



PARK HIGH SCHOOL

October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a joy to welcome your children back at the start of this academic year to much more normal routines. Having all students back on the 6th September, not restricted by bubbles, face coverings and limited extracurricular activities has been well received by both students and staff. We were able to put bespoke induction in place for both Year 7 and Year 8 to help them settle into normal life in high school. Students have enjoyed being able to attend their field trips and are looking forward to other opportunities being planned for later in the year. The buzz of excitement in the hall during the Careers Fair earlier this week was a delight and I do hope your children brought their enthusiasm home and feel inspired to think about what their next pathway might be after they leave us.

Traffic restrictions

The London Borough of Harrow School Street scheme is again out for consultation. Our students tell us they feel safer both arriving and leaving school via Thistlecroft and Burnell which is the most important reason for the scheme to be in place. Please find attached a letter from the London Borough of Harrow with a link to the consultation.

Uniform

The students have looked impressive in their uniforms. As in all schools, the school uniform is set by the governing body. During the closures last academic year, the governors agreed to periods of grace recognising that shops were not open for parents to replace items of school uniform including school shoes. When I wrote to you in July, I set out the school uniform policy with particular reference to footwear, ready for September. Thank you for supporting us, our school uniform is competitively priced, there are very few items that require the school logo, and, as half term approaches, I would remind you that the governors are very clear that black trainers are not a substitute for school shoes.

Attendance

Please check the school website for the dates of school holidays. The Department for Education is very clear that students should be in school during term time and have asked for daily returns on attendance. I would encourage you not to book holidays during term time no matter how tempting it might be to do so now that travel restrictions have eased. Teachers have worked hard to adapt schemes of learning in response to the disruption school closures have inevitably caused to learning, for maximum benefit students need to be in school.

Behaviour

After half-term we will be revisiting our high expectations of behaviour and sharing some changes to our Ladder of Consequence. The vast majority of our students consistently exhibit excellent behaviour and are proud ambassadors of our community. Occasionally, however, we need to support some of our students to reflect on and modify their behaviour. If behaviour falls below our expectations your child may receive a 30,

Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

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60 or 90 minute detention as a consequence. This will be communicated via Edulink in advance, so please ensure that you have access to this. In addition, if students attend in inappropriate uniform, we keep a selection of suitable items in school, and they will be expected to wear these until a suitable replacement has been sourced (for example plimsols will be issued to replace trainers). Mrs Wilkinson, Deputy Headteacher will outline the school approach in more detail after half-term to ensure clarity for both students, parents and carers.

Home-learning

We are currently monitoring home-learning, both its completion and the quality submitted. Students who need further support with home-learning may be required to attend daily home-learning support after school. Heads of Year will advise you in advance if your child would benefit from this further intervention.

Testing

Please encourage your child to continue to test twice weekly using a Lateral Flow Test, it helps reduce the spread of the virus. If you have run out of kits your child can ask their form tutor for a pack, they need to record the result on the NHS website, schools no longer manage contact tracing. We know the government is monitoring the current rise in cases of COVID-19 nationally and we continue to monitor in school. Please be prepared that if we need to, we will reintroduce measures such as the wearing of face coverings in classrooms, corridors and communal areas around the school. Our contingency plan is in line with current government advice to schools. We would encourage you to support your child taking an LFT the day **before** they return to school.

Year 11 and Year 13

The current guidance from government is that public examinations will go ahead in summer 2022, it is important that both you and your child are clear on what the process is and what the governments contingency plans are should the examinations not take place. I wrote to the parents of students in Year 11 and Year 13 earlier this week and will continue to update you as information becomes available. Both Year 11 and Year 13 have been working hard, they are focussed and keen to be successful in their learning and we are committed to ensuring they are well prepared for their GCSE's and A levels.

Year 11 parents will receive a letter today containing the practice exam timetable for Year 11. Practice exams begin on 22 November 2021.

Review Day

The school reopens after half term on **Monday 1st November for Review Day appointments only**. You will have received separate communication concerning this opportunity for your child to meet with their form tutor to review progress and set targets for their learning. You are very welcome to attend your child's appointment, but it is not an expectation that you do so. A range of activities are available via remote learning for students to complete when they are not attending their appointment. Normal lessons resume on site for all students on **Tuesday 2nd November**.

Newsletters

You will receive the first of our newsletters today, they are year group based and will be issued half termly. This is a new initiative that over time will serve to share with parents the achievements and events associated with the year group in which they have a child.

Thank you for your continued support, I wish you and your families a restful half-term break.

Stay well and stay safe.

Kind regards



Mrs Colette O'Dwyer
Headteacher