



Thursday 5th October 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I hope you agree that the first few weeks of the new school year have gone well. Pupils have settled back to excellent routines and it is lovely to visit such calm, purposeful lessons.

Our two Open Evenings were very well attended, and our students were excellent ambassadors for the School, either as prefects, tour guides or as helpers in department areas. If your child was involved in any way, please congratulate them as the conduct of all our students was exemplary.

I would like to address some other issues.

1. SAFEGUARDING

The Metropolitan Police and schools in the London Borough of Hounslow are committed to working together to protect our young people from becoming victims of knife and weapon related crime.

Almost every day we read and hear about tragic incidents taking place all over the country, we know that parents and carers will be concerned about how to keep young people safe. We share your concern, and work with the Metropolitan Police to educate young people about the risks of carrying a knife, and to report on concerns where the law has been broken. The school has a zero-tolerance approach to knives or any other weapons being brought into school, and our local policing team continues to work closely with secondary schools to help reduce the vulnerability of young people to crime.

Back in March I sent you [this letter](#) from the Metropolitan Police and Hounslow Education Partnership which contains important information for parents. In school, we educate students about the dangers of knives both in PSHE and in assembly. Where we have cause to suspect that a student is carrying a knife, we will also search a student following guidance in our Behaviour and Discipline Policy. It is exceptionally rare that students bring knives to school, but it is important to be clear that in all cases where a knife is brought to school the incident will be reported to the police and action taken under the Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

One of the key elements of the approach used by the police is the use of a walk-through metal detection arch. The purpose is to detect anyone who is carrying a weapon and deter them from doing so whilst opening up the opportunity for debate and discussion.

Next week, our local police team will conduct this exercise here at The Heathland to help them to understand the reasons why a small number of people across the borough of Hounslow choose to carry weapons. Pupils will be randomly selected to go through the arch and have their bags and belongings searched in a similar way as going through airport security. As a reminder from our behaviour policy and code of conduct the following items are banned and will be confiscated and sanctions applied if found through the knife search or on any other day.



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
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Knives, blades or other harmful / dangerous, drugs, alcohol, 'vapes', tobacco, e-cigarettes, shisha pens, aerosols, firecrackers / fireworks, laser pens, stolen items, mobile telephones, SMART watches, other electronic devices or valuable items, hooded tops or other items of non-school uniform, make-up, chewing gum.

2. CENTRALISED SCHOOL DETENTIONS

Our new system for managing any incidents of poor behaviour or lateness has made a good start. One principle behind the system is that pupils will be issued a detention on the day that the incident or lateness takes place. This is called a Centralised Behaviour System (CBS). If your child is issued a detention for longer than 20 minutes you will receive a message via the Sims App to inform you. Detentions will be held daily in our Dining Hall and the latest any pupil will be kept behind is 5.00pm. The pupils will be taken to the detention by their period 6 teacher. Any pupil who deliberately refuses or runs away from the teacher will be suspended from school and parents will have to attend a reintegration meeting.

We have spent time during tutorials this term teaching pupils our expectations and ensuring that they understand how behaviour and rewards are issued. We will continue to work with all of our pupils to help them to conduct themselves appropriately inside and outside of lessons and as they make their way to and from school.

3. A REMINDER - WEAR YELLOW DAY - TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2023

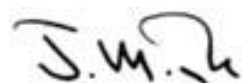
We are writing to let you know that The Heathland School is taking part in raising awareness for positive mental health and wellbeing. This is part of #HelloYellow on Monday 10th October 2023 this World Mental Health Day.

The School will be joining thousands of other schools by wearing an item of yellow to show young people that how they feel matters, as well as raising money for YoungMinds. The pupils should arrive in their normal school uniform and wear an item of yellow such as a yellow hair band, a yellow bracelet, yellow socks or tie etc. We wish to remind parents and carers that children are not expected to spend money buying something new but can use their initiative and creativity to participate. Where possible, we ask parents and carers to consider donating to YoungMinds. There will be buckets on the Yellow door in the morning and we will send a JustGiving link nearer the time.

4. STAFF INSET DAY: FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2023

Please note pupils should not attend school on this staff training day.

Yours faithfully,



J.M Rose
Headteacher