



## PARK HIGH SCHOOL

11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to say that on Thursday and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February, the production of Pippin was finally staged and what a phenomenal production it was! Thank you for all the support you gave your children to help make it happen. The event was sold out both nights, so thank you if you attended either performance. The joy and energy of our young people was a sharp reminder that despite how difficult the last two years have been, there is hope and resilience and laughter and friendship and a road back to better days.

The year group newsletters are on their way this week and are full of the events that have taken place this half term. There are sporting successes as well as the ever-popular Jack Petchey Speak out Challenge. There is also mention of Forest School which is working with groups of our students to help build confidence and resilience through developing a wide range of outdoor skills.

Year 8 are in the process of making some subject choices for their Year 9 curriculum, whilst Year 9 are contemplating the subjects they would like to study in preparation for Key Stage 4. Year 11 had Sixth Form interviews with members of the senior team and are completing applications for post 16 study. Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to work hard in preparation for the summer public examinations which will be going ahead.

As you are aware, DfE has decided, as a matter of policy, that advance information about the focus of the content of exams should be provided in 2022 for all subjects at GCSE and A level except GCSE English literature, history and geography and GCSE and A level art and design.

The first ever publication of advance information in general qualifications is a key adaptation to examinations, aiming to support students and teachers in focusing revision for exams. It is intended to make sure that the DfE are being as fair as possible to students given the disruption they have experienced, and many continue to face, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The advance information will reflect this to some degree as each of the materials has been tailored to the relevant subject and specification. In each case it has been carefully designed to support the same purpose: to provide appropriate guidance to teachers and students to focus revision. It is important for you and your son/daughter to know this process has been done with great care, following a set of common principles, to make sure the approach is as fair as possible across subjects and exam boards. This is explained in the exam boards' guidance.

Where advance information has been released, you can find it on the links below. Our teachers will be structuring the remaining time we have to maximise the opportunities this gives us, including the use of Period 7 lessons and targeted intervention sessions.

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Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

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Year 11:

<https://www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk/page/?title=KS4+%2D+Advance+Information+for+Summer+2020&pid=287>

Year 13:

<https://www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk/page/?title=KS5+%2D+Advance+Information+for+Summer+2020&pid=288>

From September until February half term has been, for most students, the longest uninterrupted period in school for some time. Most are relieved to be back in the familiarity of school routines, others are taking a little longer to settle and we continue to provide the support they need. The virus has not gone away. We are closely monitoring the number of cases in both staff and students. You will know from government guidance that the wearing of face coverings in most settings is no longer a requirement. However, in schools and in consultation with the local health authority, the wearing of face coverings may be reintroduced if there is a need. Our priority is to keep the school open and safe for students and staff, therefore if we need to take this course of action, we will keep you informed. No one wishes to return to remote learning if it can be avoided and we are grateful for your understanding and support in this matter.

#### Covid-19 Updates:

Thank you for your continued support as we assess our response to Covid-19. We expect to return to the voluntary use of face coverings around the school on return after the break but will continue to monitor cases in school. Please also ensure that your child undertakes LFD testing before returning to school after the February half term. This remains one of the most vital tools we have to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Separate information has also been shared about vaccination over half term, alongside the offer of vaccination in school in early March. If you're travelling abroad this half term, be sure to check and follow COVID-19 guidance for your country of travel and on re-entering the UK. You can find the latest travel guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

We all know how good the outdoors is for both our physical and mental wellbeing, so we have started a project to landscape some of the areas in the grounds of the school which could be better used for our students to plant and subsequently sit or work outdoors. The Forest School has started in one small area, but there are several others that we are considering. If you have green fingers, work in horticulture or just want to help us dig over the earth for planting, then please do send your details to [info@parkhighstanmore.org.uk](mailto:info@parkhighstanmore.org.uk) marked Gardening Project, and we will be in touch.

Thank you for all you continue to do to support your children's education. School reopens on Tuesday 22nd February (Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February is INSET Day). The London Borough of Harrow has provided free school meals vouchers for the half term break to those families in receipt during term time. After the half term break you will be sent a link to give us the opportunity to hear your thoughts on different aspects of school life. Parent teacher consultations have remained online this academic year and many schools have already decided that for them that will become permanent. We will be seeking your opinion on this also.

I wish you and your family a restful half term break.

Stay well and keep safe.



Mrs Colette O'Dwyer  
**Headteacher**