



Highlands School News

13 MARCH 2020

Headteacher's News

Dear parents, carers and members of the school community,

Yesterday the Government announced the UK has moved to the 'delay' phase of its plan to tackle Coronavirus. In preparation for the announcement, this week I have been in regular communication with the Highlands School Governing Body and have attended meetings with the Chief Executive and the Director of Education of Enfield Council. I am writing to you to inform you of the measures we are taking at Highlands School in response to Government guidance and what contingencies we have in place in the eventuality of school closure.



To make sure Highlands School is clean and any infection is less likely to be spread around the school, our PFI partners Pinnacle, who are responsible for facilities management, have increased the cleaning of the site with particular focus on toilets and eating areas. They are routinely wiping door handles and, if required, will carry out a deep clean of the building. To avoid the spread of the virus the main advice from Government remains regular handwashing for 20 seconds with soap.

The UK's chief medical adviser Prof Chris Whitty yesterday said that anyone who develops a persistent cough or fever should self isolate for a period of seven days. This is the guidance that we are giving to staff and students. Normal routines for informing the school of student absence should be followed.

Students may bring hand sanitiser to school and use it. The UK Government document 'COVID-19: guidance for educational settings' (link below), is clear that, "Face masks for the general public, pupils or students, or staff are not recommended to protect from infection, as there is no evidence of benefit from their use outside healthcare environments." Therefore, they will not be allowed in school.

Contingencies in the event of confirmed cases of Coronavirus at Highlands School or in the event of partial or full school closure.

'COVID-19: guidance for educational settings' states that, in the event of a confirmed case, 'a risk assessment will be undertaken by the educational establishment with advice from the local Health Protection Team. In most cases, closure of the childcare or education setting will be unnecessary but this will be a local decision based on various factors such as establishment size and pupil mixing.' If the school does have a confirmed case Pinnacle will carry out a deep clean of the school before it reopens.

Partial closure of school due to staff absence

Please note that in the event of partial or full school closure, all communication with parents will be through email and the school website.

It is possible that, although we will not be instructed to close by Public Health England, we may find it difficult to run the school as normal. This would be, for example, if we did not have enough staff to run the school because of absence through illness or dependency.

Continued overleaf

In these circumstances:

- We remain open for as many year groups as possible, with particular focus on years 10, 11 and 13 as they have GCSE and A-level examinations in May and June.
- If school is not fully open we will try to highlight the risk of partial closure the day before.
- If, on any day, the school cannot fully open, we will inform students and parents by 7.45am.

Full closure of Highlands School

If the Government closes all schools or if PHE advises Highlands to close we will inform parents by email and on the school website. Staff may or may not be allowed to attend school in this eventuality but, either way, Highlands School staff will be working hard to ensure the impact of the closure on students' learning is kept to a minimum. Please carefully read the information below about how students will be supported in the eventuality of school closure:

Safeguarding:

Highlands will maintain its commitment to safeguarding students. Emergency contacts to report safeguarding concerns will be published and we will make regular checks on our most vulnerable students.

Learning:

This morning the UK's chief medical adviser Prof Chris Whitty said that if schools close, they could close for a protracted period of time. Photocopying resources and work for such a prolonged period of time is not practical, particularly as we may have very little notice if we have to shut. We will be using the school's Google domain, the 'G Suite', as the primary means of setting and monitoring work.

The G Suite includes Gmail, the Google Drive, Google Classroom and access to the Google versions of Word, PowerPoint and Excel. If the school closes teachers will be expected to log on daily and set work for the classes they would normally be teaching. Resources can be uploaded. Students can ask questions and have them answered. Work can be electronically submitted and marked. The school can move to the G Suite at very short notice and we can teach using the G Suite for as long as the school remains closed.

What can parents and carers do to support this?

Highlands students use the G Suite in all of their computing lessons and in some other subjects so they are familiar with it. For use at home, students will need access to the internet and to a suitable device (laptop, computer or tablet). If internet access or access to a suitable device is likely to be a problem in the event of school closure, please email Mr Jem Osman, the assistant headteacher overseeing this part of the contingency plan. Mr Osman's email address is: osmanj@highlearn.uk.

Finally, to fully train all staff in the use of the G Suite and to start moving our resources into the Google Drive, Highlands is cancelling the year 12 parents' evening on Wednesday 18th March, next week. This will allow all of our staff to remain in school for an extended period of time to make sure that, in the eventuality of school closure, learning can immediately move online, uninterrupted, for as long as the school might be closed. Staff members will email year 12 parents with important information and we will rearrange the parents' evening in due course.

