

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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Headteacher: Tash Hurtado BA PGCE



29th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: THA Community Wellbeing

We would like to extend our thanks to parent/carers and students for such high levels of engagement and partnership in adapting to remote learning developments and routines. Our school community have shown the very best of our THA Values of determination, kindness and aspiration in navigating this change – and in doing so – have worked together to ensure that students continue to receive high quality learning.

Consideration for students' well-being and mental health is a key priority for staff this half term, as explored in the remote assemblies that Heads of Year have facilitated through Google Meet and staff planning for **Children's Mental Health Week on 1st – 7th February**. We are mindful of the impact that additional screen time has on staff and student well-being and would like to provide some relief from this for both staff and students.

Therefore, on Wednesday 3rd February, students and staff alike will be encouraged to **'step away from your screens'**. This screen time circuit breaker initiative will include all live lessons being paused and well-being themed activities being uploaded to Google Classroom ahead of the day. Via this menu of ideas, students will be encouraged to engage in fun, creative and active interests that reflect the 'Express Yourself' theme of this year's Mental Health Week. The student menu of ideas will be shared on their year group Google Classroom from Tuesday afternoon, so that they can choose their preferred activities. Students will not be required to participate in live lessons for one day only and the tasks they select in Google Classroom will not be assessed. However, as always, students are encouraged to share any work they are proud of in order that this can be celebrated and rewarded.

On site provision will continue for those students who meet the Critical Worker and other Government criteria. These students will also be encouraged to participate in more creative and active tasks, which will include the STARS (Student Leadership) project of creating a booklet of appreciative letters and cards to send to NHS staff at Harefield Hospital.

We continue to be extremely #THA Proud of the collective efforts our wider school community continue to make in the very best interests of our students.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Carey'.

F Carey,
Deputy Headteacher