



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are managing with the continued lockdown and home schooling. These are very strange and difficult times for many, and we are always here at school to support if you need us. Once again, I would like to thank you for your support during this period of restricted opening. It has been a challenging time for us all and I hope you have felt supported by us as we have tried to ensure continuity of learning at home.

In line with the latest guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), we have now planned for the wider reopening of Hampstead School in a limited capacity from Monday 15 June.

You will know from my previous correspondence, that this is restricted to some face-to-face experience for Years 10 and 12. Students in Year 10 and Year 12 have been selected because they will be sitting public examinations in some shape or form next year. There is a commitment to ensure that they do not fall behind in their studies. This is something that we fully support and our intention is to ensure that students are able to start Year 11 and Year 13 from a position of strength and certainty and that they are able to use the summer holidays to consolidate their knowledge and prepare for their next steps.

This wider reopening is further limited to one quarter of these Year Groups each day at any one time. This limit has been set by the DfE for all secondary schools on the grounds of public health in the community. On this basis, students will be in school on average for one or two days a week. Remote learning will continue to be the predominant mode of learning for most of our students, including those in Year 10 and Year 12. I am committed, however, to ensuring that all of our students in Year 10 and Year 12 have the opportunity to return to school in some capacity over the remainder of this half term. This is designed to both support online learning and to provide students with some targeted feedback to help them to move their learning on. Moreover, we want to further alleviate any anxieties, supporting our students with their mental health and well-being.

I know that the majority of you will be desperate for some sort of return to school. I understand others may be more reticent.

The school has undertaken comprehensive curriculum planning and a thorough risk assessment, underpinned by a stringent range of measures designed to keep staff and students safe. These considerations, signed off by the Governing Body, have involved staff, professional organisations/trade unions, Public Health, Camden Learning and incorporate all the required advice from the DfE and central government. The limited number of students



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who will be attending, alongside the plans that we have enacted, will ensure that risks are minimised. I believe we have agreed a sensible approach which balances the educational priority of bringing Years 10 and 12 back into school, albeit in a very constrained way, with the public health priority of ensuring this is done in a manner that is as safe as possible.

Measures in our very detailed risk assessment include:

- Year 10 classes of less than 15, restricted to classrooms in the East Building.
- Year 12 drop-ins in the Independent Learning Centre (ILC).
- Social Distancing (2m) markings in classrooms and around the school and one-way flow systems.
- Social Distancing in the 30 minute lunch break from 22 June.
- Lunch restricted to Grab-Bags at £2:50 per day to reduce queuing and contamination (plus those eligible for free school meals). Please ensure you have sufficient funds on your ParentPay account to cover the cost as necessary.
- Toilets cleaned regularly during the day with handwashing stations replenished as necessary.
- Hand sanitiser widely available, alongside wipes for keyboards.
- Deep cleaning of all the rooms used will take place after every session.
- Rooms used will be rotated.
- The school day will start at 1000 and end at 1430 to avoid rush hour travel and facilitate social distancing.
- Signage will be displayed around the school to remind students and staff of the basic instructions around hygiene and distancing.
- Staff will be constantly present in corridors and around classrooms to chaperone and enforce social distancing and hygiene protocols.

Additionally:

- Students must not attend if they are unwell for any reason – there will be a qualified First Aider on site every day; if any student is taken unwell you will be contacted and arrangements made for you to collect your child.
- If your child has any new medical conditions please let us know.
- Please ensure we have up to date contact details; we are aware that some children are not staying at their home address due to the virus.
- We are relying on the students to follow instructions in this very different environment. Students must adhere to staff instructions and follow the social distancing requirements at all times and without exception. Failure to do so may result in students being sent home for the safety of others.
- Students should aim to get to school in good time for their session. Please ensure that they wash their hands before leaving home. Students should not be arriving with groups of friends. They will be greeted at the South Gate and guided to a handwashing station and then straight to their classroom.
- Students cannot share equipment and so must bring in their own pens, pencil, calculator (if appropriate) and any exercise books they have for the subjects.



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- The usual rules apply on mobile phones (off and out of sight).
- Students do not need to be in their school uniform. This facilitates washing of clothes on returning home.
- I would urge as many students as possible to walk or cycle to school. Transport for London (TfL) have produced a travel plan available on their website if travel by public transport is unavoidable.
- Parents can contact the school via email or telephone, but I ask that you only physically come to school if this is absolutely necessary; there may be a long wait before you are seen.
- In the event that any student or member of staff or another student is unwell with possible symptoms we will follow up in line with Camden's Test, Track, Trace protocol.

I know personally, that maintaining home learning is hard. This is an opportunity for students in examination years to get that face to face contact with their teachers that will help them review the work completed so far, prepare for the work that will be set and to address any concerns students have about their education moving forward. The first week will be with their tutor and will focus on well-being. The subsequent sessions will be with their subject teachers. More details around individual timetables will be made available in the first week.

I believe it important that students come in to re-engage with school. They have been out of school for nearly 3 months and it is still another 3 months until September and the new school year. This is a huge period of time out of education.

Parents will make the decision on whether to send their children in as the school re-opens and each family will consider what is best for their child. However, we are required to record the reason a child, who is invited in to school, does not attend. Consequently, please let us know if you are not sending your child to school, and whether this is because:

1. They are shielding a member of the household who is clinically extremely vulnerable, in this case the advice is that they should only return to school if they are able to socially distance.
2. They are clinically extremely vulnerable themselves due to a pre-existing medical condition and so are shielding themselves.
3. They are self-isolating due to having symptoms or because someone in the household has symptoms.
4. It is a parental decision to keep them home.

Please can I make clear that this is so that we can provide required information to the DfE who are monitoring the situation in schools very closely on a daily basis. As we have to return this data we will be following up with parents on any absences and if you know that you will not be sending your child in please can you email attendance@hampsteadschool.org.uk stating which reason applies.

Can I finish by reassuring you that we are putting in place a large number of steps to ensure the requisite safety of both students and staff. The decision about wider reopening has not



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been taken lightly. If the data or guidance changes we will review the situation immediately and update you.

Whilst I would encourage you all to send your children into school for the face to face support, I appreciate that this is a difficult personal decision. I would like to reassure you that parents will not be penalised if they do not send their children into school for the remainder of this term.

I have included a separate communication to students about our behavioural expectations. I would appreciate you going through it with them.

If you need any further support, please do contact Ms Farr or Mr Ackland as appropriate. I look forward to seeing your children in school.

Please look after yourselves and your loved ones.

Jacques Szemalikowski

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