

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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31st March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all looking forward to the Easter break and some warmer weather!

It has been a long and challenging term for students having spent such a long period of time learning from home, before having to adapt to the daily routines of returning to school. Students have coped remarkably well on balance, but we are certainly very vigilant regarding those who have found the adjustment much harder. It is to be expected that this will not be a straightforward transition and we hope that your child is finding this easier day by day. I hope very much that the opportunity to engage in sport and outdoor mixing (aligned to national guidelines) will be supportive over the Easter break in allowing students to reset ready for a positive and focused return on 19th April when we are confident of no further disruptions to learning.

You will be aware we received a monitoring inspection in February, and I am pleased that we have now received the [letter](#) which affirms very positively the continued improvements at THA since our last inspection. The area we have been asked to focus on further is developing student's reading to ensure this becomes more habitual. We understand that reading habits, like many other normal routines, may have been interrupted and affected by the change in routines this year. As such we were really excited to launch our reading strategy on World Book Day and hope that parents/carers can support from home by helping us to ensure that students embrace every opportunity to widen their vocabulary and deepen their learning through regular reading. As restrictions continue to ease, we look forward to re-opening our library and in the meantime are continuing to increase reading opportunities through the curriculum.

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the Summer term. We have been asked by the Department for Education and Public Health England to remind families to support their children to:

- Test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to).
- Report results online as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country.
- Continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays.
- Test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases.
- Ensure a positive home test result is followed up and confirmed via a PCR test which can be booked either [online](#) or by calling 119.
- In the event of a positive PCR test for a student up to and including Friday 2nd April, please contact the school (ldonnelly@theharefieldacademy.org and Headteacher@theharefieldacademy.org) to report this for the purposes of contact tracing. Any positive test results from 3rd April only need logging with NHS test and trace, with the usual isolation protocols applying.



The Secretary of State for Education has written to children and young people to recognise the impact of the disruption they have faced over the past year and to thank them for their resilience. He outlines his continued commitment to supporting children and young people to recover from the disruption now that they have returned to school and college. The letter also highlights the importance of coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and the vital role this plays in helping to prevent the virus spreading.

The letter is published on the [DfE media blog](#) and on DfE's [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Please be reminded for our return on 19th April that full school uniform is expected, with details of this published on our website. The school jumper and blazer are the outer layer options when the weather is cooler and if students are cold as a result of the measures to maximise ventilation in the building. Students are not permitted to wear coats or alternative jumpers in lieu of acceptable layers of school wear. It remains the case that PE kit should be worn to school on the days where PE is timetabled as changing rooms remain out of bounds. However, students should only be wearing the THA PE kit items, as published on the website, or plain black/navy alternatives. It remains the case that students are not permitted to wear kit with visible logos and students will be sanctioned for incorrect uniform if they do. We are hopeful that we will be reverting to our standard school uniform and THA PE kit once eased restrictions allow for this and parent/carers will receive adequate notice of this.

We have recently added to the website a page on 'Student Wellbeing and Safeguarding' where you can source information held in one place, that we send out to support families and students with these priorities.

All that remains is for me to wish you a happy and restful Easter break.

We look forward to welcoming students back on **Monday 19th April**.

Yours sincerely,

Tash Hurtado, Headteacher