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10 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week promises to be an important one for the country, with the Prime Minister due to announce whether or not the next stage in the 'roadmap' for lifting Covid restrictions can progress on Monday 17th May. Guidance on what changes for schools may appropriately accompany this are also promised, with much debate in the media about whether or not face coverings will need to continue to be worn in secondary school classrooms.

Face Coverings

Until the government announces any change, unless exempt students should continue to protect each other by wearing face coverings inside the buildings at all times. Thank you for reinforcing this message with your child. We will of course let you know of any proposed changes for schools in this regard as soon as we are made aware of them.

Covid Testing

Until further notice, students should continue with the twice weekly Lateral Flow Device testing, testing themselves before school on Monday and Friday mornings. Please note that the purpose of these tests is to identify asymptomatic students who may unknowingly be carrying the virus. Students with any of the 'classic' Covid symptoms (temperature, persistent cough, lack of sense of taste or smell) should continue to take a 'PCR' test and both they and their families should self-isolate until a negative PCR test result is received. Please use the contactportal@helsbyhigh.org e-mail address to alert us to any positive results at any time, from either Lateral Flow Device or PCR tests, and we will then clarify next steps with you.

Year 11 and 13 Assessment Window

I would just like to congratulate Year 11 and 13 students on the very thoughtful way in which they are approaching their current assessment window. Despite all the anxiety which they must be feeling, their approach and behaviour has been exemplary and parents should be very proud of their children's resilience and maturity in such challenging circumstances.

Year 11 and 13 Leaving Dates

We are now in a position to be able to confirm leaving arrangements for both Years 11 and 13: **Year 11:** Year 11 students' last day in school will be Thursday 27th May, the date of their final assessments. The forthcoming government guidance on restriction-lifting will give us an indication of what kind of celebratory event may be possible that afternoon.

Year 13: There will be no fixed 'leaving date' for Year 13 students as different students will finish their assessments on different days in the final week of this half-term and lesson attendance will not be required after a subject's final assessment has been completed. The

students' in-school leaving 'celebration' will take place in their final form period lesson on Monday 24th May.

Please note that although students will no longer regularly attend school, we will be providing a transition programme for both cohorts during June/July - further details to follow in due course.

It is also important for students to remember that they may be required to attend school to complete any necessary assessments up to, and including on, Friday 18th June.

Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 Assessment Windows

A reminder to Year 10 parents that our first 'virtual' Parent Consultation Evenings take place on Tuesday and Thursday this week. Teaching staff look forward to 'seeing' both students and parents in these meetings as they provide detail on student progress to accompany the progress data reports which students will be given to take home this week.

A reminder of assessment arrangements for other year groups this term is provided below:

Year	Assessment Window	Progress Data Report publication	Parent Consultation Evening(s)
7	w/b Monday 14 th June	Monday 5 th July	Thursday 8 th July (4-7pm)
8	w/b Monday 7 th June	Wednesday 30 th June	Thursday 1 st July (4-7pm)
9	w/b Monday 14 th June	Monday 5 th July	Tuesday 6 th July (4-7pm)
12	w/b Monday 7 th June	Wednesday 23 rd June	Thursday 24 th June (4-7pm)

Measles/Chickenpox

It is important to let you know that one of our students is currently receiving medical treatment which would have the unfortunate effect of putting the child at serious risk if they happened to be exposed to measles and/or chickenpox. If your child is suspected of having either disease it is therefore very important that you inform us immediately. The health and well-being of the child who is at risk is reliant on your co-operation in this matter and hence thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness in this regard.

'The Big Ask'

The new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ask – the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, so that children can be put at the heart of the country's recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Students will be completing the survey in their Form Tutor lesson this week. Parents are also invited to complete the adult survey to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back.

The results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set targets for the country to achieve. It doesn't ask for any personal information and all responses are confidential - the survey takes between five and ten minutes to complete.

The survey and accompanying further information can be found at [The Big Ask | Children's Commissioner for England](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-ask/) ([childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk))

I hope that all our students and their families have a good week in the middle of what is proving to be a very busy and important half-term.

Very best wishes,

Martin Hill
Headteacher