



Highlands School News



22 January 2021



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We are now halfway through the first half-term of 2021. This week we held assemblies for all year groups, many thanks to the hundreds of students who attended.

Next week's assemblies will be marking Holocaust Memorial Week. We expect all students to attend assemblies, as they are an important part of our remote learning provision.

This Wednesday we held our first remote parents' evening, on Schoolcloud. All but a handful of year 11 families attended. We would like to thank families for taking the time to sign up to the software and book in the appointments.

Next week we will hold 11 post-16 meetings. Parents' evenings for all other year groups will follow over the course of the next term and a half.

In response to feedback from parents, carers and students, we made some adjustments to our remote learning provision this week. We asked teachers of years 7 and 8 to reduce the amount of work being set for narrated lessons, as some students in these year groups were finding the workload a bit overwhelming.

We have asked teachers to set clear assignment deadlines for work so that a list of assignments due to be completed by students each day appears clearly in Google classrooms each morning. We are also increasing the number of live lessons, or live question and answer sessions that students are experiencing. We hope to soon have a mix of live and pre-recorded teaching for all students.

We know that lockdown has been difficult for some families, please know that any member of the school community can reach out to us via our staysafe@highlearn.uk email address.

Finally, please remember to read the newsletter every Friday as this is the main way that we communicate on all issues with parents, carers and the wider school community.

Mr McInerney
Headteacher
Highlands School



@Highlands_sch



@highlandssch

Curriculum provision for students working from home

Throughout the pandemic, Highlands School students will have utilised a variety of different learning branches. These branches are:

- remote learning (for those studying at home)
- supervised learning (for those who are accessing remote learning at school)
- newsletter (for all our community)
- face to face learning (for all year groups)

Different branches grow and recede at different points. Throughout the lockdown in spring, the vast majority of our students were learning through our remote learning provision. We will be using this branch for your child when they work at home.

Our remote learning principles:

- students have access to the same high-quality lesson resources that they would do when in school
- students can engage in a dialogue with their teachers
- there is minimum disruption to a student's timetable (sequence and number of lessons)
- students feel reassured, safe and able to organise their time effectively

The remote learning provision we have in place is underpinned by these principles. Your child already has access to our learning portal, Google classroom, and this will be the vehicle through which their learning will be delivered.

Most lessons will be pre-recorded and either uploaded onto their relevant Google classroom that morning, or scheduled to be released at the time that lesson would take place. All your child needs to do is follow their timetable and log onto the relevant Google classroom, ideally, at the time the lesson would usually take place.

Live and pre-recorded lessons

There is not a strong evidence base to suggest that live lessons are more effective than pre-recorded lessons and the school aims to provide a blended learning experience to all students. Please note that not all staff are in a position to deliver live lessons. Whether the lesson is live or uploaded, your child will be provided with high-quality direct instruction at the time the lesson would normally be scheduled to take place. Any live lessons will be recorded and shared on Google classroom for your child to access should they not be able to access them at the time of delivery. If a teacher chooses to do a live lesson they will notify your child by email the night before the lesson is due to take place. This will give your child a chance to prepare themselves with the appropriate technology.

Live lesson protocol:

If your child is attending a live lesson they must ensure that they follow the expectations below. These expectations will also be shared with them directly in an email. If they do not follow these expectations they may be removed from the lesson by the teacher.

- students should be appropriately dressed (eg - no nightwear)
- students should have cameras turned off at all times
- students should behave appropriately, following the school's behaviour policy
- students' microphones should remain muted from the start of the lesson and only switched on if instructed by the teacher
- the chat feature should only be used if instructed by the class teacher

Head of year email:

If for some reason, your child notices that their learning is missing, they should contact their head of year by email immediately to let them know. Please also feel free to give us feedback, as it helps us improve our remote learning provision.

