

2nd December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: End of Term Message from the Headteacher and End of Term Arrangements

The School's Journey

I cannot believe it is December already - but what a year it has been. In my twenty years working in schools and my four years of Headship I have never known a year like it. One reason would certainly be due to covid- 19 and all of its implications and the other would be the quick transformation that the school has experienced in such a short period of time.

Behaviour has improved considerably. The children at HNS are better behaved now than a lot of schools that I have both worked in and visited. This is due to our clear behaviour policy, strong teachers and regular reminders of expectations. Exclusions are the lowest they have ever been in the history of the school. Most children are doing the right thing first time every time which creates a culture where they can learn and mature without hindrance. I am very proud of them.

Lessons are improving in content and challenge. We have a team of middle and senior leaders who are extremely skilled in their subjects and are currently working incredibly hard to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for your children.

Despite covid implications, attendance has improved. The majority of students come to school every day unless they are isolating. Our dedicated pastoral team works very hard with families to ensure good attendance and children are attending school and learning which means that they achieve in their lessons.

We have been commended nationally and locally by our response to covid. Our risk assessment and the precautions taken as well as our attention to detail means that our incidences of covid have been low and the numbers that have needed to isolate have been limited. All students who are isolating have been able to join their lessons live from home and parents have been incredibly grateful for the minimal disruption to learning .

All of this has only been possible by our staff going above and beyond every single day. They have provided blended learning, many varied duties and many follow up actions to ensure that children can continue learning in the pandemic. For this reason **I intend to end school for the term at the end of the day on Thursday 10th December 2020** rather than Friday 11th December 2020 in order to give the time back to staff to ensure that they are able to catch up on important training activities to ensure we maintain continuity of delivery throughout the final stages of the pandemic in the spring.

Arrangements for Thursday 10th December 2020

- School will finish at 2:40pm for most students.
- Friday detentions will be transferred to Thursday after school.
- There will be no intervention for year 11 that day.
- It is a non- uniform day for students - with a Christmas theme. In exchange we ask students to bring in £1 or a donation to the foodbank.

Arrangements for Friday 11th December 2020

- There is no school. This will not affect your child's attendance record.
- Any families who would like their child to attend school for childcare reasons can send them in between 8:30am and 12:30pm. Please let us know they are attending by calling the school office or emailing info@hackneynewschoolcst.org before Monday 7th December.
- Your child should use their time logging on to the resources section of the DPR in subjects where they are 'emerging' or 'developing' in their judgements. When they complete the work, they should upload it to the DPR.

Other relevant information

- You will shortly receive an outline of our plans for charities week. This year we are again supporting Hackney Foodbank. If possible please put some extra tins of food in your weekly shop to support our community.
- Year 11 exam revision classes will be going ahead week beginning 14th December. Please see the separate letter.
- If your child is entitled to free school meals, please look out for the email from our Office Manager with instructions.
- School returns on Monday 4th January 2020. Students should attend at the usual time in full school uniform.
- Clubs will be starting up again in January. Please look out for the programme and ensure that your child signs up for what they would like to do. Places will be limited but we will attempt to cater for all children who are interested.
- Breakfast club resumes next term also. Please look out for the letter with the information of how to sign up.
- School tours will resume every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in a socially distanced way. They take place between 8:30am and 9:30am. I strongly encourage you to come and have a look at the school improvements and see our children in lessons. If you would like to attend please contact the school office to book.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout 2020 and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Charlotte Whelan

Headteacher