



# Highlands School News



29 January 2021

# NEWS

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Message from the  
headteacher

Awards

NHS work experience

Notices & contacts

Head of year drop in  
sessions

Holocaust Memorial Week

This week we are delighted to share with the school community some of the offers our year 13 students have received for university. One of our students has received an offer from Oxford to study physics and one from Cambridge to study history and politics. Another student has an offer to study veterinary science at the University of Liverpool and is awaiting a decision from the Royal Veterinary College. Overall 41% of A level students have applied to Russell Group Universities and 91% of those currently hold a conditional offer. 24% of BTEC students have applied to Russell Group Universities and 71% of those students currently hold a conditional offer. We want to congratulate all of our students on their higher education offers and I would like to thank all the staff who have supported them with their applications.

I wrote to parents and carers this week to thank them for sharing feedback on our remote learning and pastoral provision. Our monitoring of remote learning shows high levels of student engagement with Google classroom, with students completing assignments, joining live lessons and completing exit tickets.

However, we are always looking to improve further. We have had queries relating to live teaching, classwork deadlines, and the volume of work being set. We have recently revised some aspects of our remote learning to reflect feedback from students, parents and carers. Those changes were included in the previous newsletters.

Below are the most frequently asked questions by parents and carers on remote learning, exams and student welfare, with the school's responses.

We kindly ask that all parents and carers read this before contacting the school with any questions related to remote learning and pastoral care.

To help us continue to improve further, we ask you to complete this [parent and carer survey](#) by Monday 1st February at 9am. It will help us further understand parent and carer views on our remote learning and pastoral provision. We have sent students a similar survey to complete.

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

## QUESTIONS

I think my child is being set too much/too little work.  
How much work should students be set each day?

Why is Highlands School not offering more live teaching?

What should I do if my child finds the work too difficult or they do not understand the work?

What are the deadlines for the classwork set each day?

Where do I go for support IT issues or support with a laptop to access remote learning?

## ANSWERS

All students are set five lessons per day, apart from on a Wednesday when they are set four lessons. These lessons are released according to the day the students would usually be taught their lesson. The school has recently reviewed the amount of work being set for years 7 and year 8 students and all teachers will be reducing their narrated lessons to 40 minutes. This includes approximately 20 minutes of teacher instruction and 20 minutes of student independent work. Each student is an individual and may take longer or shorter amounts of time to complete the work set. For GCSE and A-Level subjects, we are continuing to provide students with 65-minute lessons of remote learning.

We have increased the amount of live teaching and most students should be getting a mix of live and pre-recorded lessons. We try to have an evidence-based approach to our teaching decisions and principles and, at present, there is not a sufficient body of research to suggest that live teaching supports learning better than pre-recorded lessons. However, students and staff have been very positive about live teaching and we understand that live lessons can have a positive impact on student well being, particularly as it gives them an opportunity to interact with their teacher. We have increased the proportion of lessons that are being taught live and this will continue to increase. We expect students to log in to Google Classroom and join their lessons when they are live.

The type of work set will be specific to each subject. If students do not understand a specific piece of work then they should contact their class teacher through Google classroom or their highlearn Gmail and request further clarification. If your child is having issues with a specific subject then please contact the school via the postbox with details of the subject and the teacher and your query will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

To enable students to manage their workload each day and to easily see work deadlines on Google classroom, we have asked all teachers to set a work completion deadline for the day the work was set. This only applies to classwork and not homework. For homework, which might be a weekly exit ticket, an essay or a longer piece of work than would usually be done in a lesson, the teacher will set an appropriate deadline.

For technical issues such as passwords and logins, please use the IT support email ([itstudent@highlearn.uk](mailto:itstudent@highlearn.uk)). Please contact your child's head of year or the school postbox to ask about the availability of devices.

## QUESTIONS

Why am I receiving CR codes via the My Child at School app and through an email?

My child is experiencing emotional challenges, what support can the school offer?

My child has an EHCP/SEND and they need additional support with their remote learning, what support can the school offer?

I am not happy about my child's predicted grades, can these be changed?

## ANSWERS

Logging CR codes is the school's way of ensuring that we keep track of students' level of work completion in each subject. We understand that in some cases students are unwell, or have a personal/family reason why they have not completed the work on a particular day, but CR codes will still be issued as part of our process. The CR codes and the parent email follow up process is to keep parents and carers informed. CR codes do not carry any negative behaviour points. Parents and carers can also monitor CR codes through the **My Child at School App**. Parents and carers have said that they are not able to see the subjects for which the CR codes are issued. This guidance video [here](#) will show you how to do this. It is worth noting that if **students have the app** they can see the teacher and the subject that has issued the CR code.

