through our student leadership council, governors have decided that all meat served in our new restaurant will be Halal. Additionally, we will no longer be permitting unhealthy sugary and caffeinated energy drinks on site (such as Red Bull or Lucozade), as part of our commitment to being a Healthy School. Any such drinks found on site will be confiscated and disposed of. Moreover, we shall be strictly enforcing our “no chewing gum” rule, to avoid any damage caused by gum in our new buildings.

If you have not already done so, I would urge you to download our free Hampstead School app for smartphones. If you go to your app store and search for “My Ed”, you will be able to install it on your smartphone. This will enable you to keep up to date with your child’s attendance, access forms, look at newsletters, find key dates and other school information. It allows us to contact you without having to send a text, so saving the school money. Please do it now!

Finally, and whilst on the subject of technology, next week, (w/b 20th October), our technicians will be migrating our ICT infrastructure to the new building. During this time, no one at Hampstead School will be able to send or receive any emails whatsoever and our school will have no ICT facilities until 1st November. We also expect our telephone system to be intermittent during this time. Please bear with us during this once in a lifetime transformation.

Have a good half term when it comes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Szemalikowski', with a horizontal line underneath.

Jacques Szemalikowski
Head