I would like to thank students and the school community for their calm and stoic response to the Coronavirus so far. Please monitor the school website and emails for further updates.

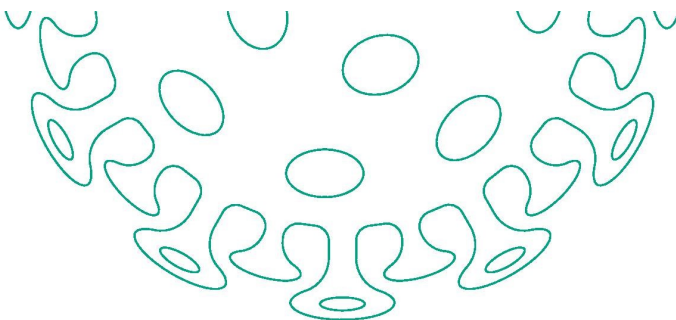
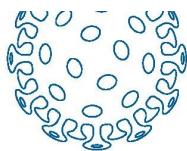
Mr McInerney
Headteacher

Link to 'COVID-19: guidance for educational settings':

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>



Public Health
England



Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it
with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it
by washing
your hands with
soap & water or
hand sanitiser

You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser



**After breaks
& sport
activities**



**Before
cooking
& eating**



**SCHOOL
ETC.**
On arrival at
any childcare
or educational
setting



**After using
the toilet**



**Before
leaving
home**



Try not to touch your
eyes, nose, and mouth
with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come
into contact with your mouth
such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items
such as bedding, dishes,
pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading with our e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene lesson plans for KS1, 2 and 3: campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools

What should you do if you feel unwell?

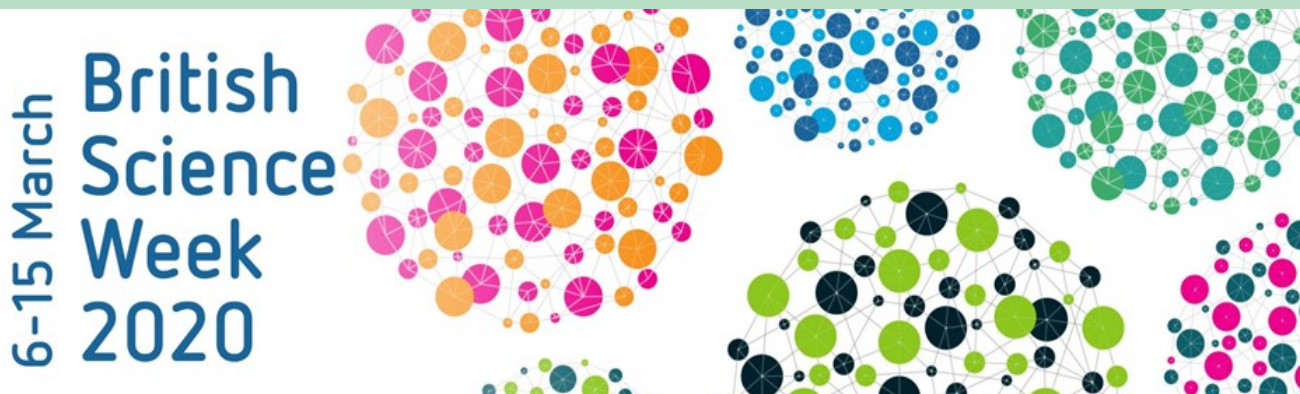
Keep away from others and stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call **NHS 111** for advice. Follow the UK Government advice for childcare or educational settings [gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19). Parents can visit **NHS.UK** to find out more information. Teachers and support staff should follow the UK Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Iran, specific lockdown areas in northern Italy, special care zones in South Korea or Hubei province China (returned in the past 14 days) should self isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days. See **NHS.UK** for advice on coronavirus.

If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately





Science Week Competition

To celebrate Science Week (6th – 15th March) Highlands School Science faculty are holding a competition to design a solution to a 21st century problem. We welcome all entries that offer a creative solution to any 21st century problem, whether it tackles climate change, antibiotic resistance, viral outbreaks and an aging population – be as imaginative as you like! Each project must consider what the problem is, and explain how their invention will solve it. This can be in the form of an essay, poster, model, or power point presentation.

