



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

10th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is my final planned parental update in what has been an eventful Autumn term.

I would like to start by thanking the school staff for their incredible efforts. They have worked tirelessly – through pastoral care, curriculum design and lesson planning – to moderate the impact of this pandemic on our students and provide them with an engaging and exciting education.

Our students have risen to the challenge, demonstrating resilience in the face of tightening restrictions and working hard within lessons and at home. They have continued to ask challenging questions, think hard about the world around them, and demonstrate empathy and compassion.

Finally, I would like to thank you for supporting the school during this hugely challenging time. Your continued adherence to public health guidance has helped reduce risk and protect the health and wellbeing of our school community. Our attendance for the term – which at 90% is far higher than local and national averages – reflects your engagement and trust.

As with my previous updates, the headlines are bullet-pointed here with further detail below.

- **School will be closed to students on Friday 18th December. The last day of the school term will be Thursday 17th December.**
- **As we approach the ‘Christmas window’, adhering to public health guidelines is now more important than ever.**
- **Please use our new email address – COVID-19@hampsteadschool.org.uk – when informing the school of a confirmed case.**
- **We are relaunching the Hampstead PTFA – contact s.rodger@hampsteadschool.org.uk if you would like to be involved.**

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

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



NEW INSET day – Friday 18th December

In line with government guidelines, and in response to feedback from parents and staff, term will finish next Thursday 17th December. Friday 18th December will be a day off for students and will be a training day for staff. This INSET day will replace the day originally calendared for Monday 19th April.

In doing this we will limit contact, and potential transmission, at a time when the virus continues to be prevalent. This will reduce risk for staff, students and their families over the Christmas break.

We will also be replacing a day in school at the end of December with a day in school after a holiday in April. We are confident this will prove to be far more productive in terms of student learning, something particularly important for students preparing for the summer examinations.

The importance of adhering to guidelines

As we enter the final week of term it is more important than ever that we all adhere strictly to COVID-19 guidelines. With many people hoping to see friends and relatives during the Christmas window, failure to do so will increase the risk to our loved ones.

- If anyone in your household displays any COVID-19 symptoms – a persistent cough, a raised temperature, a change in taste or smell – the whole household must isolate for 14 days or until a negative test result is received.
- If you are unsure, act with caution. Consult NHS 111 and the school before sending your child into school.
- If your child displays symptoms try and access a test as quickly as possible – any delay threatens the health and wellbeing of others.
- Inform the school immediately if your child receives a positive COVID-19 test result via our new, dedicated email address: COVID-19@hampsteadschool.org.uk

Across the country, schools will be making phone calls to students and staff, informing them that they need to self-isolate over the Christmas period. We do not want to have to make these calls. Strict adherence to guidelines will not remove the risk of this happening, but it will certainly reduce it.

A new, dedicated email address

Schools have been asked by the government to continue supporting the NHS with track and trace for six days after the end of term. In order to ensure confirmed-case information gets to the right people, please be sure to use our new, dedicated email address: COVID-19@hampsteadschool.org.uk

End of term arrangements

Normal arrangements for the end of term will now shift to Thursday 17th December. Students will attend normal lessons in the morning before watching a recorded celebration assembly with their tutors. Dismissal of students will take place on a staggered basis from 1200 onwards.

Year group	Dismissal time
Sixth Form	1200
Year 11	1210
Year 10	1220
Year 9	1230
Year 8	1240
Year 7	1250

COVID-19 confirmed case update

A member of staff tested positive for COVID-19 this week. There is no connection to any previous case within school. A small number of students and staff have been asked to self-isolate as close contacts – they have been contacted directly. Although cases have been increasing slowly in London in recent weeks we have seen a downturn in cases within school; we hope this will continue through to the upcoming holiday.

The re-launch of the Hampstead School PTFA

In the midst of all of this drama and uncertainty we are relaunching the Hampstead School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association. Now more than ever the school needs to consult with parents and carers, engage with the local community and – where possible – access the fundraising potential of this network. If you would be interested in playing a part, no matter how small, please contact Sophie Rodger at s.rodger@hampsteadschool.org.uk.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a safe, restful and rejuvenating holiday period. All the very best for 2021.

With all best wishes



Matthew Sadler
Head