



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

22 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had a restful Easter break and welcome to our very first remote summer term.

We have all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to thank you for supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time.

It has been a strange and challenging time, so it is understandable if there is anxiety and frustration at the moment. Please rest assured that we are here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together.

Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by contacting your child's tutor or Head of Year.

We all miss the vibrancy of school life and the rhythm of the school year. However, following the Secretary of State for Education's statement last Sunday, we must continue to follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. So, we are carrying on with only allowing the children of critical workers, or those with identified needs, to be on site at present.

Hampstead School staff, all of whom are regularly in contact with each other, will continue to provide consistent online learning over the summer term. We appreciate that your child may well be spending considerably more time in front of a screen and online at the moment; even more than they would usually do! Hopefully, a lot of that time is spent on learning tasks, but please recognise and be aware that they will also likely be on social media communicating with their friends and playing online games. Those private conversations that would have taken place with friends on the way to and from school, and in and around school, cannot happen. Inevitably children still need to be able to have them virtually in some way, which is fine. That said, please be aware of what your child is doing and do remind your child to take breaks away from screens as well. As always, if you have any safeguarding concerns, details are on our website.



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While we cannot say yet when we will be able to open the school fully, rest assured that we will continue doing our utmost to keep students learning, well and the school connected.

I appreciate that this is also a concerning time for those of you whose children were due to sit public examinations this summer. You will know from Dr Hadley's letter before the break that all of these have been cancelled and the school will have a process for submitting grades to examination boards, based on work completed before 20 March.

I must reiterate that teachers cannot, under any circumstances, discuss grades with students (or parents). Any discussion may constitute malpractice and invalidate grades awarded. I have briefed all staff to this effect, so please do not communicate with staff on the matter.

Grades will now be awarded on the normal Thursdays in August and students wishing to may have the opportunity to resit an examination in the Autumn Term. For this reason, it is imperative that students in examination years continue with their current online learning and work set. Moreover, the acquisition of this knowledge, even if not examined, will be prerequisite to the next stage of your child's education.

Finally, this letter, along with my previous ones and other information related to the Coronavirus crisis, can also all be found on our website.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support and "Ramadan Mubarak" to those of you in our community starting Ramadan later this week.

Please look after yourself and your loved ones.

Jacques Szemalikowski
Head



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