



# HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a restful and rejuvenating holiday period and that you were able to spend time with loved ones. This first update of the new term contains a significant amount of information; as in previous editions, we have a bite size version to start and more information below.

<b>Lateral Flow Testing</b>	Thank you for supporting the gateway testing programme. It demonstrated the importance of twice-weekly testing; please continue to test at home.
<b>Face coverings</b>	Students now wear face coverings in all indoor areas. You must ensure your child brings two reusable face coverings to school every day.
<b>Uniform update</b>	Ventilation leads to colder rooms. Your child should wear multiple layers; a blazer, school jumper, shirt and thermal under layer where necessary.
<b>Parents' Evenings</b>	Year 9: 13 January, Year 11: 27 January, Sixth Form: 3 February, Year 9 Choices Evening: 10 February, Year 10: 3 March, Year 8: 10 March
<b>Late starts</b>	School will start at 0930 on Friday 14 January, Friday 28 January, Friday 4 March and Friday 11 March.
<b>Ofsted report</b>	The Ofsted report from October's inspection is still to be published. We expect it to be released before the end of this half term.
<b>High expectations</b>	Please talk through the expectations outlined at the end of this update with your child.

## Lateral Flow Testing

Thank you for ensuring high levels of participation in our gateway lateral flow testing programme on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January. A significant majority of students participated and approached the process with maturity and sensitivity.

Nine asymptomatic students tested positive and are now isolating at home. Their engagement with gateway testing meant that they did not bring the virus into classrooms, thus reducing in-school transmission. This further emphasises the importance of twice-weekly lateral flow testing. We will be distributing another set of testing kits next week; if your child needs some before then, please ask them to visit the school reception.



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### Face coverings

As you will have seen last week, government guidance now requires students in secondary schools to wear face coverings in all indoor areas, including classrooms. We introduced this at the beginning of term and students have responded well. However, we would like to decrease the number of disposable masks being given out by school staff. Please ensure your child leaves home with two reusable face coverings each morning.

### Uniform requirements

With the increased emphasis on ventilation, classrooms may sometimes be colder than usual. If your child is struggling with the cold please ensure they are wearing multiple layers of school uniform: the school blazer, a school jumper and a school shirt. Students could also wear a thermal under layer if necessary. Coats will only be allowed to be worn in classrooms in exceptional circumstances.

A reminder that:

- If students choose to wear something over their school uniform, it must be a waterproof outdoor coat. Fabric hoodies (with or without a zip) and tracksuit tops are not part of our school uniform.
- School footwear (which can be shoes or trainers) must be completely black.

### Parent Consultation Evenings

After a successful Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening in December, we are running face-to-face events for all other year groups this term. A number of measures have been introduced to ensure these events are COVID-safe. These measures include:

- Table set up to allow for social distancing
- Multiple, well ventilated, rooms
- Face coverings worn by all
- All participants asked to take an LFD test prior to the evening
- Hand sanitiser in all locations

### Late starts

This year we have introduced late starts on the Friday following Parent Consultation Evenings. This is to allow teaching staff to prepare lessons for the day ahead, something they would normally do during the previous afternoon. Students will start school at 0930 on Friday 14 January, Friday 28 January, Friday 4 March and Friday 11 March.

There will not be a late start following the Sixth Form Parent Consultation Evening as a smaller number of staff are affected.

