



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

12 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are safe and well.

- **Quarantine periods following the confirmed case are over and all students are fit and well.**
- **Make sure your son or daughter brings a waterproof and umbrella when rain is forecast.**
- **Face masks must be worn in the dining room. Students without a mask will be denied entry.**
- **Urgent - please complete this survey on internet access and suitable devices:**
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DEmt_TUHak6gehMiDqc5_8mcwTxStdxMk7Qh-nkoRz1UMFJOWEhaMDIwR0k1NjIXUVc0V0k0SkJCMS4u
- **The Hampstead School Harvest Collection launches this week, in support of local food banks. Please send in any non-perishable food items you have to spare.**

Confirmed case update

It is now over two weeks since the school had its first confirmed COVID-19 case. I am pleased to say that the affected student is fit and well and the close contacts identified have all completed their 14-day quarantine period. All students have returned to school and there is no evidence that in-school transmission took place. This is reassuring; it suggests that students and staff are being careful in their behaviour and that measures taken within school are reducing risk. It also adds to the growing evidence base that school-age children are less likely to transmit the virus.

We would like to thank students and their families for their calm, measured response; attendance has remained high and communication with the school has been positive and constructive. Thank you for your support.

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Protection from the rain

Last week saw our first incidence of heavy rain, an experience that confirmed that it is impossible to have all students indoors at break and lunch without breaching COVID-19 regulations. I therefore need to reemphasise the need to bring a waterproof coat and umbrella whenever rain is forecast; students will need to spend time outside in all but the most extreme weather conditions.

The exception will be vulnerable students for whom time in cold and wet weather may exacerbate existing medical conditions. These students will be given access to an indoor space where social distancing can be maintained.

If your son or daughter fits into this category, email enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk with details or contact the relevant Head of Year.

Face masks in the school dining room

As you know, we ask all students to bring a face mask to school so that they can wear it in situations where social distancing is difficult. At the moment, the only place we insist on masks as standard is when queuing for the dining hall. The majority of students adhere to this brilliantly but a small number consistently forget to bring a mask. We have responded by providing them with one from our own supplies but this is not sustainable longer term.

Please make sure that your son or daughter is carrying a mask in their bag. From Monday 19th October, students without a face covering will not be allowed into the dining room and we will stop providing them from our own stock.

Internet access survey

As we look to improve our remote learning offer, the more information we have about students' access to the internet and suitable devices, the better able we will be to provide precisely targeted work.

Please complete this survey for each child you have at the school by Thursday 15th October (e.g. if you have three children, complete it three times).

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DEmt_TUHak6gehMiDgc5_8mCwTxStdXmk7Qh-nkoRz1UMFJOWEhaMDIwR0k1NjIjXUVc0V0k0SkJCMS4u

Hampstead School Harvest Collection

Back in March, when lockdown commenced, Brent and Camden food banks sprang to the school's aid, providing vouchers for some of our most vulnerable free school meal families. We are looking to reciprocate that level of support with our Harvest Collection that launched this week. We have asked students to bring in non-perishable food items that may be going spare at home; we will be collecting these goods at the school gates every morning this week.

Fire drill expectations

We will be running a fire drill in the afternoon on Thursday 15th October. This will not be a surprise for staff or students, rather a controlled practice for the real thing. We will be going though expectations with students in the run up to Thursday – as you can imagine, the highest possible behaviour standards are required.

If any students fails to meet these expectations there will be an immediate thirty-minute detention after school. We will send a text message notifying any affected parents.

And finally...

In these extraordinary times, it is nice that some of the normal rhythms of school life are returning. We have spent the past week showing off our school to parents of Year 6 students in small, socially distanced groups at the end of each day. Although it is a real shame that we have not been able to put on our normal Open Evening experience, walking around the school building and answering questions from prospective students and parents has highlighted again the quality of our facilities, the breadth of our curriculum and the skillset of our staff. The Year 9, 10 and 11 students who have supported each event have been model representatives: eloquent, thoughtful and empathetic.

At the other end of the spectrum, Year 13 students are adding the final touches to UCAS statements that will see them access a range of fantastic universities. Our Oxbridge and Medicine candidates will be submitting their applications within the next week; we wish them every success.

There are now only ten days until the October half term break. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you give the school, and for the work you do every day with your sons and daughters. It has been a difficult time but there is a real sense that we are getting through this together.

All best wishes

Matthew Sadler
Head