

Northolt High School newsletter



Friday 2nd July 2021

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Committed to excellence

Arrangements for next academic year

We had a large parental response to the survey asking for your input into arrangements for next year. Thank you so much for this - it's really great to have your input into our plans. So what did you tell us? The following arrangements had overwhelming support, with at least 87% of parents agreeing to:

- retaining the later start to our school day so that students begin school at 9.20am;
- bringing back a 20 minute break for students instead of The Daily Mile;
- increasing the length of lunchtime from 30 minutes to 40 minutes.



The impact of these changes is that our school day will end later next year. A lower proportion of parents although still a clear majority (68%) were in favour of this. The only way that we could keep a later start and extend break and lunch times for students would be to reduce the length of our lessons, which is not possible for us to do. Were we to do so, we would not be offering sufficient learning time to students. This means that the school day next year will have to finish at 3.35pm on Mondays - Thursdays and 2.45pm on Fridays.

We also asked for your input about uniform for next year. You were overwhelmingly in favour of us allowing students to wear plain black trainers to school as part of the uniform. This was supported by 93% of you. Governors have approved this change in our policy and we'll be writing to you later in the term to give you clear guidance about uniform requirements for next year.

The final survey question asked you to give us feedback about whether Parent Consultation Evenings should remain online or return to taking place in school. You were split in this feedback as follows:



- 48% of parents wanted Parent Consultation Evenings to remain online;
- 42% of parents wanted Parent Consultation Evenings to take place on school site, face to face;
- 10% of parents felt that Parent Consultation Evenings should be online for some year groups and on school site for others.

I felt that these results were too close to make a decision. What I'm proposing therefore is that we first wait for Government guidance to confirm that we are allowed to offer onsite Parent Consultation Evenings next year. Assuming that this comes, we will then run a survey a month before each scheduled evening asking parents of the particular year group concerned what their current preference is - on site or online. We will then organise the event according to the majority vote for each year group.

You also gave us some good feedback with suggestions of other areas for us to consider. I will collate all these ideas into a document which we'll put on our website and will then text you a link to this, so you can see our responses to the suggestions you've made.

Thank you all again for taking the time to respond to this survey. You are partners with us in how we run our school and it was heartening to see so many of you supporting us.

Ms Marion Budd Headteacher

Seizing opportunity

Instilling ambition

Realising potential

Peer Advocacy Project update

This week, a number of our year 8 students took part in the fourth and final session of the Peer Advocacy Project. At the end of the session they were presented with certificates in recognition of their participation in the programme.



This project aims to empower our students with a Caribbean heritage to take control of their learning while simultaneously learn about their own heritage and the significant contribution it has made to British society and culture.. The students are due to present their projects to the school's senior leadership team with a bid for increased representation in the school curriculum.

Ms Kaur – Year 8 Co-ordinator

Health and wellbeing for all the family



ALFIE Ealing is back with a summer holiday boot camp. It's a great way for the whole family to take part in healthy eating and physical activities, boost self-confidence and improve social, mental and physical wellbeing.

Programmes are for children and their siblings who are above a healthy weight for their age (overweight) aged 5 - 13 years. A parent / carer must also be present. Activities, in venues across Ealing, include:



- interactive sessions on nutrition and healthy eating topics such as food label reading, food groups and portions sizes;
- cook and eat session everyday where families will get to make a healthy lunch and eat together.
- multi-skill sports and games in fun and safe place
- combination of 1:1 sessions
- setting their own individualised SMART Goals
- daily group sessions with families.

All programmes are free of charge and delivered by qualified nutrition and physical activity professionals. There is limited space and an adult (parent/carer) must be present at all sessions. To learn more Ealing Admin Hub on 0208 102 5888 or send them a message on Facebook or Instagram, by searching ALFIE_Ealing.. You can also contact the Healthy Families Team, asking for Nicole Stephens on 07909 002 201 or email the team at clcht.ealinghealth4life@nhs.net

Coronavirus outbreak

You will be aware that we have an outbreak of coronavirus in Year 10 at the moment which has resulted in these year group being asked to work from home for two days. I apologise to everyone for the disruption this has caused. We have high levels of staff having to self-isolate at the moment which has added to the pressures that the outbreak has caused. All students will return to onsite learning in school on Tuesday 6th July.

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A busy term for the Inclusion department

Inclusion is at the heart of Northolt High School.

Here in the Inclusion Department, we work tirelessly to support our most vulnerable students ensuring that they feel happy and secure when walking through our school gates.

With another lockdown kicking off in the new year, students and teachers alike have felt the strain of isolation. During this difficult transitional period it has been crucial to ensure that students get the necessary contact and support to aid in their learning and personal wellbeing.

During the spring term we found new ways to cater to our students, checking in regularly through virtual 1:1 sessions, providing online lesson support, and setting up a continuous stream of open communication between staff and students.

Now back in school, we continue to encourage our students, offering targeted interventions and booster sessions to help students 'catch up'. These have proved fundamental in consolidating core curriculum, improving literacy and numeracy, and providing students with some respite. To supplement this, we work alongside Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists and Occupational Therapists. This vital insight helps us to provide bespoke provision and boost greater student independence. We proudly offer a range of interventions including Speech and Language, Social and Emotional Literacy, Art as Therapy, and even Lego!



We strive to create a warm and welcoming environment which is emulated in the students' attitudes towards learning. They enjoy close relationships with our staff and know that the Inclusion Department is a place they can come to in times of need. We hope that this continues and look forward to welcoming more students in the future.

And finally, comments like these always make our day...

Year 10

'I feel that the support I receive at school is truly helpful and I have really positive relationships with all of the teachers. I am really pleased that I go to this school.'

Year 9 Parent

'Our son is really happy here. He comes home and shares everything about his day with me. The support in the SEND Department is really good and I hope it continues so that my son can become more independent. I am really proud of him.'

The Inclusion Team

Reminder: Holiday Activities and Food Programme – Summer 2021



#EalingHAF2021

We know that the holidays can be a really difficult time for families who are struggling to make ends meet or who are juggling work and childcare. The holidays should be a time for every child to enjoy themselves rather than worrying about having enough to eat or how they can spend their free time. That's why we're excited about the [summer holiday programmes](#), funded by the Government, and taking place across the whole of England.

The holiday programmes are open to children of any age and are free for children eligible for free school meals. They will:

- Provide a safe and supportive environment for children
- Be led by experienced local coordinators teaming up with a range of different partners in their communities
- Serve children tasty and nutritious food and opportunities to learn about food and nutrition
- Organise lots of activities so every child can find something they enjoy - from Kung Fu and cooking to bushcraft
- Keep children and young people happy, healthy, and active
- Offer a flexible childcare option for busy parents.

Watch [this video](#) and read [this letter](#) for more information with Marcus Rashford spreading the word.

Each family will be sent an email from Ealing council with a unique code and details of how to book on to activities by 9th July. The brochure detailing the holiday activities and how to book will be live commencing 5 July and you can contact Ealing HAF by email at HAF@ealing.gov.uk



Covid-19 Symptoms

You must keep your child at home if your child or anyone else in your household develops coronavirus symptoms. The main symptoms of coronavirus are: • **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) • **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) • **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If you are keeping your child at home you must contact Ms McMurdie, our attendance officer, on **02088648544 extension 705**. She will then be able to advise you further.

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