



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

16th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Hampstead we ask our students to **Think Big, Work Hard** and **Be Kind**, and on Friday we marked World Kindness Day with the distribution of hundreds of kindness postcards around school. This week we will also be delivering our Hampstead Harvest Collection to food banks in the local area, something that has been difficult to organise due to the incredible volume of donations. Thank you for your contributions to this campaign and your ongoing support of the school's values; kindness is more important than ever at the moment.

As with previous letters, I will summarise the headlines here, but please take time to read the detail below.

- **Remote learning day: Students will work from home using Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 1st December. Supervised study areas will be available in school if necessary – please fill in this form if you need your child to access this provision:**

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DEmt_TUHak6gehMiDqc5_8mCwTxStdXmk7Qh-nkoRz1UQzYzSjdLS1ZGQzk2NDhLUUhNVONFWek3RS4u

- **School will be closed to all students for staff training on Monday 30th November.**
- **We have had four further confirmed COVID-19 cases over the past two weeks, but no evidence of in-school transmission.**
- **Students must bring a face covering into school and wear it in communal areas.**
- **If you have any questions of concerns, please contact enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk.**

Remote learning day – Tuesday December 1st

We will be launching Microsoft Teams – an online learning platform that will allow students to submit work, receive feedback and interact with teachers and peers – with a day devoted to remote learning. On Tuesday December 1st, students will be asked to stay at home, log into Microsoft Teams, and complete work set for them by their subject teachers. This process – and the lessons we learn from doing it together as a school – will ensure staff and students are better able to work from home in the event of an individual's need to self-isolate or future school closures.

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



It will also lay the foundations for our long-term remote learning strategy, something that will outlast the current pandemic.

All students have received a log in and tutorial in the opening weeks of term, and further guidance will follow. They will need access to an internet connection and a suitable device during normal school hours on December 1st.

The expectations is that the vast majority of students will work from home but school will be open for the following groups:

- i) Students who are unable to work at home without supervision
- ii) Students who do not have access to an internet connection or suitable device at home.

Those who come into school will follow the same remote curriculum. They will use school devices in a supervised, socially-distanced setting. Food will be available.

If your child will be working at home on December 1st, no action is required. If you need your child to come into school, you must complete the following form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DEmt_TUHak6gehMiDqc5_8mcwTxStdxMk7Qh-nkoRz1UQzYzSjdLS1ZGQzk2NDhLUUhNV0NFWEk3RS4u

INSET day – Monday November 30th

As referenced in the calendar, the school will be closed to all students on Monday 30th November due to staff training. We have deliberately scheduled the remote learning event to directly follow this INSET day; this consolidates the disruption to the normal timetable and will allow students to spread their remote learning across more than one day.

COVID-19 confirmed case update

Two members of staff and two students have received positive COVID-19 results in the past week, resulting in the necessary self-isolation of 27 students and five members of staff. The parents of affected students have been contacted directly.

As on previous occasions, these appear to be isolated cases with no evidence of transmission within school. Over the past ten weeks we have asked over 250 students to self-isolate as potential close contacts – none of these close contacts have subsequently developed symptoms. We continue to liaise with Camden and Islington Public Health and they have flagged the lack of in-school transmission chains as a clear strength, something that suggests our risk-reduction strategies and social distancing protocols are working.

Face covering policy

A small number of parents have been in touch with regard our face covering policy. The differing opinions voiced exemplify the complex nature of the debate; some have questioned the need for them at all whilst others have asked that we make them compulsory at all times.

At present, and in part due to the lack of evidence of transmission within our classrooms, we plan to remain in line with the DfE's guidance on the issue (available [here](#)). This means that all staff and students must wear face coverings in communal areas where social distancing is difficult, unless they have a medical exemption. Staff and students do not need to wear face coverings within classrooms.

We continually review our COVID-19 risk assessment and so if you have strong views on this subject we would appreciate your feedback – please contact us via enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk.

Although the majority of students adhere to this brilliantly, a small number fail to bring their own face covering into school each day. We have been providing masks to all those who need them but this comes at a significant financial cost to the school.

Please ensure your child has a face covering each day.

We are making one change to our face covering policy. At the start of term, we said masks should be plain in colour and not feature any patterns or designs. We have since realised that face coverings, although covering our facial expressions, give us all an opportunity to express ourselves and we would welcome students wearing vibrant, personalised designs.

This is another parental update dominated by the many implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to finish by writing about something different! We welcomed Jon Abbey, director of Camden Learning, to school last week. As we toured the school, we saw science experiments in full swing, students enjoying tennis and hockey drills, special fried rice being cooked in food technology and a lively debate in a Geography lesson. Attendance in school is 5% higher than the Camden average. This broad and rich curriculum, and the students' engagement in it, is only possible because of the partnership work between school and home that continues to take place every day. Thank you for your ongoing support.

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

All best wishes,

Matthew Sadler

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Head