

Headteacher: Miss Caitlin Macrae
6th July 2020

Dear parents, carers and students

Re – Weekly Update 13

I hope that you and your families remain safe and well. As you may be aware, schools received the latest government guidance on the reopening of schools from September late last week. The full guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

In summary, schools are being asked to:

- plan for all students, in all year groups, to return to school full time in the Autumn term
- put in place revised health and safety risk assessments and use a system of controls to reduce risk

I am delighted that we will be able to welcome back all of our students at that time. We are currently working on our plans for September in light of this latest guidance, and I will share these plans with you before the end of term. In the meantime, please be aware of the following arrangements for the start of the new term in September, which are slightly different from previously published arrangements:

Tuesday 1st September 2020: Inset Day for staff. No students in school please
Wednesday 2nd September 2020: Year 7 and Year 12 students only please
Thursday 3rd September 2020: Year 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13 students only please
Friday 4th September 2020: Year 7 to 13 students in school

Home Learning over the summer holiday

Students in all year groups will be provided with bridging projects from their teachers, to help prepare them for school reopening in September. Students will receive this work by Tuesday 14th July, through Show My Homework and should spend some time working on this over the summer break.

- **Current Year 7 and 8:** Students will be provided with **optional** Challenge passports and may wish to complete some of these Challenge tasks
- **Current Year 9:** English, maths and science will add bridging projects for the summer to help students prepare for their GCSE courses. Students are encouraged to spend about 2 hours per subject on this work across the six week holiday, in addition to completing the bridging projects for their options subjects that have been available on the website this half term.
- **Current Year 10:** All subjects will provide bridging projects to help students prepare for Year 11. Students are asked to spend about 2 hours per subject on this work across the six week holiday.
- **Current Year 12:** All subjects will provide bridging projects to help students prepare for Year 13. Students are asked to spend about 6 hours per subject on this work across the six week holiday.

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Current Year 11 students joining the Sixth Form in September will continue to complete the bridging projects for their chosen subjects that have been available on the website this half term.

Students should bring in completed bridging projects to their class teachers in September.

Wellbeing

In addition to the additional pastoral support available in school, there are also a number of external bodies providing advice on mental health and wellbeing for young people. These include the following:

- Children and young people can access free confidential support anytime from government-backed voluntary and community sector organisations by:
 - Texting SHOUT to 85258
 - Calling Childline on 0800 1111
 - Calling the Mix on 0808 808 4994
- Children and young people can also find online information on COVID 19 and mental health on the Young Minds website
- For support with an eating disorder, children and young people can ring Beat's Youthline on 0808 801 0711
- The Think Ninja app educates 10-18 year olds about mental health, emotional wellbeing and provide skills young people can use to build resilience and stay well
- The Rise Above website aims to build resilience and support good mental health in young people aged 10 to 16

Sports' Day

Following the success of the Highfield 5K Challenge, the PE department has come up with another great challenge for students (and staff!) to replace our usual Sports' Day events. Between the 6th and the 13th July, each member of the PE department will be setting a challenge to keep us active and gain reward points. The PE team will explain each task in a video, which will be sent out on SMHW. Students will submit their entries through a survey. I look forward to seeing which house will win.

As always, if you would like to get in touch about anything, please contact admin@highfield.herts.sch.uk and we will do our best to help.

Wishing you all the best of health.

Kind regards

Caitlin Macrae
Acting Headteacher