

# The Harefield Academy

*Achievement through Active Learning*

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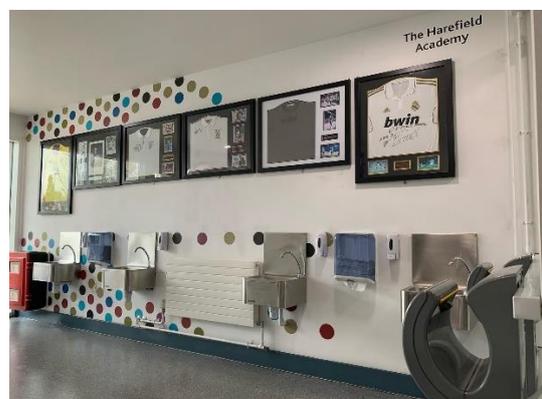


02/11/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all kept well over the half term break.

In welcoming our students back today I am delighted to let you know we have extended our handwashing facilities during the break such that we can continue to insist upon thorough handwashing on arrival for all students, without any delays that result in too much waiting around. We now have 4 units in the main entrance (where year 8, 9 and 10 arrive) and 3 sink units for the year 7 and 11 entry point via the sports hall.



I am sure you are all aware of the national lockdown planned to commence on Thursday 5th November. Whilst we all await further details of this from the government, I would draw your attention to the clear message shared in relation to schools by the Prime Minister in his press briefing:

***“My priority, our priority, remains keeping people in education - so childcare, early years settings, schools, colleges and universities will all remain open. Our senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be.*”**

**We cannot let this virus damage our children’s futures even more than it has already. I urge parents to continue taking their children to school and I am extremely grateful to teachers across the country for their dedication in enabling schools to remain open.”**

Whilst there will no doubt be additional guidance forthcoming in the next few days, please be assured that we already have in place Covid secure measures that meet all government requirements and that we continue to provide a safe, stable and secure learning environment where your children can continue to receive high quality education whilst having the opportunity for secure social interactions within their bubble. This controlled environment allows students to be protected in both their academic and emotional wellbeing. In the coming weeks, we will all be required to limit our movements and as such it is critical that young people receive the appropriate opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, pastoral support and most importantly, uninterrupted education.



We continue to operate within the strict parameters of our Covid secure risk assessment and as such ensure that any staff or students presenting with symptoms of Covid19 are supported in swiftly isolating.

The restrictions announced on Saturday can be found [here](#), but we expect further detail to follow.

As we had already moved to tier 2 restrictions before the announcement of increased lockdown measures, students have adjusted to the use of face coverings in communal areas. We thank you for your support in this matter. Whilst school based activities from Thursday 5th November are therefore not likely to change in a significant way, we must remind all parents/carers that the 'stay at home' order applies beyond the school day and there is an expectation that all students should return directly home at the end of the day, restricting social interactions as outlined in the government guidance. Unfortunately, this means we need to cancel the extra- curricular programme until the lockdown period comes to an end.

Year 9 Academic Review meetings will continue to take place on the 25th November 2020 as planned. However, due to the lockdown, all meetings will now take place via video conferencing. Full details for this will be sent out to parents and carers of Year 9 students next week.

I understand that your children, and indeed your wider family, may be experiencing anxieties at present due to the pandemic and its associated impact on daily life. Please be reassured of our continued dedication to providing support and continuity of care for all members of our school community.

Yours sincerely

Tash Hurtado, Headteacher