



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

3 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family are well at this very difficult time. At the risk of repeating myself, thank you once again for your continued support in these most challenging of times. I am incredibly proud of how amazing Hampstead School staff have been in effectively shifting to a virtual, yet very real, school in such a short period of time. Students have responded so well to this, with usual Hampstead School resilience and resourcefulness.

This is the strangest end of term I can remember, both in my 38 years in schools, and 17 years as a headteacher. Yet, the end of term it is. We would usually have a farewell assembly at this time, but instead students will find my end of term assembly available to view through Show my Homework; you may wish to access it too.

While the school is closed, we are remaining open to children of those critical key workers who have contacted us and other identified students with whom we have been in touch. If you have not sent your child in so far, but need to do so now because you are a critical key worker in the fight against Coronavirus Covid-19, please as usual contact Mr Stevens or Ms Daulphin as described in my letter of 23 March, throughout the Easter holiday, including Good Friday and Easter Monday.

That apart, it is the Easter holiday and it is important that our staff have that time to recuperate. Consequently, please be aware that staff will not be routinely available to answer questions, respond to emails, set or assess work or make phone calls as they have done in the past fortnight. Our safeguarding team around the child, however, will always respond to specific concerns as clearly highlighted on our website.

The Free School Meal voucher scheme will continue to operate over the Easter break. Please, as always, ensure that we have your correct contact details so that these e-vouchers can be delivered safely. I am also aware that there is a scam being used with criminals trying exploit the voucher provision for free school meals during this time. These fraudsters will ask for your bank details under the pretext of funding free school meals. If you receive any emails requesting bank details, please do not respond, and delete immediately. You will recognise genuine e-mails as they usually come from a name you recognise, followed by @hampsteadschool.org.uk. We will



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not include any requests for bank details. If you are not sure whether a request is genuine, please check with Mr Stevens or Ms Daulphin.

Regarding safety, I appreciate that, in this lockdown climate, the Easter holiday poses a particular challenge. I have been made aware of groups of school-age people congregating in the neighbourhoods around our school, not observing social distancing or lockdown protocols. Whilst I have nothing to suggest any of these are Hampstead School students, please remind your child about the absolute directive to stay inside, protect the NHS and save lives.

On our Hampstead School website, you will find information and resources on wellbeing, with reference to looking after mental and physical health whilst in lockdown. There is a section for both parents/carers and students, linked from the wellbeing page in the parent section of the website. We are regularly adding to the information it contains and have recently added an online calendar of Enrichment Activities for students.

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.

Please look after yourself and your loved ones,

Jacques Szemalikowski
Head



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