



# Highlands School News



28 August 2020



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Over the past few weeks students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have received their GCSE and A level results. I am sure that all members of the school community have followed the changes that the government asked Ofqual to make - moving from grades calculated by algorithm to the centre assessed grades that we submitted to the exam board in the summer. We support that decision. However, the fact that many of our year 13 students had gone through the process of receiving grades that had been moved down by Ofqual and then waited for days before learning that the centre assessed grades would be restored was distressing and traumatic. We are pleased so many of our students have now been accepted into their first choice or insurance university courses and we wish them all the best as they start the next part of their educational journey. Our GCSE students were awarded their centre assessed grades a week after the A level students, we are pleased that so many of them have been accepted onto the post 16 courses/pathways that they wanted. A great many students are staying at our sixth form this year and we look forward to welcoming those students back on September 8th.

Please carefully read the contents of this newsletter as it includes arrangements for the start of term, changes to the school day brought about by government guidance on school reopening and the highlights of our new behaviour policy.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer holidays and I look forward to seeing all students back at school in September.

Vincent McLnerney, Headteacher





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## SEPTEMBER REOPENING PLAN

**Thursday 3rd September** - school is closed to students for staff INSET day.

**Friday 4th September** - school is closed to students for staff INSET day.

**Monday 7th September** - year 7 induction day from 10.00 a.m. - 15.30 p.m. School closed to all other students.

**Tuesday 8th September**

- Year 7 - induction day 10.00 a.m. - 15.30 p.m.
- Year 12 - induction day 8.40 a.m. - 14.30 p.m.
- Year 13 - induction day 9.45 a.m. - 14.30 p.m.

**Wednesday 9th September**

- Year 7 - induction day - 10.00 a.m. - 15.30 p.m.
- Year 8 - induction session- 9.35 a.m. - 11.35 a.m.
- Year 9 - induction session- 9.15 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.
- Year 10 - induction session- 8.55 a.m. - 10.55 a.m.
- Year 11 - induction session - 8.35 a.m. - 10.35 a.m.
- Year 12 - bespoke timetable - 8.40 a.m. - 14:30 p.m.
- Year 13 - bespoke timetable - 8.40 a.m. - 14:30 p.m.

Students should arrive at school punctually at the assigned time and not before, where they will be asked to line up and sanitise their hands before going to a welcome assembly and a tutor time session focused on our new behaviour policy. Students must be in full school uniform for their induction session. On arrival students will be directed to their line up points.

**Thursday 10th September** - lessons begin for years 7,10,11,12,13 as per the timetable on page 3. Year 8 and 9 will continue with their remote curriculum.

**Friday 11th September** - all year groups in school for lessons, as per timetable on page 3.

Students must be in full school uniform from their induction sessions onwards.

## THE SCHOOL DAY IN SEPTEMBER

When normal teaching resumes in September we will be making some changes to our daily school operations. Below is an overview of some of the changes. The explanation below deals with the timetable and timings of the school day. The measures we are taking to keep staff and students safe, the risk assessment and the reopening guidance can be read [HERE](#).

**Our decisions around school opening have been underpinned by the following principles:**

1. We will be compliant with government guidance around the prevention of infection and in response to suspected and confirmed cases of Covid 19.
2. The curriculum will not be narrowed; students will take the same number of subjects and options as before the Covid 19 outbreak.
3. The school will use a blended learning approach so that students can work at home to supplement face to face teaching and in lieu of it should schools be shut again.
4. The school will use zoning for students in years 7 and 8.
5. The school will stagger the start and end of the day.
6. The school will ensure that year groups have lunch at a time and in a space that means they are separate from other year groups.
7. The school will reduce movement and overall interactions by combining student break and lunch into one session and by ceasing to hold form time in the morning.



## SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	SF
<b>Arrive at school</b>	09:35	09:35	09:35	08:30	08:30	08:30
<b>Lesson start time</b>	09:45	09:45	09:45	08:40	08:40	08:40
<b>Depart school</b>	15:35 (14:30 on Wednesday)	15:35 (14:30 on Wednesday)	15:35 (14:30 on Wednesday)	14:30 (13:25 on Wednesday)	14:30 (13:25 on Wednesday)	14:30 (13:25 on Wednesday)

*Students in after school detention will not leave school at the times above. Parents/carers will be notified by 13.30 if their child is in detention that day.*

*Students in years 10, 11 and the sixth form will, on occasion, be required to remain in school to attend catch up intervention or revision sessions from 14:30.*