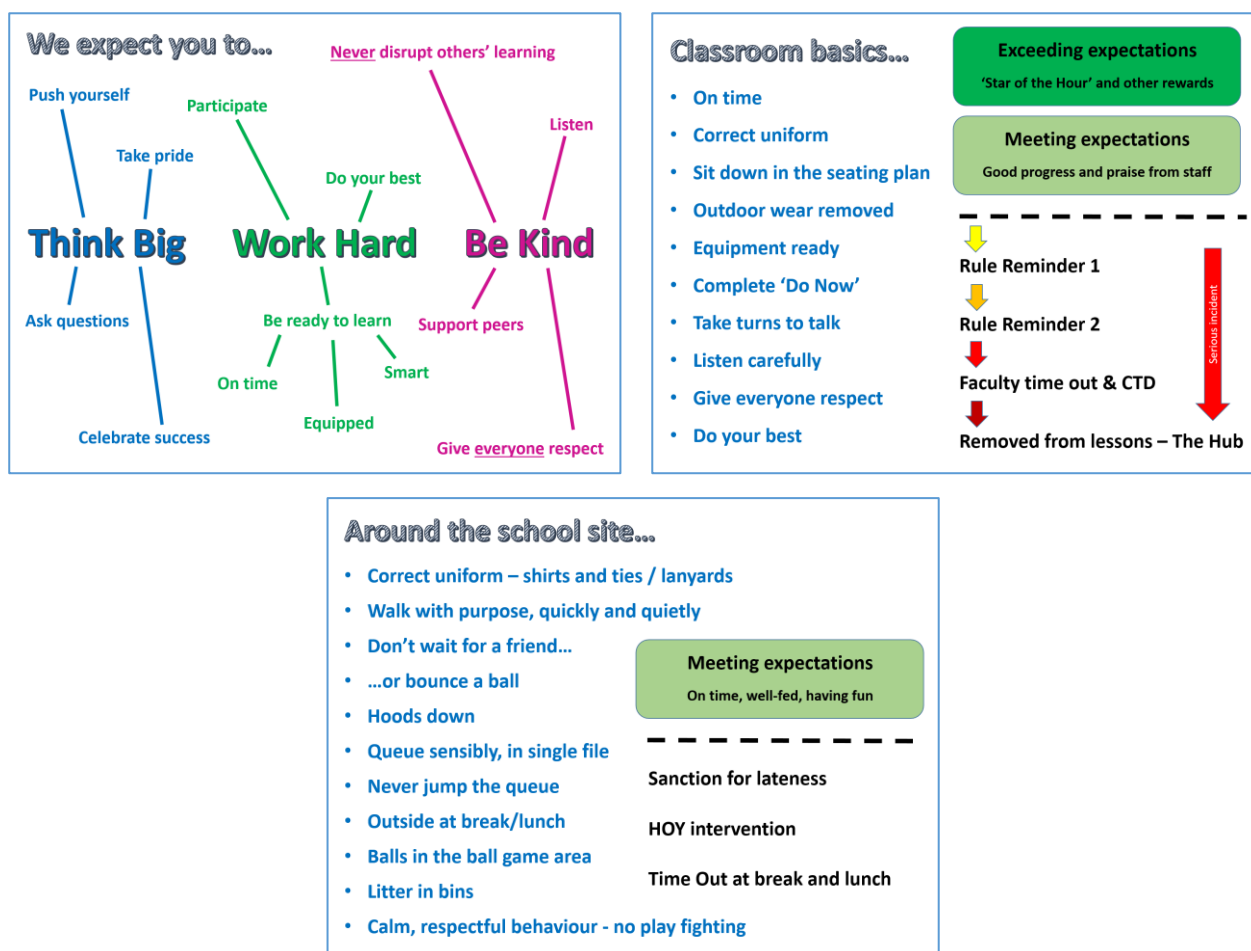
### Ofsted

In October we had a Section 8 Ofsted Inspection. Section 8 inspections cannot change the grading of a school, but can spark an immediate follow-up inspection if serious concerns are identified. The report resulting from last term's inspection is still to be published, but we can confirm that an immediate follow up was not necessary and the school remains 'Ofsted good'. We expect the report to be released before the end of this half term; it will be available via the school website.

## High expectations

Our own self-evaluation has highlighted a small amount of low-level classroom disruption, and some boisterous playground behaviour, as areas for improvement. A minority of students have struggled to return to normal routines following consecutive lockdowns. Over the past term we have worked with students and staff to refresh and re-emphasise key expectations, linked to our Think Big, Work Hard, Be Kind principles.

We would appreciate it if you could talk through the following expectations with your child.



Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

All best wishes,

**Matthew Sadler**  
Head