



29 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family have had a good week.

Let's celebrate what we are all achieving at this challenging time!

We appreciate that the current COVID-19 situation is so challenging for everyone, particularly living through the latest lockdown. We are also experiencing winter weather and sometimes low moods perhaps. We remain indebted to the critical workers who are playing such a key role in the national effort during the pandemic. I just wanted to thank you, our parents and carers, for the fantastic job you are doing in supporting your child, both with home learning but also, more importantly in all those other ways, with love, care and reassurance during these worrying and confusing times. Well done also to our students who are working so hard on their remote learning and also using their time well in taking part in other activities such as reading, being creative and learning a new skill or developing a new hobby. And finally thank you to our staff, for all their efforts. Many of them are overseeing their own children's home learning while simultaneously offering our students high quality lessons on Zoom and Google Classroom, whilst others are overseeing key support roles within school and helping to set up our lateral flow testing. It's a great team effort by everyone: students, parents/carers and staff! Let's recognise that and also not over-react when we face occasional setbacks or frustrations.

Progress Leader messages and assemblies on line

We appreciate that remote learning is not the same as being in school for students but staff are working hard to maintain the high quality pastoral provision we normally offer. I hope that you and your son/daughter are enjoying the weekly message from your child's Progress Leader on Google Classroom (GC). Similarly, students are asked to watch the on-line assemblies. This week's was from Mr Goldstraw from our History Department and was about the Holocaust to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. It was so moving and informative.

Tutors phoning their tutees at home

We are keen to make sure that students are looking after their wellbeing during these difficult times. We appreciate that lockdown is challenging in many ways. As you are aware, your child's form tutor has been contacting them via Google Classroom (GC) each week since the start of term for a check-in and asking your son/daughter to reply on GC. Where tutors have not heard back from a student, they have phoned home to speak to them. Next Wednesday, 3rd February, tutors will be phoning home to speak to any student they have not had a phone call with so far. Calls will last for approximately 5 minutes and will take place between 3.05pm and 4.45pm. There is no need for parents/carers to book an appointment time. Students will be informed via GC about these tutor phone calls and we would be grateful if you could remind your son/daughter to make themselves available between these times if they have not previously had a phone conversation with their tutor. The call will begin with a brief conversation with the parent/carer and the tutor will then ask to speak to the student, if he or she is with you (we appreciate that some parents/carers may not be working from home during the lockdown). I hope the students are finding this regular contact with their tutors helpful.



School events

Please bear with us whilst we re-draft our calendar in the light of this week's announcement regarding schools re-opening later than originally anticipated. We will inform you in due course of any revisions to dates for events such as Student Progress Evenings, Student Progress Reports and exam weeks.

Snow closure

As you are aware, we had to close the school site last Monday because of the dangerous condition of the site due to the heavy snowfall. We will always try to keep the School open if we can, but this is very much a health and safety decision. We will continue to communicate such decisions via messaging all parents/carers, giving you as much notice as possible. Of course, one blessing of remote learning, is that we are now in a position to set specific work for each lesson on 'Snow Days'. I am not saying all students welcome this development!

HLS stars of the week

We are all loving celebrating the fantastic work being produced and other achievements being accomplished by our students during the lockdown. This can be seen on our Twitter and Instagram pages. Please be sure to check it out!

Request for the School to witness passport and citizenship applications

Unfortunately, the School is not able to offer this service. Thank you for your understanding about this.

Do you need to get in touch with us?

Please use the contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk email address and indicate who your message should be forwarded to. We have been really grateful to receive further positive feedback about our remote learning provision and other messages about the way the School is managing the current situation during the lockdown. We also appreciate that sometimes you will have feedback on how particular aspects of our work can be improved. Whatever your feedback, we look forward to receiving it.

Keep safe.

Best wishes,

P.Kelly
Headteacher