*On Wednesdays school ends early for staff professional development. School will end for year 10, 11 and the sixth form at 13:25 (although intervention may take place until 14:30). School will end for year 7, 8 and 9 at 14:30. Once it is safe to do so our Ed-Extra programme will recommence, which will provide an extra-curricular programme to all students in year 7 and students in other year groups. From this point year 7 students will be required to stay on site attending Ed Extra activities until 15:30.*

## THE SCHOOL DAY, SEPTEMBER 2020

Session	Starts	Ends	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	SF
			<i>Arrival at school time - 09.35. This is for line up and hand sanitising procedures</i>			<i>Arrival at school time - 08.30. This is for line up and hand sanitising procedures</i>		
Session 1*	8:40	9:45				P1	P1	P1
Session 2	9:45	10:50	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2
Session 3	10:50	11:55	P3	P3	P3	P3	P3	P3
Session 4**	11:55	13:25	P4 middle lunch	P4 late lunch	P4 late lunch	early lunch P4	early lunch P4	early lunch P4
Session 5	13:25	14:30	P5	P5	P5	P5	P5	P5
Session 6*	14:30	15:35	P1	P1	P1			
<i>On Wednesdays: Year 10, 11 and sixth form students will end their lessons at 13:25. Year 7, 8 and 9 students will end their lessons at 14:30. Staff CPD will start at 14:45 and end at 15:45.</i>								

**\*\*Lunch**



Session 4 is an hour and a half long and will contain period 4 and lunch. To keep students safe, year groups have lunch at different times and in different locations. Years 10, 11 and the sixth form will have lunch during the first half hour of session 4 and then will go to their classroom for period 4. Year 7 students will start period 4, leave the lesson for thirty minutes for lunch, and then return for the last part of the lesson, years 8 and 9 will be taught their period 4 lesson and then will go for lunch for the final part of session 4. Students who wish to bring packed lunch may continue to do so.

Session 4	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	SF
11:55-12:25	P4 lesson	P4 lesson	P4 lesson	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:25-12:55	Lunch	P4 lesson	P4 lesson	P4 lesson	P4 lesson	P4 lesson
12:55-13:25	P4 lesson	Lunch	Lunch	P4 lesson	P4 lesson	P4 lesson

## ZONING

Year 7 will have all of their lessons in one part of the school and will not mix with other year groups. They will dine alone.

Year 8 will have all of their lessons in one part of the school.

Years 9, 10, 11 will be allocated separate eating areas and be admitted to school through their own entrance in the morning. However, as they all need to use specialist classrooms and facilities for their GCSEs and A levels they will be able to move through the school during the day. We have put measures in place to reduce risks during movement throughout the school. More details on the ways in which the school will minimise risks can be found in our guidance documents and risk assessment, which can be found [HERE](#).

## ADDITIONAL CHANGES

**As part of our COVID 19 strategy we will also be making the following changes:**

- ❗ Lockers will not be in use for now due to the way in which we have zoned the school. Students will need to ensure they come to school each day with the relevant books and equipment.
- ❗ On the days when students have PE they should arrive at school in their PE kit and they will remain in their PE kit for the entire day. This is due to the changing rooms being out of use.
- ❗ The biometric system for the school canteen and library will not be in use. Students will instead show their ID card attached to their lanyard (see below for further information).

We will review these arrangements at half term.

**We have also introduced:**

Coloured lanyards and identification cards for all students. Each year group will have a specific colour lanyard, which will be distributed to all students during their induction day. Students will be expected to wear these at all times while in school. We have introduced lanyards to support our zoning and staggered start and end time system, as the lanyards will enable us to identify which year group each student is in. If a student forgets their lanyard, this will be managed the same way that the school manages other school uniform concerns. If a student loses their lanyard there will be a small charge for a replacement.

## NEW RULES ON FACE MASKS



Starting from the induction day, it will be mandatory for students in years 9 to 13, to wear a face mask while in corridors. This is as a safety measure while students in the years 9 to 13 zone transition between lessons.



Years 7 & 8 students will remain in the same classroom for the vast majority of their lessons and therefore will not be mixing with other year groups. However, should they wish to wear a face mask on the few occasions where they are mixing with other year groups in the corridor, they may do so.



Face masks must not be worn in classrooms.



A member of staff reserves the right to ask a student to remove their face mask in order to identify them, while implementing safety measures.