Year 7

Ms Halstead halsteadr@highlearn.uk

Mr Moustafa moustafaK@highlearn.uk

Year 8

Mr Joseph josephr@highlearn.uk

Ms Junker junkern@highlearn.uk

Year 9

Ms Berrill berrillv@highlearn.uk

Year 10

Ms Ace acen@highlearn.uk

Year 11

Ms Murdock murdockv@highlearn.uk

Year 12

Ms Theodorou theodorouj@highlearn.uk

Year 13

Ms Sheikh sheikhm@highlearn.uk

Pastoral provision

Key principles for pastoral provision:

- the school will be open for students who are in the vulnerable category as defined by the DfE, and for the children of key worker parents
- mentoring and counselling for the most vulnerable students will take place virtually
- safeguarding systems will be in place
- heads of year will oversee the pastoral needs of their year group during remote learning
- form tutors will conduct phone call welfare checks on students in their tutor groups

Tutor phone calls:

- tutors will carry out welfare phone calls to all members of their tutor groups
- parents/carers should expect a phone call approximately once every three weeks
- during the call, the form tutor will ask to speak to the student
- parent/carers and students can request a phone call from their form tutor or head of year by emailing the form tutor or head of year directly, or by emailing staysafe@highlearn.uk

Assemblies

The weekly assembly will be uploaded to each tutor group's Google classroom and students will be expected to engage with this.

PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education)

From Wednesday 20th January we will launch a PSHE curriculum. These lessons will be uploaded every Wednesday morning and students should complete this work on a Wednesday as this is the day when all students have tutor time.

Year group support

- Heads of year will check-in and communicate with their year groups via Google classroom.
- Students can email their form tutors or heads of year for support.
- Heads of year will schedule virtual drop-in sessions twice a week for students to have some pastoral time with their head of year and other students in the year group. Although these sessions are optional, we encourage students to attend for well-being purposes.
- Head of year contact names and email addresses can be found in the above section on remote learning.

Vulnerable student and key worker on-site provision

If your child currently accesses the key worker/vulnerable pupil provision and there are any changes to this, please email jesuthasanc@highlearn.uk

School counselling

The school counsellor will move all counselling appointments to video or phone call appointments.

Students who are not currently seen by the school counsellor, but would like the support of our counsellor should email staysafe@highlearn.uk

Mentoring

Key workers will offer virtual mentoring sessions for students on their caseload.

Free school meal students

We will be participating in the local and national voucher scheme for students entitled to free school meals. Further details are being emailed to the parents/carers of students on our free school meal register.

Safeguarding

- There will be a safeguarding team available each day.
- Our staysafe@highlearn.uk email address will be checked throughout the day.
- Students and parents/carers can use this email address for any safeguarding or welfare concerns.

IT support for students working from home

Our IT team will be working during office hours and can be contacted on the email address itstudent@highlearn.uk. They can help with login problems that can not be resolved online.

There are several initiatives in place to support IT provision for home learning and resources are beginning to reach school for distribution.

Students must have:

- a suitable device to access the internet with a keyboard. This may be windows or chrome based laptop, a tablet device or other device with a built-in web browser. Some games consoles offer browser access but will need a keyboard to fully engage with the material.
- a connection to the internet. The use of video can increase the data consumed.

If either of these are proving a barrier to learning it is important that you communicate with the school. We have already given out Chromebooks to support learning at home and have just received a further batch from the government. We have a small number of mobile data devices that generate local wifi and provide internet access.

If you wish to discuss any issues relating to the accessibility or affordability of internet access or devices please contact the behaviour mentor or head of year in the first instance so that we can consider how best to support your child.





STUDENT COUNCIL

We are very pleased to announce that we have appointed our student council representatives for Highlands School. We look forward to seeing the positive changes this dedicated group of students will help to bring to the school community.

Our student council members are as follows:

Year 7

- Ethan Baxter 7BJC
- Elaina Fitzgerald 7BJC
- George Demetri 7ONK
- Matilda Gant 7ONK
- Sukhmani Kaur Gill 7OSA
- Sheryce Crow 7OSA
- Narin Turgay 7RNC
- Lucy Lord 7RNC
- Naa Shidaa Quartey 7WSB
- Ann Siby 7WSB

Year 8

- Elena Giudice 8BNK
- Parnia Yazdanpanah 8OKS
- Lydia Wright 8OKS
- Stephania Chrysanthou 8OSD
- Zehra Turan 8OSD
- Stephanie Anastasiades 8WMT
- Daisy Webb 8WMT

Year 9

- Elsie Berko 9RGA
- Michaela Wejszko 9RNC

Year 10

- Ava Wynter 10OLR
- Emma Lord 10RCX
- Jonah Annett 10RSB
- Eniola Nicole Anjola Showunmi 10RSB
- Uma Shah 10WNH

Year 12

- Ellie Brown 12BBE
- Demi Charalambous 12BBE
- Melusine Faverjon-Jenkins 12BBE
- George Hunt 12WSL
- Arshya Karimaghei 12BAL
- Sammie Lo 12OMA
- Emily McGovern 12WSL
- Kian McNally 12OMA
- Tanya Mehmet 12RTA
- Dima Salemi 12OSH
- Maja Szymecka 12OSH



NOTICES



Immunisation sessions Year 9

Please see the links below for letters from the Enfield Immunisation team regarding the Diphtheria Tetanus and Polio (DTP) and Meningitis ACWY Immunisations.

