

Dear Parents/Carers

01/07/2020

General Information

We hope this finds you well. You will probably have seen headlines following the Prime Minister's announcement about all schools re-opening fully in September and the easing of lockdown arrangements from 4th July. We are currently waiting for further guidance about re-opening in September and until this is received there is little more we can tell you other than to emphasise that we want to be able to return to normal operation if at all possible.

We have done our best throughout lockdown to accommodate the needs of our 1800 learners and appreciate that this has been a difficult time for everyone. The safety and well-being of our staff and pupils has been paramount in all our decision-making, whilst following Government guidelines. We have tried to provide clear and regular communication and hope that this has helped you to plan and understand issues from our perspective.

It has been lovely to be able to welcome pupils from Year 10 and 12 back into the school for the past two weeks. We have been really impressed with the attitude and engagement of pupils during this new phase. Our focus for face to face contact with pupils this term is to support home learning.

We are sorry that we do not have the capacity to invite the other year groups in in the same way before the summer but we will ensure that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will each have individual contact by telephone, between now and the end of term for a re-connect conversation with a member of staff which will be to check on well-being and progress with work set during lockdown.

Looking Ahead

We have 2 staff training days scheduled for Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st July which we will definitely need as we continue to plan for September. We also have a training day planned for Thursday 3rd September and anticipate that there will then be some form of phased induction for all year groups from Friday 4th September. As soon as we have more information, we will be working on our plans and will share them with you.

Summer Holidays

We feel that it is important that pupils and staff have a proper break during the summer because the autumn is going to be a challenging time. We are also aware that pupils need a break from the intensity of the lockdown period. There will be no in-school daily provision for vulnerable learners and the children of key workers during the summer holidays. The school remained open through the Easter holidays and May half-term and in some cases, pupils have been in school almost every day since lockdown began.

Results Days for Years 11 and 13

Current guidance still states that large gatherings are not permitted. Therefore, we have come to the reluctant decision that our results days for Year 11 and Year 13 will not be able to take place as usual. Planning is currently in place as to how we will manage the process and details will follow in due course. We know this will be disappointing for students but we can only apologise and express our own disappointment at not being able to say goodbye in the way we would have wanted. We will ensure that we provide opportunities for pupils to receive advice and guidance about their university place or other plans for next year.

A reminder:

- Thursday August 13th – A level/BTEC results issued to students by email. There will also be the opportunity for students to collect their results in person during the morning.
- Thursday 20 August – GCSE results issued to pupils by email
- Friday 21st August - admissions interviews for the Sixth Form

In-School Provision for Year 10 and Year 12

The timetables for next week were emailed to you with last week's letter and are also posted on the school website. Please remember the following important points:

- If your child has coronavirus symptoms, or there is someone in the household who does, they must not attend school but please inform the school as soon as possible.
- Please encourage your child to regularly wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, and bring some alcohol hand sanitiser with them to school
- Please remind your child to maintain a 2 metre distance from friends as he/she walks to and from school.
- Pupils are allowed to wear 'Summer Uniform'. Essentially this means a shirt and black trousers/skirt for Year 10 pupils and smart casual clothing for Year 12. There is no need to wear a blazer/jacket and tie. Pupils should wear their normal school shoes.
- Parents and any guests, are not permitted on the school grounds unless they have a pre-arranged appointment.

If your child is scheduled to attend a session and cannot attend, or if you have any questions, please use the following email:

admin@heathland.hounslow.sch.uk

We will have limited staff managing phone calls. Please state your son / daughter's full name and tutor group in the subject and the reason for absence from school if appropriate.

If your child has coronavirus symptoms, or there is someone in their household who does, they must not attend school and following government advice regarding obtaining a test and isolating.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Arrangements for Learners when they are not in School

We continue to have a good response from pupils submitting work to their teachers. Can we please ask 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.

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.

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.

Microsoft Teams

During the next week or so, each pupil will receive an emailing which invites them to join a tutor group 'Team'. Within Teams, teachers can quickly converse with students, share files and websites, distribute and mark assignments and provide effective and timely feedback. Teams will also enable teachers to organise interactive live lessons from September should this be necessary.

Free School Meals

We have now received guidance on the recently announced Covid-19 Summer Food Fund, which is the temporary extension of the food vouchers scheme to provide free school meals to eligible families over the summer holidays. The scheme has been designed to offer 2 x £45 vouchers per child which will be paid during the holidays.

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 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.

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

H.S. Pattar

Senior Deputy Head (Curriculum)

Angela Smith

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