



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

17th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had a very positive start to the school year, thanks in large part to the support you have given at home. Students, buoyed by the removal of some COVID-19 restrictions, have returned to school with a renewed sense of motivation and confidence. They have arrived well-equipped and with correct uniform. They are engaging in lessons with a quiet, determined focus.

Thank you for the work you have done over the summer to support this successful transition.

COVID-19 update

The in-school gateway testing programme finished last week. Over 2,500 LFD tests were carried out, with over 75% of the student population taking part. You will be reassured to know that testing did not return any positive results, suggesting asymptomatic cases are not highly prevalent in our school community at present.

Asymptomatic testing continues to be an important part of our COVID-19 measures. All students will be given a supply of home-testing kits this week. We ask that you support your child in testing every Sunday and Wednesday night, reporting the result via www.testregister.co.uk.

We also wanted to thank families for continuing to adhere strictly to guidance relating to the displaying of symptoms. A reminder that, if your child has a new and persistent cough, a high temperature or experiences changes in taste or smell, they must not attend school and should arrange to take a PCR test.

As you will have seen, reports this week indicate that the vaccination of secondary school children will be rolled out quickly over the next few weeks. At the time of writing we have not received further government guidance; when we do, we will write to all parents, carers and students with an update.

If you have any questions relating to our COVID-19 response, or you need to report a positive test result, please contact COVID-19@hampsteadschool.org.uk.

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High expectations

We have started the year with assemblies reminding students of the high expectations we have for conduct and engagement inside and outside of the classroom. These expectations are summed up in this graphic:



This term we are placing particular emphasis on the expectation that students (i) take pride (ii) are ready to learn and (iii) never disrupt the learning of others.

Key expectation	How can parents and carers support?
Take pride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your child to take care of their books, folders and worksheets (we have provided them with a wallet for this purpose). Look through your child's work when they bring it home, praising work that demonstrates care and effort. Ensure your child has a properly-stocked pencil case, including a ruler, pen and pencil.
Be ready to learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and practise your child's journey to school, ensuring a buffer period is built in to prevent lateness. Make sure your child leaves for school with a well-stocked pencil case, the correct uniform and a copy of their timetable. Embed a routine in which your child each packs their bag and lays out their uniform each night before bed.
Never disrupt the learning of others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterate this expectation with your child at home, emphasising its importance. Contact your child's head of year if they report that their learning is being disrupted. Praise and reward your child in response to good behaviour, and support school sanctions in response to poor conduct.

Home learning and Microsoft Teams

Home learning has been deliberately light over the past two weeks, partly to allow students time to settle back into school life, and partly because Microsoft have struggled with the increased demand from schools looking to promote year groups, create new class groups and enroll new users in Microsoft Teams. We are confident that any remaining issues will have been solved by next week, when we will issue further guidance to parents and more home learning to students.

Magic breakfast

A reminder that the school provides a free breakfast that all students can access. It is available in the school dining room between 0800 and 0830. Students can choose from a selection of cereals, toasted bagels and porridge.

We will be in touch next week with details of a series of parental information events that we plan to run this term. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feedback or concerns, please do get in touch.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sadler', is placed on a light grey rectangular background.

Matthew Sadler
Head