



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

16 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

On Monday we welcomed our biggest ever Year 12 cohort to our record-breaking Sixth Form. In so doing, we took the final step in our full reopening plan. We are now open for all students in all year groups, offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

It has been a privilege to meet your sons and daughters over the past week and introduce myself as the new head of Hampstead School. Students have been kind, warm and welcoming. They have arrived back in school ready to ask questions and ready to work hard. They have engaged with safety measures and followed our instructions. We can ask nothing more.

The system of controls that we have put in place is undoubtedly reducing risk. Regular sanitising of hands has become second nature and the organisation of the timetable means that all classrooms can be cleaned between bubble use. Teachers escort classes from the playground to the classroom, removing any crowded corridor situations, and staggered arrival and departure times have worked to spread the impact on public transport and reduce congestion at the school gate.

At the same time, we are always looking to reduce risk further and improve provision. We are making some changes in response to patterns that have emerged over the first few days. These are detailed below, but I have summarised the key points here for ease of reference.

- **Please do not wait to meet a student at the school gates. Arrange a meeting point a short distance from the school. The same applies to siblings who may wait for each other.**
- **From now on, students will have to wear face coverings as they queue to enter the Dining Hall and as they are served food.**
- **A new, same-day detention system will start in the week beginning 21 September. You will receive a text message before the end of the day if your son or daughter has a detention.**

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- **Students will now face sanctions if they breach COVID-19 regulations. If these breaches are deliberate and persistent these sanctions will be serious.**
- **Please keep the school updated about any absence and follow public health guidance regarding isolation and testing. If a student has to self-isolate but is not ill, they must complete work set through Show My Homework.**

Meeting away from the school gates

It has been busy at the school gate at the end of the day. Coloured 'meeting point' signs are being erected a short distance from the entrance; we ask that parents picking up children arrange to meet at one of these points. The same applies to any student waiting for a sibling in a different year group.

Face coverings in the Dining Hall

We have asked that all students carry a face covering so that it can be worn when social distancing is difficult. Having monitored the movement of students around the school site, we are happy that students do not need to wear them in corridor situations. However, from this week, students will be required to wear a face covering when they queue to enter the dining hall and as they are served food.

An updated behaviour system

We have been hugely impressed by the attitude of students on their return; behaviour has been exemplary. In order to maintain these high standards, we will be recognising kindness, effort and achievement with a range of rewards. At the same time, any behaviour that undermines our high expectations will be addressed immediately within our adapted behaviour system. In reality, this will affect very few students – but we felt it important to outline the new procedures to all.

If a student persistently disrupts the learning of others, they will be required to attend a same-day, 30-minute detention. This will take place immediately after school (3.00pm to 3.30pm for KS3, 3.15pm to 3.45pm for KS4). Parents/Carers will receive a text message before 2.15pm informing them of their child's detention.

If your son or daughter has after-school commitments it is crucial that you emphasise the importance of good behaviour; avoiding a sanction is fully within their control. In the event that a detention does clash with something entirely necessary (e.g. picking up a sibling from a primary school), please contact the school and we will arrange for the detention to be carried forward to the following day.

If a student fails to attend, a detention they will be expected to hand their mobile phone in the following day. They will receive it on completion of their detention that afternoon.

The detention will take the form of a restorative workshop. Students will complete a reflective worksheet and hold a restorative conversation with the member of staff involved in the original incident.

Sanctions for COVID-19 breaches

Students have been brilliant over the first few days of term but there have been occasions when a small number have not adhered to guidelines (e.g. entering another year group's playground zone or not following one-way systems). We have been deliberately lenient – there has been a lot of information to take on – but students are now aware of all of the regulations. If students deliberately breach COVID-19 these regulations, they will face serious sanction.

Public health guidance and the remote curriculum

Please remember that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms all members of the household must isolate until a test has been taken and results received. If the test comes back negative, students can return to school immediately. If it comes back positive, the household must isolate for 14 days.

If a student is isolating at home, you must inform us via the normal attendance reporting system. You must be clear about the current situation – and update us if things change.

Students who are isolating must continue with school work. Resources and instructions will be uploaded to their Show My Homework account. You must contact the school if there are any issues in accessing the work.

Confirmed case response

As you will be aware, a small number of schools have experienced confirmed COVID-19 cases in the first few days of term. Although the risks, particularly in London, remain relatively low, we are prepared for any eventuality. Later in the week, we will upload our confirmed case communication plan to the school website so that you know exactly what information you will receive in these circumstances.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

All best wishes,



Matthew Sadler
Head