



17 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have had a wonderful break over the Easter period and that you have spent valuable time relaxing with family and friends.

It is with great delight that I write to you as I start my first week as Headteacher at Handsworth Grange. I know what a privilege and honour it is to be leading this wonderful community; and I also know what a lucky position I am to lead the school on this journey. As parents and carers, you make such an important contribution to your child's achievements, and I am very excited to build on this working relationship as we start this exciting journey. Although new to the position of Headteacher, the school's long standing priority to ensure the best education and pastoral care for your child remains very much at the heart of what we do and will continue to do, together. I will ensure we maintain the very highest of expectations for all our children at Handsworth Grange and build on this at every opportunity.

It has been lovely to see our students return after this Easter break refreshed and reenergised. Thank you for your support in ensuring they are well equipped for learning and look beautifully smart in their uniform. It is useful to remind parents that leggings and hoop earrings are not part of our uniform policy, and we will continue to support in ensuring all our students uphold our high expectations.

Following feedback from several parents and students, it has been raised as a cause for concern that students don't have their phone on their way to and from school. I have listened to what concerns have been shared and moving forward, students will be allowed their phones in their bags during the day. The same rules around the use of phones in school will apply, phones must be in bags, they must be switched off, they must not be in pockets and not visible during the day. If phones are used in school, they will be removed and locked in the main office until the end of the day; repeat cases of this will result in parents having to come and collect the phone. It is important that we continue to work together, and I am pleased to be able to positively respond to feedback from our community; this is something I am sure we can continue to build on in the coming terms.

As always, we have a very busy half term ahead. There are fewer than 4 school weeks left for our Year 11's until their first GCSE exam in May and our after-school revision sessions continue this half term to support them to achieve their very best. If you require any further information about the revision sessions, please don't hesitate to contact reception or the Head of Year 11, Mr Rowe-Mills, who will be only too pleased to help you.

The National Education Union (NEU) has notified the Government of its intention to call teachers to strike again across England, on Thursday 27 April 2023 and Tuesday 2 May 2023. We will complete an impact and risk assessment and make an informed decision about how to best proceed, I will of course keep you updated of any implications this may have on our ability to keep the school open.



I will keep you updated throughout the year as to our plans, events, and celebrations. Should you need anything in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, it really does mean so very much.

Yours sincerely

Suzy Mattock
Headteacher

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