



# HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

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

In the time since I last wrote, London has moved into Tier 4 and the government has announced a staggered start to the beginning of term and a mass testing programme in schools. We continue to face uncertainty but I hope to give some clarity with the information below.

### Confirmed case update

We saw an increase in confirmed cases in the days following the end of term. 27 positive COVID-19 results (14 staff and 13 students) were reported between December 18<sup>th</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup>. In each case we ran a risk assessment and put in place track and trace procedures, contacting students and staff who may have been in close contact with a confirmed case. I would like to thank the team of staff involved, and wish all those affected a speedy recovery.

This sharp increase was concerning and in response I took advice from Camden and Islington Public Health. They had seen similar case numbers across schools and attributed much of it to the exponential growth seen in the South East in recent weeks, with potential links to the new strain. With their support we revisited our risk assessment and will be emphasising the key themes with staff and students on our return in January.

If your child has contracted the virus and you have not reported it to school please email the relevant details to [COVID-19@hampsteadschool.org.uk](mailto:COVID-19@hampsteadschool.org.uk).

### Arrangements for the start of term

Increasing case numbers have led to the government announcing a staggered start to the new term. This will help break transmission chains originating from social contact over Christmas and will also allow schools to set up testing programmes.

Page 1 of 3



Dates	Details
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET day. School closed to students. No work set online.
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> > Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Work set online for all year groups Years 11 and 13 invited in for scheduled testing slot* School open for specific groups** Year 13 invited in for scheduled UCAS meetings Staff testing begins
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> > Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Normal face-to-face lessons for Years 11 and 13 Work set online for Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 Internal examinations in school for Year 12 Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 invited in for scheduled testing slot* School open for specific groups**
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> > Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Normal face-to-face lessons for all year groups Ongoing testing of students and staff
Scheduled examinations	Scheduled public examinations will take place as planned; the relevant students will be contacted individually Year 12 internal exams will take place from the 11 <sup>th</sup> January onwards; teachers to advise classes of any adjusted dates.

\*This is subject to change – further information will be sent to targeted groups

\*\*See ‘students eligible for in-school provision’ below

### Remote learning expectations

From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, all 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.

- We have a limited number of laptops to provide to students working from home who do not have a suitable device.

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

If we are able to provide you with a laptop, we will contact you on January 4<sup>th</sup> in order to organise pick-up from school.

### Students eligible for in-school provision

A small number of students are eligible for in-school provision from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

- If you are classed as a critical worker (definition [here](#)) you can choose to send your child in to school where we will provide a supervised work space and IT access.

If you are a critical worker and you would like to take up this offer, please fill in this form before 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021: [Critical worker sign up form](#).

- If your child is classed as being in a vulnerable group (definition [here](#)) our pastoral and Achievement Support teams will contact you on 4<sup>th</sup> January to discuss in-school provision. If you believe your child is in this category and you are not contacted, please let us know.

## Testing programme

The government announced on December 17<sup>th</sup> that they aim to roll out a mass testing programme in secondary schools at the beginning of January. We have been working with Camden Local Authority and the DfE over the Christmas break to put this in place.

The first wave of testing would include all staff, students in Years 11 and 13 and any critical worker or vulnerable students taking up the offer of in-school provision.

We will contact these groups via email with further detail, and information on how to give consent, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Thank you for your patience and support; we are responding to ever-changing guidance and will continue to keep you informed.

All best wishes for a safe and enjoyable New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sadler', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Matthew Sadler  
Head