

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Summary of the half term

I do hope you and your families remain well. We have had a very successful return to school after the unavoidable absence of students caused by Covid-19. In the main, our students have returned to school ready to learn. Behaviour and learning around the school is very good and students have demonstrated a very good commitment to their lessons.

We have had a focus on Oracy this term and this will continue throughout the year. I have already noticed a vast improvement in articulation and confidence from our students. Unlike any other school that I know of, the vast majority are able to recite the classic poem 'Ozymandias' by Percy Bysshe Shelley. Ask your child to give you a rendition. We will all be learning 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' by Alfred Lord Tennyson after the half term holidays. I have attached a copy of the poem to this letter for you to look at with your child.

I am keenly aware that due to covid 19 we cannot welcome as many visitors as we would like, however if you would like a tour of the school please contact us and we will see if we can arrange it in a socially distanced way. There is no better way than this to understand what your child's school day is like. Please also check out our new website, twitter and facebook pages for regular updates also.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support with your child's return to school. By ensuring that they have the correct uniform, equipment and response to covid measures, you have contributed to making this half term go very smoothly. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work and commitment of the teachers at HNS. They have all gone the extra mile to ensure that our children are safe and learning, often making personal sacrifices. We do appreciate all emails and phone calls of thanks and encouragement. They mean a lot.

Please keep safe and have a lovely half term.

Best wishes

Charlotte Whelan



Headteacher

Key dates for Autumn 2

Date /Time	Event
02/11/20	Creative writing competition
16/11/20	Road safety week
04/12/20 08:45-09:15	Parents ' Coffee morning 2 (post 16 focus) -This will be virtual. Please see separate letter
07/12/20 18:00-1900	Charities week Christmas concert
11/12/20 Last day of Term	Poetry recital Non school uniform day 1

Extra curricular activities

We are delighted to be offering extra curricular activities again after the half term break. In order to ensure that we are keeping everyone safe, we will initially be offering a limited number of weekly clubs. If you would like your child to take part in any of the clubs we will be offering please fill out [this](#) form, ensuring that all details are included and are correct. It is important that you sign up for your child as soon as possible as spaces are limited and will be allocated on a fair and equitable basis. We will keep you updated with any additional opportunities we will be offering.

DPR updates

A key way students will make progress is through engaging with the DPR. Students are expected to log on to the DPR everyday. DPR can be accessed using the username and password which has previously been shared with the students or through RM unify. Parents should use the DPR login details of their child to see how their child is progressing. Students should ensure all assignments are completed and undertake additional independent work using resources. If a student is self isolating, then they should access all of their lessons online and follow the same timetable they would follow in school.

Detention arrangements

First of all, I would like to thank you for your support and feedback with the changes implemented in school in terms of behaviour and safeguarding this year.

We are improving the way detentions are run from Monday 2nd November, making sure all students do their detention on time and get dismissed as soon as detentions are finished.

Here is a brief summary of how detention will start and finish:

When	Times	Details
Mondays and Wednesdays	Detentions start at 3.40	Detentions starting 10 minutes after the lessons finish will allow students and staff to make their way to the detention and get settled to start it.
Tuesdays and Thursdays	Detentions start at 2.50	
Note: Please allow 5 minutes for your child to exit detention as the dismissal process needs to take place		

Year 10 GCSE Exam Skills Sessions

Parents of students in Year 10 will shortly receive a letter detailing GCSE Exam Skills sessions that we are providing for students in Year 10, to prepare them best for their GCSEs in summer 2020. Please read this letter carefully and we thank you in advance for supporting us to ensure your child attends these Exam Skills sessions after school. Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Quinn Larkin at caralarkin@hackneynewschoolcst.org.

Blended Learning

We are fully prepared to continue teaching your child in the event of another lockdown due to Covid-19. We have also put in place measures to ensure that if your child has to self-isolate their learning isn't affected. In the event your child has to self-isolate we will send you a letter outlining the steps your child should take to continue learning from home. Central to all our plans is the Dynamic Progress Report software (the school's online learning portal) where all lesson materials and resources will be saved for your child to access remotely should they need to. As such, please ensure you know your child's username and login details, so you can monitor their progress, alongside the assignments being set for them and completed. Should you have any questions or queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Learning.

Covid 19 updates

Please note we will be continuing with the staggered school day after half term. Thank you for your support with the following:

- Ensuring your child has a mask for school
- Providing hand sanitizer for your child
- Encouraging your child to return home immediately after school

Please note the school day will finish for all students between 12:20 and 12:30 on Fridays going forward.

Attendance updates

Students are expected to be in school every day unless they are self isolating or extremely unwell. Just a reminder that in order to ensure the health and safety of all students and maintain accurate attendance records, all parents/carers must:

- Phone the school absence line on 020 7617 7181 before 8.30am each day with an explanation of your child's absence.
- Ensure your child arrives in school at 8.10am (years 7, 8 and 9) or 8:30am (years 10 and 11) otherwise they will be marked as late and issued a detention

School Governance

The Local School Board has a vacancy for a parent representative. The role of a local school board member is both interesting and crucial to maintaining high standards at the school. It involves attending one meeting every half term and the opportunity to get involved in wider school life. To be a parent member you must have a child currently attending the school. We have no preference as to what specific skills or experience the candidate should have but we are looking to complement the skills of existing members. If there are more candidates than vacancies then a ballot will be organised. If you wish to put yourself forward, please register an expression of interest, along with a CV in the first instance with the Headteacher's PA, Grace Travis by email, gracetravis@hackneynewschoolcst.org. Grace can also be contacted should you want more information about what being an LSB member involves.

Equipment Reminder

Please note that your child should have the following every day for school

3 pens
2 pencils
One ruler
One mask
Hand sanitizer

If your child does not have the items, they are available to buy every morning at the cost of 10p an item. Any child without the correct equipment will be issued with a detention. Thank you for your support.

The Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

I

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.
“Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!” he said.
Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.

II

“Forward, the Light Brigade!”
Was there a man dismayed?
Not though the soldier knew
 Someone had blundered.
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die.
Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.

III

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
 Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of hell
 Rode the six hundred.

IV

Flashed all their sabres bare,
Flashed as they turned in air
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
 All the world wondered.
Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right through the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reeled from the sabre stroke
 Shattered and sundered.
Then they rode back, but not
 Not the six hundred.

V

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
 Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell.
They that had fought so well
Came through the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of hell,
All that was left of them,
 Left of six hundred.

VI

When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made!
 All the world wondered.
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
 Noble six hundred!