We have a range of pastoral support services on offer. These include appointments with our school counsellor, mentoring support from a behaviour mentor, welfare check-ups from form tutors, and support from our family liaison officer. Where needed we can make referrals for support to external agencies. We have weekly assemblies and PSHE lessons to support students' well-being. Heads of year also have two weekly drop-in sessions a week where students can access support or use this as time to have some interaction with their head of year and peers. Our live lesson offer is increasing which also supports student well being. To share information with us about your child's welfare or to request support you may either email your child's head of year directly or email [staysafe@highlearn.uk](mailto:staysafe@highlearn.uk)

Each LSA offers bespoke support to their key students. This will include one or more of the following depending on the student's needs; email support, phone call support, additional scaffolded resources, video meeting support. We have also launched our Lexia reading intervention to targeted year 7 and year 8 students. Targeted year 10 and year 11 students have been invited to booster maths and English sessions. Please email the school post box for requests of support for SEND students, and a member of our learning support team will be in contact.

The reason for sharing predicted grades is to support student progress and identify ways to improve. These January predictions cannot be changed unless there has been an administrative error, and we would ask that you do not request changes from teachers. This is not the final GCSE grade but is an indicator at this point, midway through this academic year, and we would expect that some students make further progress before June. Where predicted grades are lower than expected, staff will support students by highlighting gaps and identifying additional revision material.

## QUESTIONS

How will GCSE, BTEC and A-Level students be assessed?

What do the grades on my year 10 or 11 child's results sheet tell us/mean?

## ANSWERS

Although the planned examinations have been cancelled, we believe that final grading will still include formal assessments under exam conditions in the summer. However, the amount and timing of these assessments are under review. We will share information when we have it. It is important that students continue to work on all tasks set to the best of their ability and to continue revising previous work on a regular basis. Coursework should continue as directed by teachers.

Target grades are calculated using prior attainment (usually year 6 SATs) and represent the exceptional performance of students compared to students at similar starting points. (Performance in the top 20% of the band.) Mock grades are an indication of the standard of the work included in this assessment. They do not indicate a grade that would be awarded to a student in a full set of assessments or a grade that would be attained if the final assessment were taken at this point. Predicted grade ranges are given as an indication of likely attainment at the end of the course based on the evidence available at this stage. They are not final assessment grades and may rise or fall depending on performance during the course. We will not be sending mock papers home at this stage because students require the teacher's explanation to understand what they need to do to improve. When we know more about what the summer assessment will involve and when we will be returning to school, we will make any necessary decisions about mock papers that have not yet been returned to students. For further information, please refer to our [18th Jan](#) letter to year 11 parents and carers and the [narrated slides](#).

**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

**Vulnerable student and key worker on-site provision**

- We will be offering in-school provision for children to meet the DfE criteria of vulnerable and the children of key worker parents. If your child meets either of these criteria and they cannot be cared for at home, then please complete [this survey](#) to book your child's place at school. This survey covers Monday 11th January to Friday 12th February. The survey closed on Friday 8th January at 8am.  
Parents/carers who have a change of circumstances after this date should email jesuthasanc@highlearn.uk.  
Parents/carers should not send their child into school if they have not booked a place in advance.
- We understand that some parents completed the previous survey to request a place for their child for next week.  
We are asking all parents who require a place from next Monday onwards to complete the new survey.

**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 to, should email staysafe@highlearn.uk

**Mentoring**

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

**Free school meal students**

- Families eligible for free school meals will continue to receive vouchers from Edenred.
- If your child is on our free school meal register but you are experiencing any issues receiving these vouchers please contact jesuthasanc@highlearn.uk

**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](mailto: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.





## JACK PETCHEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Jack Petchey Achievement Award winners are young people who have gone above and beyond to achieve.

### Message from the Jack Petchey Foundation

"The Achievement Awards are primarily about recognising those who put in the effort and do their best"

**Sir Jack Petchey CBE**

### Weekly student citation

"Henry has been awarded the Jack Petchey award for continuous hard work and showing great maturity in his lessons. He always approaches his work with such enthusiasm and participates positively with staff and his peers in the lessons. He is inquisitive and tries to have fun with his learning, two things which can really help pupils to progress"

**Mrs Brown**

A huge congratulations to our Jack Petchey winners from the last term who are:

- Max Copping
- Francesca Bocchetti
- Krzysztof Mech
- Liana Chowdhury

These students join our previous winners:

- Max Bundle
- Yasmine Smith
- Joe Overton
- Holly Miller
- Abbey Miller
- Ellie Whitehouse
- Henry Wakeford
- Gabriel Nyarko-Duodo



[jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk](http://jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk)

All of your Jack Petchey winners are selected by staff and fellow students for various outstanding contributions to the community of our school and the wider society.

Jack Petchey awards are also granted to people who have shown tremendous work ethic or bravery in a given situation.

Each student who wins a Jack Petchey award gets to attend a celebration event, where everyone can acknowledge their fantastic achievement and they are given an award and a certificate.

Jack Petchey awards are looked upon favourably by organisations all over the world, they are great markers for students who have tried their hardest and can add value to any business or workplace.





## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

This week Year 10 have been provided with the opportunity to participate in the bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE).

The 'DofE' is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned award.

Parents have been sent information via a separate email regarding this, and students have received information on their form group's google classroom.

Any student in Year 10 who wishes to take part may work towards their bronze certificate of achievement. The deadline for the enrolment form and fee payment on Parentpay is 8th February 2021.

Any student in Year 11 or 12 that has not completed their bronze award may still do so during the lockdown as 'DofE' have provided alternative activities for participants to use at this time.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Mrs Walters



**SIGN UP**





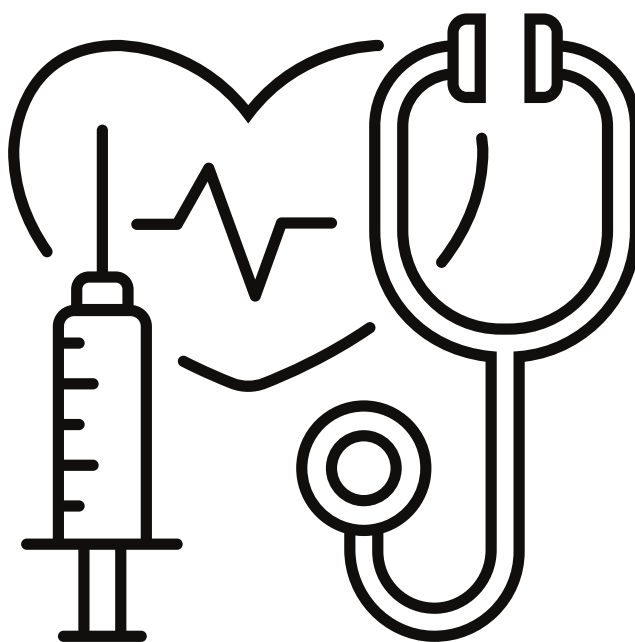
## NHS WORK EXPERIENCE

This is a final reminder that the NHS Virtual Work Experience Programme is starting on the 7th of February 2021.

Allied Healthcare Mentor is pleased to inform you that the NHS Live Virtual Work Experience Programme is now available to support all aspiring healthcare students with work experience opportunities during the pandemic. Students now have access to their own specific work experience programme that will be highly relevant to the below healthcare careers.

### Healthcare pathways

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Paramedics
- Physiotherapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Radiographers
- Art, drama and music therapists
- Dietitians
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Radiographers
- Podiatrists
- Osteopaths
- Orthoptists
- Prosthetists and orthotics
- Speech and language therapists



Students can register for the programme [HERE](#).

Students will receive certificates upon completion, but places are limited and therefore they will be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis to keep this fair. If you are interested you can register through the website link above. Places are just £10 a day to cover administrative costs.

### Other careers events

- **GCSE Science in Action** returns this March with a live programme of inspirational speakers streamed online from 9.45am - 3pm on 11th March 2021. Sign up [HERE](#).
- **The Royal Institution** are hosting a great range of virtual events between January and February. Check them out [HERE](#).

# NOTICES / CONTACTS

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child is on our free school meal register you will receive a voucher via email from Edenred.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see how to redeem your voucher.



## LIBRARY NOTICE

The library have published several news articles online. Please encourage your child to use 'The Day' when researching contemporary topics. See below for the links.

Online newspaper (The Day) [CLICK HERE](#)

Storytelling week [CLICK HERE](#)

Free online books [CLICK HERE](#)

## CHILDLINE

Childline is a free, private and confidential service where you can talk about anything.

**Important update:** Childline is working a little differently because of Coronavirus. However, you can still speak to a counsellor every day from 9am - 3:30am.

Visit [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)





# UPDATES

## HEAD OF YEAR DROP-IN SESSIONS

Please note changes to year 10 head of year drop-in sessions below, all other sessions remain unchanged. This is a great chance for students to engage with their peers and head of years in a social setting. Students are advised to email their head of year if they are having trouble accessing this online. Please note these events are intended for students only.

Year	Session 1		Session 2	
	Day of week	Start time	Day of week	Time
7	Wednesday	9.00am	Friday	09:00am
8	Wednesday	9:15am	Friday	9:00am
9	Tuesday	9:00am	Thursday	9:00am
10	Tuesday	2.30pm	Friday	2.30pm
11	Monday	2.30pm	Friday	2.30pm
12	Monday	2:30pm	Thursday	2:30pm
13	Monday	2.30pm	Thursday	2.30pm

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL WEEK

This week is Holocaust Memorial Week and it encourages remembrance for those who lost their lives.

Last year, whilst studying 'The Diary of Anne Frank', Year 8 students had the honour of hearing from holocaust survivor Mr Bernd Koschland MBE.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, current year 8 students have been unable to have the same opportunity, however, we have included the newsletter entry from last year instead. To read the full story [CLICK HERE](#)

