



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing with further updates following government announcements last night.

Remote learning

Hampstead School will be closed to the majority of students until February half term. Students will be expected to follow the remote curriculum provided through Microsoft Teams. The structure will be much like our recent Teams Day; lessons will be uploaded as per the normal timetable and teaching staff will be available to give live support and guidance.

If your child does not have a suitable device and you would like to borrow a laptop, please fill in this form before 4pm on the 6th January 2021: [Student laptop sign up form](#).

If your child faces technical issues, please visit the [remote learning page](#) on our school website in the first instance before contacting studenthelpdesk@hampsteadschool.org.uk.

It is crucial that your child engages in the remote curriculum; their daily schedule is attached. If there are barriers to engagement you must let us know so that we can support you in overcoming them.

Public examinations and vocational assessments in January

At this point public examinations and vocational assessments due to take place in January will take place as scheduled. Students involved should arrive at school before the publicised start time. They must observe social distancing rules and wear a face covering in communal areas.

Students eligible for in-school provision

A small number of students are eligible for in-school provision. *The Safe Place To Be* will be based in the Independent Learning Centre where we will provide a supervised work space and IT access.

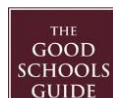
- If you are classed as a critical worker (definition [here](#)) and you would like to take up this offer, please fill in this form: [Critical worker sign up form](#).

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Head: Matthew Sadler BA (Hons) PGCE, NPQH
Hampstead School, Westbere Road, London NW2 3RT

T: 020 7794 8133 E: enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk www.hampsteadschool.org.uk



- If your child is classed as being in a vulnerable group (definition [here](#)) our pastoral and Achievement Support teams will have already contacted you to discuss in-school provision. If you believe your child is in this category and you have not been contacted, please let us know.

Student testing

The mass testing programme outlined in yesterday's letter has now been postponed. However, a similar programme is likely to be put in place when students return to school and so please do consider the information circulated and complete the student consent form.

Year 12 internal examinations

Year 12 internal examinations, due to take place in school next week, have been postponed. Instead students will be set a series of assessment tasks as part of their remote curriculum.

Examinations in the summer

At this stage the government have issued the following guidance:

In the circumstances, we do not think it is possible for all exams in the summer to go ahead as planned. We will accordingly be working with Ofqual to consult rapidly to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.

Although we are unable to say what the eventual assessment process will look like, we can say that consistent hard work will be rewarded. Students may be assessed by a combination of shorter examinations, controlled activities in class or teacher assessment; everything and anything that students do now may contribute to their final grade.

The key advice remains to be proactive and consistently produce the highest standard of work. Students who do not engage in the remote curriculum will jeopardise their final results.

Social and emotional wellbeing

I would like to finish by saying that, at this hugely challenging time, schoolwork must always come second to physical and mental health; if your child or other family members are struggling, please prioritise their wellbeing. As always, please let us know if we can help and access the [safeguarding section](#) of our website for information on external agencies that also offer support.

If you have any questions or concerns about the information above, please do get in touch.

All best wishes,

Matthew Sadler
Head