

Haydon School



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE LETTER

RWJ/jmp/Headteacher's Update
22 December 2002

Dear Parents and Carers

Since Haydon School closed last Wednesday, there have been a lot of announcements made by the government with respect to schools. I have taken a little time to await further advice and guidance before writing to you to confirm the arrangements for January 2021. I thought it important to let you know ahead of the return to school so that you can make child care arrangements, if needed, during the first week in January.

Week 4th January to 8th January 2021

Following the latest guidance from the DFE which is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021>

Monday 4th January will be an INSET day. The school will use this day to prepare for the significant changes coming in, particularly around introducing mass testing.

School will only be open for students in Years 11 and 13 during the week of 5th to 8th January. Lessons / mock examinations will continue as normal for students in these two year groups. All Year 11 examinations will follow the existing timetable except all mock examinations originally scheduled to take place on Monday 04 January 2021 have now been rescheduled to take place on Monday 18 January 2021. All other previously published examinations will be taking place as originally scheduled and will not be affected. Examinations for Art and Design and Technology originally scheduled for the week of Monday 18th will be moved slightly and we will issue a new timetable in the new year.

Students in all other year groups (Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12) will follow their normal timetable from home and staff will teach live lessons for students or set work through Show My Homework. Remote or online lessons will start on Tuesday 5th January 2020.

Students in other year groups who are vulnerable or the children of key workers will be allowed into school from Tuesday 5th January. If you would like your child to attend for the first week back could you contact, Mrs Whitehead, Deputy Headteacher (cwhitehead.312@lgflmail.org) explaining the reasons. We still have the list of students from the school closure earlier in the year and we would not expect any significant additions to this list apart from students in Year 7.

If you foresee any problems with your child being able to access live lessons during this week, please could you let the school know and email Mr Gosling (dgosling.312@lgflmail.org)

Week Beginning 11th January 2021

All students will return to school.

Mass Testing

Further to my last letter, you will note that there is a plan for schools to be able to undertake mass testing in an attempt to reduce the number of children who are asked to self-isolate following a positive test result. There are a lot of benefits about the potential for the mass testing of students and staff in schools, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer students and staff to have to self-isolate. You can read more about how the government expects this programme to work here.

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/15/mass-testing-in-schools-your-questions-answers/>

I am awaiting further guidance as it will result in significant logistical issues for a large secondary school and I will write again once there is greater clarity about this. I will obviously need parental permission.

Covid Winter Grant Scheme

We have been advised by the London Borough of Hillingdon this week that a Covid Winter Grant Scheme is available to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children affected by the pandemic during the winter period. The funding will be used to help those struggling to meet the cost of food and utility bills.

The council is making payments direct to families in the form of supermarket vouchers (for the two-week school break). They are also inviting families to apply for a payment towards the cost of their utility bills. If you believe you are eligible for this grant and do not receive it by 21st December or would like to make enquiries about the grant, please contact Hillingdon directly. Scheme details and the form can be accessed via - www.hillingdon.gov.uk/winter-grant. Contact details are:

- Phone: 01895 558200 from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
- Email - wintergrant@hillingdon.gov.uk

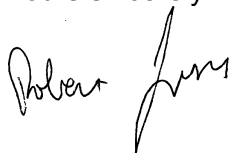
Further Communications

Further communications, if need be will be posted on the school website (www.haydonschool.com).

It is not ideal that these announcements have been made at a time when I was hoping the staff at the school would have some time to relax and refresh ahead of the new year. No doubt there will be further clarification and guidance in the coming weeks. I am very sorry about the implications that this will mean in respect to childcare during the first school week in January. I will write again early in the new year with an update.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Yours sincerely



Robert Jones
Headteacher

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Robert Jones
Headteacher

Key Dates

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