

Headteacher: Miss Caitlin Macrae

11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear parents, carers and students

Re – **Weekly Update 6**

I hope that you and your families remain safe and well and that the extended weekend gave you the opportunity for VE Day remembrance and celebration.

As you may be aware, the Prime Minister yesterday evening made his announcement about his 'road map for reopening society.' The full announcement can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-to-the-nation-on-coronavirus-10-may-2020> and more details are due to follow today, but the sections of the announcement relating to schools were as follows:

***'In step two – at the earliest by June 1 – after half term – we believe we may be in a position to begin ... to get primary pupils back into schools, in stages, beginning with reception, Year 1 and Year 6.***

***Our ambition is that secondary pupils facing exams next year will get at least some time with their teachers before the holidays. And we will shortly be setting out detailed guidance on how to make it work in schools.'***

So, for The Highfield School, it seems from this announcement that Year 10 and 12 students may be back in school before the summer holiday. Other year groups have not been mentioned, so we will await further information from the government on this. I will, of course, continue to update you with any further information that schools receive about reopening at the earliest opportunity.

When we do reopen, either partially or fully, the safety and wellbeing of students and staff will be of the utmost priority, so all planning in school will be done with this at the very forefront of our minds.

While students continue to learn at home, please do continue to encourage them to complete the work set, to the best of their ability and to contact their teachers by school email if they have any issues or questions. If your child is overwhelmed by the amount of work set, please do reassure them that they are expected to complete what they can, working at a pace that is manageable for them. If this means that they do not complete all the work set that is absolutely fine; please encourage them to contact their subject teacher or tutor for reassurance or help if they need it.

### **Wellbeing**

This week's wellbeing guide for students comes from Amelia Burdett, one of the school's sixth form Student Leadership Team. It will be sent out by tutors via school email this week to students in all year groups. Thank you to Amelia. Next week's guide will come, once again, from Charlie Stearn.

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### **Year 11 and Year 13 – tutor contact and signing out day**

Usually, at this time of year, Year 11 and Year 13 students would be moving into the last week or so of their usual school timetables and would be attending school for exams and some lessons only. With this in mind, and the exceptional circumstances of this academic year, tutors will no longer be communicating with Year 11 and Year 13 tutees **daily** by school email. From today, 11th May until the end of term, tutors will be emailing **weekly** instead. Please encourage your child to continue to check in with their tutor by school email regularly, feeding back on the work they have been doing at least once a week.

It is very unlikely that 'signing out' day will take place as usual on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020. This is when Year 11 and 13 students come into school to return any books, resources and locker keys prior to the summer holiday. We will be in touch again in due course about plans for this. However, in the meantime, if your child is in Year 11 or 13, has already emptied their locker and has a locker key to return to us, please post it back, labelled with your child's name, so that we can start to organise locker deposit refunds.

### **Online Safety**

A reminder that there is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online, which continues to be really important at the current time. Here are some useful links to help parents and carers;

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

### **Free School Meals**

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, you will receive your next voucher from the school by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. This voucher is for the four week period of time from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. If you have not received your voucher by Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, please contact us on [admin@highfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highfield.herts.sch.uk) to let us know.

If you are struggling financially, but your child is not currently in receipt of free school meals, please be aware that free school meals are available for students of parents or carers that receive certain benefits. Please use this link to see if you are eligible: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

As always, if you would like to get in touch, please contact [admin@highfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highfield.herts.sch.uk) and we will do our best to help.

Wishing you all the best of health.

Kind regards

Caitlin Macrae  
Headteacher