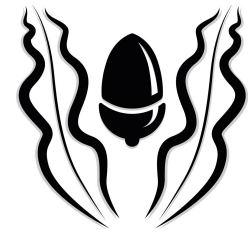


Highlands School Newsletter

14 January 2022



From the Headteacher

This week at Highlands our year 11 students and our year 10 students in the final year of GCSE courses started their mock exams. The vast majority of students have approached these papers with maturity and have conducted themselves excellently throughout the mock period so far. I know that this will continue into the second week of mocks.

Year 7 students had their parents' evening this Wednesday and next Wednesday, 19th January, is the year 8 parents' evening. For each year group the parents' evening follows the mid year assessments. This means that staff can mark all of the assessments and then release the information to parents before the parents' evening. We believe this makes the discussions at parents' evening more meaningful. Parents in year 8 will be invited to sign up for the parents' evening by email and appointments will take place remotely.

The year 11 parents' evening will be on 9th February, once the mock exams are marked and moderated.

I want to thank students and parents for the very positive start that students had made in terms of their attitude to learning and behaviour this half term. Behaviour in most lessons has been excellent, despite some lessons being covered by supply teachers because of COVID. Very few students have been missing detentions and there have been very few serious behaviour incidents. It is important, though, that we all work together to maintain the excellent behaviour we have at Highlands. With that in mind I would like to ask parents and carers to emphasise the following to students:

- Our behaviour policy applies to students in and out of school and in and out of school uniform. I am reminding the school community of this because the manager of Sainsbury's has been in touch with me to say that some of our students have been acting in a boisterous manner when visiting the supermarket after school. We have sent staff up to the store after school this week to check on student behaviour. Sainsbury's also share CCTV footage with us so we can identify students who are not behaving appropriately.
- It is cold at the moment outside and students are right to wrap up warm on their way to school. We do ask that students remove their coats when coming into the school building.

I hope you all have a very restful weekend,

Mr McInerney
Headteacher

Safeguarding update

At Highlands School we have a zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment and bullying in all of its forms. Our Stay Safe curriculum focuses on healthy relationships, respectful behaviours and sign posting support. This is all taught in an age appropriate way in every year group.

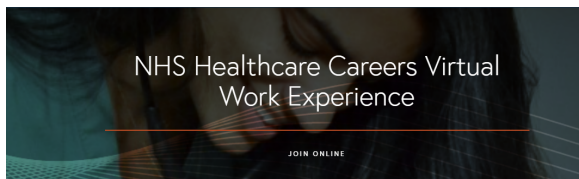
Last year, Dame Rachel de Souza DBE, Children's Commissioner for England undertook the largest ever survey of children – The Big Ask – to understand children's lives. In the survey, children, especially girls, talked about their experiences of sexualised bullying and peer-on-peer abuse. Many children in the survey said they wanted more resources to be available to help their parents understand sexualised bullying so they could better support their children. The Children's Commissioner has now produced an engaging and insightful [guidance report for parents and carers](#). We encourage our parents and carers to read the report.

Support staff vacancies

We currently have the following support staff vacancies :

- Sixth Form Academic Mentor
- Welfare Officer
- Learning Support Admin Officer

Please see the school website [Click here](#) for more information.



A recent discovery report by Health Education England concluded that virtual work experience programmes are a fantastic adjunct to in-person experience. Many universities are also accepting this as alternatives to in person experience in light of the pandemic too. Details of the NHS Live Virtual Work Experience Programme below, which is the largest national healthcare careers programme in the UK has taught over 30,000 students so far.

You can learn more and students can register for the programme here:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>

This programme is tailored to students in 10-13 or S3-S6 year groups and interested in the following careers:

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Paramedicine
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Dietetics
- Radiography

Prosthetics
Orthotics
Speech and Language Therapy
and Pharmacy!

Applications for the NHS Virtual Work Experience programme are now open, and they will be open throughout this academic year, with the **next session taking place on the 6th February!**

During the work experience day, students will follow two patients from their initial presentation to recovery. Students will observe the healthcare professionals as they interact with the patients and each other. Students will have an opportunity to ask questions and gain knowledge through teaching. This will help students to make an informed career decision as well as learn about how healthcare professionals work together as part of a multidisciplinary team. Each work experience day is completely different. Students will be able to build on their knowledge of NHS careers as they see different patient cases and healthcare professionals work in a variety of settings, such as hospital and community.

Students will also receive certificates as evidence of having participated in the work experience programme. Those that complete the entire 6-month programme will be awarded with Highly Commended References too. Students can register individually through the website link below. Places are £10 a day to cover administrative costs and run the tech on the day.

You can learn more and students can register for the programme here:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>



2022 In2scienceUK Summer Programme

I am super happy to announce that applications for the 2022 In2scienceUK Summer Programme for current year 12 (or age equivalent) students are now open!

Here is a brief description, along with a few video links, about the programme:

This is a completely free programme that will connect students to experts from all areas of STEM through in-person work experience alongside virtual workshops focusing on providing them with the guidance they need to confidently choose a career pathway and produce high quality UCAS and apprenticeship applications.

By securing a place on our In2scienceUK summer programme, students will gain access to:

1 to 2 week in-person work experience and mentoring: Students spend each day at their mentor's workplace where they'll gain insight on working in their chosen STEM sector. Students also receive tailored advice for their own needs and professional aims.

Online skills, employability and careers workshops: Produced by top researchers from across the UK, students gain specialist knowledge and skills in topics not covered in school. These workshops provide practical support to kickstart their career journey delivered through online webinars hosted by experts in various fields.

Alumni Network - After the programme, students will be connected to our extensive Alumni Network which provides free workshops, informational career sessions, and networking opportunities with other young people who have gone through the In2scienceUK Programme. Our Alumni network now extends to roughly 3,000 people spanning over 10 years of In2scienceUK Cohorts.

Applications for interested students can be found here: [Apply - In2scienceUK](#)

The application deadline is the 1st April 2022, and don't forget to check the eligibility criteria and [FAQs page](#).

Want to know more?

[Here's a very brief \(roughly one minute long\) animation about the programme.](#)

[Here's a more in depth video](#)

Virtual Open Days - [Register here](#) to get your spot for virtual open day.

If you have any other questions please come and see or email Dr Len.

Happy STEMing!

Dr Len - Whole school STEM leader

After School Clubs

There will be no after school clubs (3:15 - 4:30) taking place in the sports hall until the week commencing 31/01/22 due to exams.

COVID-19 update

This week we were notified of the following positive COVID-19 positive cases. We wish everyone a very speedy recovery.

Year 7	1
Year 8	2
Year 9	0
Year 10	4
Year 11	4
Year 12	2
Year 13	3
Staff	0

Changes to PCR testing

Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from today, Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students who have tested (either at home or through ATS) and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. You no longer need to do a confirmatory PCR **unless** you:

- have symptoms (in which case you need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)
- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because you are in a clinically vulnerable group
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme.

Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From Tuesday 11 January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

Students should be strongly encouraged to test twice weekly at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) and to their setting. Anyone with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate and follow self-isolation guidance.

12-15 year old COVID-19 vaccination reminder

Enfield immunisation team will be coming back into Highlands on 10th February to give the second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to those students who have already had their first or to give their first to anyone who wishes to have one. Please note that this is only for 12-15 year olds.

Please [click here](#) to read further information on how to give consent. You should contact the immunisation team for any queries on COVID-19 vaccinations, and not the school.

Lost property

We currently have a lot of lost property, mainly jewellery, coats, keys and water bottles. Please ask your child to come to the office next week if they have lost any items. Any unclaimed items from last term will be donated to charity or disposed of.