The winner in each year group will receive **50 house points** for themselves, plus **250 house points** for their house and a **chocolate prize**. The runner up in each year group will receive **25 house points** for themselves, plus **100 house points** for their house and a **small chocolate prize**. There will also be one overall winner who will receive a **£50 to spend** in the Science Museum or Natural History Museum shop.

The deadline for entries will be the 20th March 2020, and the winners will be announced in end of term assemblies. Entries can be handed to any science teacher or Miss Al-Obaidi directly. Years 7 and 8 will also be completing an engineering project to build a 'rubber band racer' to mark the week. Be sure to check out the Science faculty corridors for lots of interesting things to see!

Miss Al-Obaidi, Head of Science Faculty



HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students:

Emma Lord, Yasmin Campbell, Claudia Sanjurjo Pfitzmann, Henna Sethi
Ellie James, Rosalina Hurst, Beni Iviara, Molly Kain, Maya Szymecka, Laura Parris,
Baran Armstrong, Ali Abdullahi, Tyreece Green-Barban, Gabriel Nyarko-Duodu.

Next week is Week A

(Week beginning 16.3.20)

Canteen Price List

There is now an updated price list for food in the canteen, now available on the Pastoral page of the school website.

Link below:

<http://www.highlands.enfield.sch.uk/page/?title=Pastoral+Care&pid=44>

Messages from the School Office

Letters Home: Whole year/whole school letters sent home can usually be located on the 'letters home' page of the school website. Recent letters sent or emailed home include the following:

- 13.3.20 Coronavirus letter to Parents



Upcoming Events



CANCELLED/To be rescheduled

Year 12 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 18 March

Easter Holidays
Monday 6 April - Friday 17 April

Start of Summer Term
Students return to school on
Monday 20 April (Week B)



Important note from the Safeguarding Team:

Please could you let us know for Safeguarding and Exam purposes, any changes in home circumstances as soon as possible, i.e. phone numbers, addresses or if your child is being temporarily cared for by a friend or relative.

Thank you, Safeguarding Team

As part of the Olympiad Challenge, students are to read a book recommended by their English Teacher. Each month of this year, English Teachers will be recommending a book, which will be displayed on the front desk in the library.

Please see below the recommended books for March.

Olympiad 

Recommendations for **March**

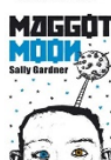
Mrs Taylor

Noughts & Crosses



Mrs Selim

Maggot Moon



LRC Assistant

Year 7 and 8 Dance News

Well done to all the students in Year 7 and 8 who have now filmed their assessments and performed their dance to either the Lion King or Aladdin. The performances went really well and the students were mainly concentrating on developing their skills in regards to their use of focus, projection and facial expressions.



The students are now moving forward with their dance education and answering the fertile question of 'What makes an effective piece of choreography?', during which we will be exploring the use of various dynamics in dance and contact work.

Please note: dance shoes are still available and can be ordered by coming to see Miss Brown. Students are welcome to dance in their bare feet or wear suitable soft dance shoes. No socks, trainers or plimsolls are allowed to be worn. Many thanks.



Mary Poppins Trip

Many thanks for all the parents who paid for the Mary Poppins trip on 10th June. I am pleased that we will definitely be running a second trip and this is now full.

I will be in touch with the exact date for the second trip soon. We have had problems making large school bookings with the theatre this year as the theatres are now excluding school groups from booking during several months of the year. However, as soon as we have a date we will contact parents of students on the waiting list for the second trip.

Many thanks also to the staff who have offered to give up two nights of their own time to accompany the students on the trips.

Miss Brown



31st March - GCSE Music and GCSE Dance Recital

Please join us on Tuesday 31st March at 6:30pm in the main hall at Highlands School for the annual GCSE music and GCSE dance recital. During this recital you will be able to see and hear some of the fantastic and inspiring GCSE pieces created by this years exam cohort. The Year 10 students will be performing extracts from the pieces they submitted to the examination board.

It is highly recommended that prospective parents and students who intent to undertake a GCSE Music or GCSE Dance course in the near future attend to gain knowledge of the style and quality of the work created on these courses.

Tickets are available on the door priced £4 each. There will be a small refreshments stand during the interval for lights snacks and drinks. Many thanks for supporting this event.

Mrs Miller (Head of Music) and Miss Brown (Head of Dance)