



Hanham Matters

Weekly bulletin for Hanham Woods Academy

Week Beginning 23rd November 2020

As we head towards the end of November there appears to be some potentially brighter news in relation to COVID-19, with several vaccines in advanced stages of development, and the real hope that there may be light at the end of the tunnel. It is essential we remain positive for our young people but also continue to stress the importance of following the guidance, especially around washing/sanitising hands, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing - hands, face, space!

As I have reported in previous newsletters, and as you will no doubt have seen in the media, infection and transmission rates in Bristol and South Gloucestershire continue to rise. In the Academy we have now had 10 confirmed cases since September following 3 more confirmed positive cases last week. Each time there is a positive case we have to undertake tracing of close contacts. On some occasions confirmation of a positive case has been received at a time which has made it possible to complete the track and trace without disrupting large groups of students. In a couple of the cases we have had to take the difficult decision to send home entire Year Groups to maintain safety and protect staff and students. There is no evidence of in-school transmission in any of our positive cases. We also have several staff and students who are self-isolating due to household symptoms, positive cases or the closure of other schools or nurseries. We do have a few staff and students isolating as they are in the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' category as determined by the NHS. As of Saturday 21st November we have 175 students and 8 staff (teaching and non-teaching) who are self-isolating. As you can imagine this continues to present real challenges. We are continually strengthening our 'distance learning' offer; the work that is available for students to complete whilst they are away from the Academy. We are also exploring ever more creative solutions to provide the teaching and support our young people require, without solely relying on supply staff. I am very grateful for the on-going support of all parents and carers during these challenging times and to those who have sent messages of support to myself and other staff, thank you so much. It really does give staff such a huge lift when we receive these messages. It is also essential that if you require any support at home that you reach out using our new email address HWACovid@clf.uk

Our amazing Year 11 students are nearing completion of their Pre-Public Exams (PPEs). These exams have been disrupted for a few students who have been isolating but we have ways to ensure their exams are completed and that they have some experience of sitting exams in central venues as they will have to do when they sit their final GCSEs next summer. I know many students are anxious about how their predicted grades will be calculated as these are required in some cases for Post-16 applications. Please do rest assured that we will take all individual circumstances and a range of evidence and information into account when deciding students' predicted grades to ensure that these grades reflect the grades we feel they will achieve when they sit their exams in the summer.

Our Year 9 students have continued to receive guidance around making decisions as part of their options process. They are receiving general careers guidance, reflecting on their personal interests, strengths and aspirations as well as specific guidance in the form of virtual presentations about the subjects they can opt for. Options booklets will shortly be sent home so that parents and carers can sit and have informed discussions with their children about the process and which subjects they may wish to opt for. This will be followed up after Christmas with further guidance and support – more details to follow in the new year.

Finally, this week all Year 7 parents and carers will be receiving a personal video call from their child's tutor. Appointments need to be booked using our online booking system. Guidance has been sent home about this but if you are experiencing any issues booking your appointment please do contact reception. There will be a number of supporting video presentations to update Year 7 parents/carers about a range of procedures we have at the Academy as well as an introductory video from myself. We are really sorry we cannot meet you all in person as we would normally do but I know you understand the reasons why this is not currently possible. Thank you for your continued support

Mr Kneller | Principal



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CALENDAR- Week Beginning 23rd November:

DATE	EVENT
Monday 23 rd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y11 PPE catch-up week• Year 7 Tutor Calls week
Tuesday 24 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y11 PPE catch-up week• Year 7 Tutor Calls week
Wednesday 25 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y11 PPE catch-up week• Year 7 Tutor Calls week
Thursday 26 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y11 PPE catch-up week• Year 7 Tutor Calls week
Friday 27 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y11 PPE catch-up week• Year 7 Tutor Calls week

CALENDAR- Week Beginning 30th November:

DATE	EVENT
Monday 30 th November	
Tuesday 1 st December	
Wednesday 2 nd December	
Thursday 3 rd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual Principal's Parents' Forum 5.30pm
Friday 4 th December	