



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

29 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are issuing student engagement updates to Year 7, 8 and 9 today, a process that has revealed again the hard work, resilience and creativity so many of our students are exhibiting at home. Thank you for your support in making this happen.

At the same time, we know there is a small but significant number of students who are struggling to engage. If your child is causing concern our pastoral team will be in touch to offer support, but in the meantime please do follow the advice contained in the engagement update letter, visit our website or contact their tutor or head of year for additional help.

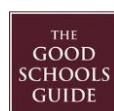
The remainder includes some important updates. I have included the headlines here but please do read the detail that follows.

- **As we seek to improve our online offer, and start to plan for reopening, please give us your feedback on our remote curriculum and COVID-19 response via [this feedback form](#).**
- **Student engagement reports will be issued fortnightly. Please ensure your child completes their online check-in every morning and is in the relevant Teams room at the start of every lesson.**
- **The DfE consultation on this summer's examination process is available [here](#). Our advice to Year 11, 12 and 13 students remains unchanged: continue to work hard.**
- **We have sourced a limited supply of additional laptops for student use at home. If your child needs a laptop to work more effectively, please complete [this form](#) before 01.02.21.**
- **It was announced on Wednesday that schools will not re-open until March 8th at the earliest. This process is likely to involve [LFD testing](#) and a staggered start; we will keep you updated.**
- **The Year 9 Pathways Process will be launched via Microsoft Teams on the 8th February.**

Page 1 of 3

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Parent/carer feedback

We would really appreciate your feedback on (i) our remote curriculum offer and (ii) the school's overall response to the COVID-19 epidemic. Please take a moment to complete this survey; it is very short but with opportunity to add detail if desired: [Parent/carer feedback form](#)

Student engagement in online learning

Our teaching staff are constantly assessing students' engagement in online learning and we will send a summary home every fortnight (dates below). Please ensure your child completes their online check-in every morning and is in the relevant Teams classroom at the start of every lesson. If you need support visit our [remote learning page](#) or contact studenthelpdesk@hampsteadschool.org.uk.

Online engagement reporting			
Years 7, 8 and 9	January 29 th	February 12 th	March 5 th
Years 10, 11 and KS5	January 22 nd	February 5 th	February 26 th

Screen breaks

We would like to encourage staff and students to take screen breaks during the day. We have slightly adjusted lesson timings to build more breaks in, detailed in the document attached with this letter. We will be sharing ideas for 'screen-break activities' over the next few weeks. All lessons continue to start at the same times and so the key structure of the day is not affected.

Update on this summer's assessment process

The DfE and Ofqual have launched a consultation on their proposed assessment methods for GCSEs, A-Levels and vocational qualifications; the consultation paper is available [here](#). The outcome of this consultation will not be released until the end of February, a prolonged period of uncertainty that we know is creating considerable stress for our examination year groups.

What we can say for certain is that every variant of the proposed system will reward hard work and a consistent approach. It is a challenging situation but students must continue to work to the best of their ability throughout this period.

Access to laptops

The school have distributed over 250 laptops to students in need over the past three weeks. We have a limited supply remaining. If your son or daughter is struggling to complete work because they do not have access to a suitable device, please complete this form: [Laptop access form](#).

School reopening update

Boris Johnson announced on Wednesday that schools will not reopen until Monday March 8th at the earliest. It is likely that the reopening process will include a staggered start, with some year groups returning first, and the use of in-school LFD testing.

If you have not completed the LFD testing consent form, please do so now: [Testing Consent Form](#)

We will be putting together an updated risk assessment and reopening plan, in response to government guidelines and the local context. We will share this with you in the week beginning the 22nd February.

Year 9 Pathways Update

The Year 9 Pathways Process has been delayed slightly because of the current situation. We have now finalised our subject offer, updated our information booklet and created online resources to support the process. This will be launched, via Microsoft Teams, in the week beginning February 8th.

I will finish by saying that this is also the time of year that our Year 13 students start to receive offers from universities, apprenticeship providers and employers. The range of destinations, and the level of ambition they reflect, is awe-inspiring. Perhaps most powerful is the clear sense that our students are going to go on to make the world a better place.

As things stand it is difficult to remove ourselves from the stresses of the present, but working with these young people is a reminder that there will be more positive times to come.

Have a lovely weekend,

Matthew Sadler
Head