They are taking place on the 4th and 11th February 2021. It is important you read the letters before attending. Please take particular note of the venue, Forty Hall and not the school, and the allotted times for your surname.

[Letter 1](#)

[Letter 2](#)

Library notice

Take advantage of the opportunity to access books online, for FREE during school closure.

Formed with The National Literacy Trust, the library will provide a book a week from its author of the week.

The aim is to increase young readers access to e-books and audiobooks.

Click on the image to the right to access!
Happy reading all.

Mrs Selim KS3 coordinator

Mrs Mehmet LRC assistant



GEOGRAPHY - TESTING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME



In 2016 the Environment Agency completed a £15.3 million flood alleviation scheme to reduce the risk of flooding from Salmons Brook in north London. The scheme was formally opened in March 2016 by Amanda Nobbs, then Chair of the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

Parts of Edmonton and Enfield have historically had a high risk of flooding from the Salmons Brook and Saddlers Mill Stream. In October 2000, 192 properties in the Montagu Road area of Edmonton flooded.

When the Salmon's Brook flood defence was being constructed at Grange Park 5 years ago, past Geography students were fortunate enough to go and see the behind the scenes action.



The water backs up behind the control flume and earth embankment at Cheyne Walk open space, creating a temporary lake of floodwater on Enfield Golf Course, which then drains back into the river when levels have dropped.

Last week was the first time it had been tested out since construction, and a few students (past and present) were on-site to see it being put to use.

Around 25mm of rain fell early Thursday morning and by 8:00am the flood defences were at work, creating a large lake across the golf course. One resident implied "you could row across the water."

The pictures give some idea of the effectiveness of the scheme and fortunately for the golfers (who were bitterly opposed to the scheme initially), lockdown means that no golf was disrupted, and most of the surface water had gone 24 hours later.

However, the allotments still suffered some flooding which wasn't supposed to happen, so there will be some questions asked about its effectiveness.



BE KIND

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Take action and carry out a random act of kindness for someone else. Research shows that helping others can be beneficial to our own mental health. It can reduce stress, improve our emotional wellbeing and even benefit our physical health.

Here are some great examples, supplied by [@mentalhealthfoundation](#)

- call a friend that you haven't spoken to for a while
- send a letter to someone you care about
- make someone laugh
- offer to pick up some groceries for your elderly neighbour
- help your parents/carers with household chores
- raise money for charity

A message from Ms Polak

"Keep smiling, stay healthy and always look for the positives in every situation. I am hopeful we will all be back in the classroom soon, smiling and laughing. I also can't wait to share my homemade brownies."



“



When you are kind to others, it not only changes you, it changes the world.

”

– *Harold Kushner*



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Students have been producing some amazing work from home and have shown a real desire to get through any obstacles that they may face. Working remotely brings on many challenges. In food technology (and GCSE food preparation and nutrition), we face an even greater struggle in setting and producing practical work.

Each week we try to set a relatively simple task and something that students are able to make safely at home (under supervision of course), this week it is creating a sourdough starter and making a sourdough loaf (this is a two-week exercise).

In order to assist students, we have put together a website with health and safety, hygiene and recipes. There is also a page for students to send in their own (or family) recipes.

Please take a look at the link below and encourage your son or daughter to send in something (you will see there are a couple there already).

[CLICK HERE](#)

Mr Smith





BRITISH VALUES

British values are very important to us at Highlands School, 'fundamental British values' comprise:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith.

As well as actively promoting these values to our students, we also work hard to embed them into student work across all curriculum areas. This ensures our students understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

For more information on British Values, visit the government website [here](#).



RESPECT Working individually and with others to uphold the rules and laws of our community whilst listening to and respecting the views of others.