The type of face masks worn must follow the guidelines below:



**Blue surgical masks**



**Reusable, material face masks. Only in: black, grey, dark green and white.**



**No patterned face masks, scarfs or bandanas are permitted.**

*We hope that parents/carers and students will find this extra safety measure reassuring.*

## BEHAVIOUR POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

Last term we shared our new [behaviour policy](#) and parent [information pack](#). We encourage all parents/carers to read these documents over the summer in particular the parent information pack. We would like to bring parents/carers attention the following important points:

**Footwear** - only smart black leather (or leather look) shoes are permitted. This means that trainers, Converse, Air Force 1 and any other canvas shoes are not permitted. Parents/carers have asked if leather Kickers are permitted. These are permitted as long as they are plain black shoes and not boots or the trainer variety of kickers (see photos below).

*Below are some examples of shoes which are/are not acceptable. The headteacher reserves the right to determine which shoes are acceptable and which are not, to be in line with our policy.*

### ACCEPTABLE



### NOT ACCEPTABLE



**Mobile phones** - are not permitted anywhere on the school grounds. This means anywhere within the school gates. Students seen with their phone or if a phone rings or pings while on site, will have their phone confiscated and will receive a detention. On the first occurrence of a mobile confiscation the student will be issued with a 40 minute on the day detention. If the phone is confiscated **before lunch time**, it can be collected by the student that day, after the student has completed their detention. If the phone is confiscated **after lunch time**, it can be collected the next day after the student has completed their detention. On the second occurrence of mobile phone confiscation a parent/carer (or any other adult nominated by the parents/carers) will have to collect the mobile phone after a minimum period of **two school days** from the day of confiscation. On the third and all subsequent occurrences of mobile phone confiscation a parent/carer will be required to collect the phone after a minimum period of **three school days** from the day of confiscation. A meeting with the head of year or the behaviour mentor will also be required.

Our mobile phone policy extends to smart watches, earphones, airpods, ipods and all electronic devices.

**Uniform** - students are expected to be in full school uniform, with shirts tucked in, from the day students arrive for their induction. There will be a member of staff on duty each morning conducting uniform checks. If students are not in the appropriate uniform the member of staff on duty will issue an appropriate sanction. If there is an exceptional and unavoidable reason why a student is not in the appropriate uniform, then parents/carers should email the school for the attention of the behaviour mentor for their child's year group by 8.20 a.m. explaining the circumstances. Year 12 and year 13 are required to follow the sixth form dress code.

Please can students, parents/carers also be aware that the following will not be permitted and this will be enforced from the induction day onwards.

- No nail varnish, nail extensions or any type of false nails.
- No brightly dyed hair or hair extensions.
- No shaved patterned hairstyles or eyebrows.
- Only one pair of stud earrings. No other jewellery (apart from a religious symbol worn under the shirt).
- No makeup other than light face makeup. No eye make up, lipstick or lip gloss etc. Lip gloss is a banned item.

**Detentions** - All detentions issued before 13.25 p.m. will be served on the day the detention is issued. All detentions issued after 13.25 p.m. will be served the next day. Parents/carers will be notified by 13.30 p.m. if their child has a detention that day.

## EXAM RESULTS

We would like to congratulate all our A level and GCSE students who received their results last week. After what has been a particularly challenging year it was great to see so many of you again on results day. We are immensely proud of what you have achieved and delighted that so many of you are pursuing the next stage of your education pathway at your chosen destination. This is a testament to all your hard work, determination, and resilience throughout your time at Highlands.

Below are a selection of images from A-level and GCSE results day(s).

### GCSE RESULTS DAY





A LEVEL RESULTS DAY

Dan Thomas  
Chemical Engineering  
Loughborough University



CONGRATULATIONS

Samantha Malyon  
Geography and Sports Science  
Loughborough University

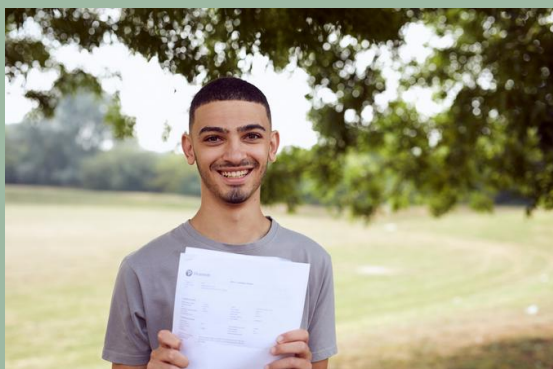


Andre Grant  
Finance, Accounting and Management  
University of Nottingham





Panny Nicolaou  
**HR Apprenticeship**



Christina Georgiou  
**Film and Television**  
**University of the Arts London**

