



Hanham Matters

Weekly bulletin for Hanham Woods Academy

Week Beginning 7th September 2020

Welcome back to a new academic year. My weekly newsletter was a popular addition to our communication last year so I will continue to provide weekly updates on successes and areas we need your support in as parents/carers.

Can I firstly thank parents/carers and students for how well they have behaved and how smart they look. We make no apologies for having High Expectations and we are very grateful to the vast majority of families who support us in this. Our High Expectations extend into the community too and we do appreciate all your support in ensuring Hanham is a calm and pleasant place to live and work.

It was fantastic on Monday to welcome all Year Groups back to the Academy. Our new Year 7 students made an excellent first impression last week and our amazing Year 11 students returned and settled back into their studies really well and really quickly. Having the Academy full has really tested our COVID-19 adaptations. In the majority of cases these restrictions have worked well and are keeping Year Group 'bubbles' separated other than when they pass briefly outside between lessons, which according to the World Health Organisation is an acceptably low risk. This has allowed us to follow a full timetable of lessons rather than housing students in the same rooms all day.

Please could I ask that you join us in reminding students about the need to avoid contact with other Year Groups within and beyond the Academy. The staggered end to the day is so that different Year Groups can move safely home in a socially distanced manner, therefore it is essential they do not wait for friends in other Year Groups to leave. It also helps other members of the community in terms of road and path use if students move in very small groups as they make their way to and from the Academy.

As I write this newsletter we currently have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst staff or students. We have had some students with symptoms but all tests have returned negative results. This is mainly because some of the symptoms are similar to other infections such as the common cold. Whilst I know this may be frustrating, we have to follow guidance and always put the safety of students and staff first. If your child has any one of the following symptoms - temperature above 37.8, a new persistent cough, change in taste or smell - they must not attend. You should call 111 and seek further assistance in getting a test. Everyone in the household must self-isolate until a negative test is returned or for 14 days. We have been informed that sometimes tests are not available - our understanding is that tests are released in batches throughout the day and by phoning regularly increases the chances of getting a test.

Our annual Open Evening event scheduled for Thursday 10th September had to move from a live to a virtual event. I recorded a presentation for Year 6 students and their parents/carers, we have recorded a short virtual tour and I hosted a live Question and Answer event on Microsoft Teams. We are able to offer very small tours for the next 3 weeks between 4:00pm and 6:00pm and we hope to meet lots of prospective students and parents/carers during these live tours. If you are a parent/carer of a Year 6 child or know one, please direct them to the Academy website Open Evening page for more details.

Finally, following a few technical issues our Parent Pay site is now fully operational. This means parents/carers can pay for any Academy events, equipment and 'top up' your child's finger print account so they can purchase food at break and/or lunch. We would strongly recommend using this online system as it reduces the need to load money on their accounts manually in the Academy involving multiple additional touch points.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

Many thanks

Mr Kneller | Principal



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CALENDAR – Week Beginning 14th September:

| DATE | EVENT |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 14 th September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Tour for Year 7 Prospective Students (4pm-6pm) Please call Reception to book a slot. |
| Tuesday 15 th September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Tour for Year 7 Prospective Students (4pm-6pm) Please call Reception to book a slot. |
| Wednesday 16 th September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 Individual Photographs – All students to attend in FULL Academy Uniform. No PE kit to be worn on this day. Academy Tour for Year 7 Prospective Students (4pm-6pm) Please call Reception to book a slot. |
| Thursday 17 th September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Tour for Year 7 Prospective Students (4pm-6pm) Please call Reception to book a slot. |
| Friday 18 th September | |

CALENDAR – Week Beginning 21st September:

| DATE | EVENT |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 21 st September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Tour for Year 7 Prospective Students (4pm-6pm) Please call Reception to book a slot. |
| Tuesday 22 nd September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Tour for Year 7 Prospective Students (4pm-6pm) Please call Reception to book a slot. |
| Wednesday 23 rd September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Tour for Year 7 Prospective Students (4pm-6pm) Please call Reception to book a slot. |
| Thursday 24 th September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Tour for Year 7 Prospective Students (4pm-6pm) Please call Reception to book a slot. |
| Friday 25 th September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch Up Immunisation Session - Year 8 and Year 9 Girls' HPV |