



From the Headteacher



I would like to start this week by wishing all members of the school community a very Happy New Year. I hope you all had a restful Christmas break. This week we welcomed students back to school over the course of three days with testing for all year groups and assemblies that I led. I spoke with students about their journey through secondary school and the progress each year group had made through that journey. For years 10 and 11 we spoke about the upcoming mock exams and the GCSE and BTEC exams in the summer. With years 8 and 9 we discussed option choices and pathways. In the year 7 assembly we talked about how important it is to make a positive start at secondary school. I want to thank

families for making sure students came to school with their masks on and with their equipment, ready to learn.

New week students in year 10 and 11 have the first week of their mock exams. We shared revision resources and the revision timetable with students before the break and, visiting year 10 and 11 lessons this week, it was pleasing to see the focus and commitment to learning students were demonstrating.

Next Wednesday, 12th January, is year 7 parents' evening. As with all our parent and carer information evenings, this will take place online. We will be sharing the electronic reports for year 7 students the day before, so they can be discussed with teachers.

The following Wednesday, 19th January, is year 8 parents' evening. Again, the mid year reports will be shared with parents and carers before the event takes place.

In assemblies I also spoke with students about making sure, in lessons, the learning environment is as purposeful as it can be. At Highlands we are committed to making sure that your child can learn in an environment free from disruption. Please emphasise this to your child, as when we all work together as a school community we are more successful.

Finally, you will notice our newsletter is not in its usual full colour format today. This is due to staffing challenges. The full colour newsletter will return soon.

I hope you all have a restful week and, once again, we wish you a very Happy New Year.

Mr McNerney
Headteacher

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

During our first week back to school, we heard of the following positive COVID-19 positive cases. Most of these students have not been in school since before Christmas. We wish everyone a very speedy recovery.

Year 7	9
Year 8	3
Year 9	5
Year 10	5
Year 11	11
Year 12	4
Year 13	9
Staff	10

We wish to thank those parents who kindly came in to volunteer to take part in our covid testing this week, your help is really very much appreciated.

Students should continue to test twice a week at home to help keep us all safe.

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.

Message from the technology department

Now the Christmas over-indulgence has passed and we find ourselves facing a mountain of plastic recycling, please send in your empty plastic tubs (e.g. Quality Street, Heroes) to food technology. They are ideal for storing food items and we could find a good home for them here.

From January we will be doing an upcycling birdhouse project with year 8 in design and technology lessons. We would really appreciate any of the following to support us in this creative venture:

- plastic takeaway containers
- plastic bottles - condiments of any brand
- ready meal bowls - e.g. Wagamamas, microwave meals.

Please collect as many as you can and drop off to the lower design and technology office as soon as possible.

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 at the end next week.