



26th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Message from Mr Kelly - 26th March 2021

I hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well at this time. It's wonderful that spring is with us and a little more sunshine is appearing.

One minute's silence

I would like to begin by commending the students for the way they showed their respects for those who have passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic during the one minute's silence at midday on Monday.

I am sorry that we only informed you about this late on, but we had only received confirmation that this was an official event at very short notice. The students were an absolute credit to the School in the way they conducted themselves during this moment of reflection.

A huge well done to Year 13 and Year 11 students

We'd like to congratulate our current Year 13 and Year 11 students for their hard work and focus on their assessments. We appreciate that this is a very challenging time for them.

They are doing so well and they have really impressed their teachers.

Students and staff doing exceptionally well with face coverings in lessons

As a member of our Senior Leadership Team, I regularly walk around our school and visit lessons. I have been so impressed by how well our staff are coping with having to teach while wearing face coverings and how well the students have been coping with learning while wearing a face covering. It has been wonderful to see teachers and learning support assistants explaining, questioning and supporting so effectively and students engaging so well with their learning and focusing so well.

Students' arrival time on the school site and students gathering in groups on local streets

As you are aware, we have previously published the times we expect each year group to arrive on the School site. These are as follows:

Year group	Arrival on site
7	8.40
8	8.40
9	8.40
10	8.50
11	8.50
12-13	8.55



A number of students are arriving early outside of the School gates. Others are gathering in groups on local streets. This has led to some complaints from local neighbours and pedestrians who have found some of our students blocking their way or not distancing from them sufficiently. As you can imagine, this causes particular anxiety at the current time during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are continuously reminding our students to ensure other pedestrians can pass safely and to observe appropriate distancing.

Given that we do not want our students gathering on local streets or gathering in large groups outside the school gates, we have started to bring them on site five minutes before the aforementioned times. For example, Year 7s are called onto the site at Shanklin gate at approximately 8.35 and Year 10s at approximately 8.45. Being on the school site also ensures students are safe.

Please can you support us with this by talking to your son/daughter about this matter. We expect them to co-operate fully with duty staff who call them onto the site.

COVID-19 Test Results

May I please take the opportunity to remind you that should your son/daughter receive a **positive** COVID-19 test result (either via a LFD or PCR test) you should notify the School immediately by email to PositiveTest@highamlaneschool.co.uk or by telephone.

Stranger Danger

I am sorry that I have had to inform you about several Stranger Danger incidents over the last few days, as reported by our students and those from other schools. I appreciate that this can cause anxiety to your son/daughter and to parents/carers. As you can appreciate, it is designed to raise awareness of potential dangers and the need to be vigilant and also offer students very practical advice about what to do in such situations.

Please can I kindly ask that, **should your child experience a Stranger Danger incident, you report the matter to the Police immediately as well as informing the School.** It's important also to be able to provide information that is as specific as possible about the time, location and description of the individual(s). If the matter is reported to us by the student because it has happened on the way to school, we will inform you, as parent/carer, and we will report it to the Police. We will also ask the student for the details.

End of spring term

This term will finish for students at the current finishing time for each year group on Thursday, 1st April. Summer term will begin for students at the current start time for each year group on Tuesday, 20th April.

Thank you for all of your on-going support for your child/children and the School.

Yours sincerely,

P.Kelly
Headteacher

(KL-AA) A Message from Mr Kelly - 26 March 2021