



# Hanham Matters

Weekly bulletin for Hanham Woods Academy

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

I hope this newsletter finds you, your family and your friends well and safe. As we continue through these challenging times, if you or anyone you know, are in need of support please do reach out using our dedicated email address [hwaclosure@clf.uk](mailto:hwaclosure@clf.uk)

We continue to test all staff twice a week in our COVID-19 testing centre. We have also tested all students who are attending onsite provision where parental consent has been gained. So far, we have conducted over 350 tests and had just 1 positive. We are to begin weekly testing of those vulnerable and key worker students whose parents/carers have given consent shortly. We await further guidance from the government but anticipate testing all students on their return to face-to-face education which will hopefully be from the 8<sup>th</sup> March. Huge thanks must go to Mrs Hall our Senior Operations Manager for her contribution to the running of the testing centre and to our community volunteers who contribute to the testing process each day.

In response to feedback and the desire to have contact with our students we continue to trial live lessons and assemblies. All students in Years 9 to 11 have now had an opportunity to experience a live lesson, and ALL students have had the opportunity of live assemblies. The feedback has been really positive in terms of human connection. There is growing evidence that suggests there is no difference in learning and progress terms between live and pre-recorded lessons. We do understand that live events may increase motivation which in turn improves engagement with learning. This is why we will continue to roll-out more live sessions over the coming weeks. All live events will be communicated via SMHW and we will endeavour to advertise these opportunities in advance. I can confirm that every Year Group will have a live 'smart start' assembly every day with different themes covered across the week.

A letter has been sent to all Year 7 parents/carers outlining an opportunity for their child to search our on-line library and select one or two new Accelerated Reader reading book(s). This is in addition to the supported 'DEAR' time reading that happens every day as part of their daily online learning offer. Once students have selected their books, parents/carers can book a slot, using the parents evening booking system, to attend the Academy to collect them; similar to a click and collect service offered by supermarkets. I would strongly encourage parents/carers and students to take up this offer as we know the benefits of reading to lifelong learning are immense.

This coming week is Children's Mental Health Week. We have organised a range of activities, assemblies and events to support positive mental health amongst our young people. Please do encourage your child to engage with these events and please do reach out to your child's Head of House if you feel they would benefit from additional support.

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January I held my termly Principal/Parents' Forum. We had over 70 parents/carers dial in to this virtual event and I am very grateful for their time, support and observations. A few key issues were raised:

## **1. What are arrangements for Parent's Evenings moving forward?**

We anticipate all parents' evenings being virtual for the foreseeable future. Year 7 parents/carers trialed the system for their tutor evening appointments in Term 1 and Year 11 parents/carers fed back that the online video appointments were very successful last term too. We are re-organising our parents evening dates so they sit more appropriately with the new assessment dates. Year 9 have their parents evening on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February (this week), Year 11 and Year 10 parents/carers will have a subject parents evening in Term 4 and Year 7 and 8 will have an opportunity to talk to their child's subject teachers in Terms 5 and 6. All dates will be confirmed shortly. We apologise for the re-arranging of these dates, but it is essential we offer feedback to parents/carers at the most appropriate time and as we are having to make changes to our assessment calendar to work around lockdowns etc. these changes are unavoidable.



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## 2. Will Students be Offered Ongoing Careers Advice?

Year 9 students continue to receive ongoing support as they move through their options process to select the subjects they wish to study at GCSE level. Our Year 11 students are being prioritised for one-to-one support in order that they make good choices and timely applications for the next steps in education, employment or training. We are seeking to find a creative solution to work experience. As you can imagine given the current context, it is not possible to provide work experience for our Year 10 students. All other Year Groups continue to receive a blended approach where careers guidance comes through their PSHE and subject lessons.

## 3. How Regularly can I Expect the Academy to Contact my Child During Lockdown?

You should expect a call from your child's tutor every 2-3 weeks for a wellbeing check-in. Some families are receiving more due to their individual context. Your child's teachers will be in regular contact via messaging on SMHW to support high quality completion of online work. Assemblies and the increasing number of live lessons each week should also provide regular opportunities to check-in with students.

We continually try to improve our communication with parents/carers. This does mean that on occasions you may receive multiple texts or messages. This is well intentioned, and I hope well received but please do provide feedback directly to myself if you have any concerns over communications.

Many thanks. Stay safe and stay well and please do continue to follow the latest guidance to help reduce transmission of the virus.

**Mr Kneller | Academy Principal**

<b>WEEK BEGINNING 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2021</b> <b>Child Mental Health Week</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	• Smart Live Assemblies – ALL YEAR GROUPS: 8.45am
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	• Smart Live Assemblies – ALL YEAR GROUPS: 8.45am
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	• Smart Live Assemblies – ALL YEAR GROUPS: 8.45am
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	• Smart Live Assemblies – ALL YEAR GROUPS: 8.45am • Year 9 Online Parents' Evening: 4pm – 7pm
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	• Smart Live Assemblies – ALL YEAR GROUPS: 8.45am

<b>WEEK BEGINNING 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021</b> <b>Year 7 Book Collections Week</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	• Smart Live Assemblies – ALL YEAR GROUPS: 8.45am
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	• Smart Live Assemblies – ALL YEAR GROUPS: 8.45am
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	• Smart Live Assemblies – ALL YEAR GROUPS: 8.45am
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	• Smart Live Assemblies – ALL YEAR GROUPS: 8.45am
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	• Smart Live Assemblies – ALL YEAR GROUPS: 8.45am