



# HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

16 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Unbelievably, we find ourselves at the end of this academic year. The last few months have gone by in a bit of a blur. I am sure you all feel the same. Thank you all for your continued support over this time. It has been lovely to welcome Year 10 and Year 12 over the past month, and I write this as they are leaving the building for the last time this year. Whilst the return to school may have seemed quite daunting, we have seen that as soon as students are back they are quickly reassured and settle back into a routine.

You will know that the government has published its guidance on the full-reopening of schools (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirusoutbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>).

Whilst the guidance represents a logistical challenge for us, we are delighted that we will be welcoming all of our students back to school full-time in September. Although we are aware that some pupils have really enjoyed the opportunity to learn independently, others are really lacking a direction, especially after what will have been 5 ½ months away from school. We are aware that whilst for some families the greatest stresses have been caused by the demands of online learning, many people are facing real economic and domestic upheaval. Consequently, getting students back to a more structured routine of learning is so important. The entire school community has been working to firm up plans that will enable us to adhere fully to the government guidelines and the new Headteacher, Matt Sadler, has written to you about this.

All students have been given guidance about how best to utilise their time during the summer. There is a significant amount of work available via RM Unify / Show My Homework (linked on the school website) and it would be sensible for students to review their work over the summer period. Moreover, supporting the wellbeing of our students is of the utmost importance to us and there are many avenues of support for students and parents/ carers available throughout the summer holidays. There is also the excellent Camden Summer University offer, free to students and available at <https://www.cmdn.co.uk>. I would strongly encourage all students to look at this and enrol for this free, safe and supportive activity

You will note that we been unable to produce meaningful end-of-year reports due to the unprecedented circumstances. However, the report that you received earlier in the year meets statutory requirements.

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We break up officially on Tuesday 21 July at 1230. Please have a look at our end of year assembly on our YouTube Channel, available via our online platform, where you can also find our Year 11 and Year 13 Graduation Assemblies and the compilation of our virtual Sports Week.

On a personal note, I have loved the privilege of leading our wonderful school these past 14 years and will leave with so many fond memories. Our school really is unique and special, built so strongly on the quality of its relationships, Learning Together Achieving Together. I am deeply appreciative of the amazing opportunities and experiences that it has afforded me in being surrounded by such talented staff, and, of course above all, our wonderful Hampstead School students.

I wish Matt Sadler all the very best as the next Head of Hampstead School, supported by our fantastic staff who have truly shown the best of themselves in the past few months.

In the meantime, stay safe, and look after each other.

Best wishes  
Jacques Szemalikowski  
Head