

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Industrial action – late starts

This Wednesday 4 October sees concurrent strike action that is expected to impact local train, London Underground and London Overground services. Disruption is expected to run throughout Wednesday and continue until mid-morning on Thursday.

We are able to manage strike action when it occurs across one form of transport, but the concurrent nature of this disruption means that we cannot guarantee adequate staffing will be on site in time for our normal 0835 start over these two days.

We are, therefore, going to have a **0935 start** for all students on **Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 October**. Registration will take place at 0940, and the normal timetable will commence with Period 2 lessons at 1000.

### Success stories

We have had a very positive start to the new school year, with students returning after the summer break with renewed focus and a strong sense of ambition.

It has been lovely to share success stories from the summer examinations, including examples that received [coverage in the local press](#). Students and staff have taken confidence from the significant improvements in our headline figures, and inspiration from individual stories of achievement in the face of significant adversity.

We have been exploring the reasons behind this success, and unearthed some very practical advice for parents and carers. As an example, a survey of GCSE students revealed that the families of all of those with a Grade 7+ average had removed or significantly limited their child's access to mobile phones and games consoles in Years 10 and 11.

An even stronger theme was the sense that successful students develop habits of excellence; a tendency to get the small things right every single day. Parents and carers play a huge part here by conducting the first check of uniform, equipment, timetables and homework each night before school. In supporting your child to be ready to learn, you remove the distraction of unnecessary conflict.

We have been talking about habits of excellence in assemblies over the past week, and have been referring to the following line, often attributed to Aristotle:

***'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.'***

Please remind your child of this quotation and talk to them about what it means in school and at home.

### Key dates for the term ahead

- Tuesday 10 October: Early student finish @ 1415

- Tuesday 10 October: Year 6 Open Evening @ 1730
- Wednesday 11 October: INSET Day – school closed to students
- Thursday 19 October: Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening
- Monday 23 to Friday 27 October: Half term holiday
- Friday 10 November: Hampstead School Remembrance Event @ 1030
- Tuesday 21 November: Sixth Form Open Evening @ 1730
- Friday 1 December: INSET Day – school closed to students
- Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 December: School Production (Sister Act) @ 1900
- Tuesday 19 December: Christmas Concert @ 1800
- Friday 22 December: Last day of term / Early student finish @ 1230

### Red lines

I have also used assemblies over the past week to talk to students about red lines, rules in school that, if broken, will lead to permanent exclusion. I am including a transcript from the assembly here so that you can feel confident that we are making our expectations very clear.

*It is also very important that, at the start of the year, I remind you of the red lines, the rules that, if you break them, will mean we have no choice but to permanently exclude you from Hampstead School.*

*Never bring a weapon into school – of any description. The obvious example here would be a knife, but this could mean anything designed to hurt other people.*

*Never bring illegal substances – drugs or alcohol – into school.*

*Never get involved in the buying and selling, or even just passing on, of illegal substances outside of school. If you do you would be taking on the role of a supplier and you would lose your place in school wherever this took place.*

*I am happy to say that these things do not pose a big issue at Hampstead, but in all the schools I have worked in there have been times that we have had to permanently exclude students because they did not realise the seriousness of the offence or they were showing off to a friend.*

*This fundamentally changed their lives and I would not want this to happen to any of you.*

### An invitation

*Hampstead School Remembrance Event – Friday 10 November @ 1030*

Over the past two years, the themes of high expectations and mutual respect have been highlighted by the Remembrance event we have held at the start of November.

This year we would love parents and carers to join us, learn more about the work we do around remembrance, and join students and staff in a whole-school two-minute silence in memory of all those affected by war.

If you are able to attend, please confirm via our enquiries email ([enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk)).

If you have any questions or concerns, about anything in this letter or school life more broadly, please get in touch. Thank you for your ongoing support.

All best wishes,

Matt Sadler  
Head