

Dear Parents/Carers

19/05/2020

General Information

In the last week, you will probably have read or heard about the Government's provisional plans for schools to re-open from 1st June. The decision is unlikely to be confirmed until 28th May and will be subject to meeting the 5 conditions set out by the Government a few weeks ago.

The staff at The Heathland School do not want to see classrooms empty for longer than they need to be and, in the meantime, they are all working extremely hard to provide home learning, safeguarding and pastoral support.

We want to be open with you about where we are in our thinking and planning and we are using the following principles to underpin our decision-making:

- The safety and the well-being of our staff and pupils remain our highest priority at all times.
- The confidence of parents/carers and staff must be maintained through our decisions and actions. Ongoing effective and open communication will be key.
- We will continue to support in-school provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children.
- If there is to be in-school learning for Year 10 and Year 12, this will be focused on monitoring, guidance and support rather than class teaching. Home learning will continue.
- We do not expect a return to school for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 until September. Heads of Department are reviewing the work being set for Years 7 – 9 due to the additional time off school, and will be monitoring for both consistency and take-up. Further information will follow after half term.

We have had a good response from pupils submitting work to their teachers. Can we please ask for you to continue to monitor your son / daughter's work, to ensure that they are up to date. Pupils can submit work by taking photos of their work and emailing this to their class teacher for feedback. If there are any issues, which prevent your son / daughter completing their work, can we please ask for them to inform their teachers.

Form tutors are emailing their tutees every week to check on their progress. Please could you encourage your child(ren) to reply and maintain contact with their tutor.

Next Steps for pupils in Years 11 and 13

Following confirmation of the dates that results will be issued this year, we currently plan to hold admissions interviews for the Sixth Form from **10am on Friday 21st August**. Please get this date in your diary. We will write to you again with a formal invitation later in the Summer term once we know more about when schools will be able to reopen.

A reminder:

- Thursday August 13th – A level/BTEC results issued
- Thursday 20 August – GCSE results issued

The updated overview guidance document for schools, parents, carers and students about awarding GCSE and A level grades can be found [here](#) and a separate letter to students from Ofqual which can be found [here](#). Ofqual have also released a video which provides information about the process for parents and students, the link can be found [here](#).

Schools have been told by the Department for Education and Ofqual that they must not discuss or share their centre assessment grades with students, parents or carers, under any circumstances, until after final results are issued. This is to protect the integrity of schools' judgements, and to avoid anyone feeling under pressure to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. Could I please ask that you respect this instruction and refrain from contacting teachers to ask about the process.

Trips, Visits and Work Experience

We have taken the decision to cancel all trips and visits for the remainder of the academic year. Even if lockdown ends and learners return to school, we feel the focus will need to be on re-establishing routines rather than being out of school and there is no guarantee that trips will be able to go ahead as planned anyway, particularly if social/physical distancing remains an expectation indefinitely. We will contact parents/carers about refunds when we have had the individual claims for each trip approved.

Free School Meals

We recognise that some families' circumstances will have changed because of the current crisis. If you think you may now be eligible to receive free schools meals but have not yet registered please apply via this link:

https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20025/schools_and_colleges/61/free_school_meals

The school will be notified once your application has been approved.

Arrangements for Learners who are not in School

Your son / daughter should aim to complete up to an hour of work per subject, each day. In total, no more than 4 hours. For example, 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours after lunch. In every year group, teaching staff will be available for pupils to ask any questions or to submit work for feedback, electronically. They can either take photos using their phone to submit or to scan work to be sent to individual teachers. Please ensure that pupils use their school email account.

We will not be providing work for week beginning 25th May, as this is half-term and we believe that everyone could do with a break. Home learning will continue to be provided from 1st June, whatever the arrangements are for in-school provision from that point.

Arrangements for Learners who are in School

If you are a key worker and your family circumstances change in the coming weeks, meaning you need to discuss accessing in-school provision for your child(ren), you should contact us by e-mail as outlined at the end of this letter. We want to help support our key worker families however we can during this challenging period, although the clear advice is that children should remain at home and attending school must be seen as a last resort if you have no alternative. Provision will continue during the half-term break for those who need to attend school.

Emergency Contact

The School e-mail address is: admin@heathland.hounslow.sch.uk so please also make use of that if you have a general query or concern or if you are unable to contact your child(ren)'s teacher or Head of Year directly. It is being monitored every day.

As well as checking your email please continue to check the school website for updates as we receive them.

Thank you for your continued support. Please stay safe and well.

Senior Management Team

Headmaster

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