



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

13 September 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

On Thursday of last week, we received the sad news of the death Marion Short, a member of the community who had volunteered at the school for almost twenty years. Marion had been part of our amazing bilingual support department, working with young people with little or no English, and often with recent experience of trauma and upheaval.

This was followed on the same day by further sad news: the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Marion and Queen Elizabeth both represented stability, a still point in a forever-turning world. Their commitment to public service had an impact on countless people. Our thoughts are with their loved ones at this time.

Responding to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II

Over the course of this week, students will be using form time, assemblies and PSHCRE to reflect on the life of the Queen.

The school will close on Monday 19th September – the day of the Queen’s funeral and a bank holiday.

Over a longer period, students will have opportunities in lessons to consider the ceremonies, procedures and traditions of this period of mourning, and think more widely about the legacy of ‘The Second Elizabethan Age’.

This is, without doubt, a significant national moment. We have had quite a few in the past few years. News coverage may rekindle previous experiences, and those who have recently suffered a loss may find the grieving process more difficult because of ongoing media noise. If you have any concerns about your child, please let us know so that we can put in place appropriate support.

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The start of term

We have had a very positive start to the term; students have arrived with a sense of purpose, optimism and energy. Behaviour has been excellent, in classrooms and in the local community. Visitors, staff and students have commented on the calm, focused atmosphere in school.

The return to school has brought with it some small issues around uniform; please do check that your child is meeting the guidelines laid out in our [uniform policy](#). Points of particular note include:

- Students can choose to wear shoes or trainers, but footwear must be completely black (including soles and logos).
- Hooded tops, non-school sweatshirts and tracksuit tops are prohibited, including on PE days. If cold weather is forecast, students can wear a school jumper, school cardigan, blazer and/or an outdoor coat.

Cost of living concerns

We know that many families are starting to feel the impact of increasing food and energy prices. We are exploring ways that we can offer further support, but in the short term, we wanted to outline existing initiatives that may be helpful:

- Universal free breakfast: All students can access a free breakfast, every day, between 0800 and 0830 in the school dining room. Options include bagels, porridge, toast and cereal.
- Financial support for school visits: In order to make some school visits viable we need to attach a charge, but this should never be a barrier to involvement. If a school visit is advertised to your child and the cost is a barrier, please contact the organising member of staff and they will explore the financial support available.
- Free School Meals: Changing financial circumstances may mean your child becomes eligible for free school meals. The criteria and application process is accessed here:

www.camden.gov.uk/fsm

We encourage all families who qualify to apply; even if your child does not eat school meals, it allows the school to access additional funding to support learning. Paper copies of the necessary forms, and support in completion, are also available in school.

- Uniform and equipment support: The school holds stocks of school uniform and other subject-specific equipment. If family budgets make these unaffordable, please contact your child's Head of Year who will seek to supply the relevant items with appropriate discretion.

Curriculum information and key dates

Over the next week, we will be circulating curriculum information updates for all year groups, detailing the content and skills being covered in the term ahead. This update will also feature useful resources, websites and the key dates for each year group (including reporting points and Parent Consultation Evenings).

Dates that affect all year groups this term include:

Monday 19 September: Bank holiday

Tuesday 11 October: 1415 finish (Year 6 Open Evening)

Wednesday 12 October: INSET day

Monday 24 > Friday 28 October: October half term

Friday 2 December: INSET day

Friday 16 December: 1230 finish (final day of term)

Home Learning

There has been a deliberately slow start to home learning, as students settle back into school and the Microsoft Teams platform syncs with our new timetable. Students will be set an increasing amount over the next few weeks, to be in line with the following expectations:

Year group	Home learning expectation
7, 8 and 9	English, Maths and Science – 1 per week / Other subjects – 1 per fortnight
10 and 11	All subjects – 1 per week
Sixth Form	All subjects – 1 hour at home for each hour taught in school

Year groups are being re-inducted into Microsoft Teams and supporting guidance will be shared with parents/carers.

Thank you as always for the support you give the school. Please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

All best wishes,



Matthew Sadler

Head