

# Harpurhey Alternative Provision School

979-981 Rochdale Road, Manchester M9 8AE

Telephone: 0161 674 1831

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Dear Parents/Carers,

**I hope this letter finds you safe and well as we approach the end of the first half term in 2021.**

We are facing up to a number of challenges as government plans are subject to constant review and the announcement that schools will not return until at least 08<sup>th</sup> March 2021 as well as the news that there will be no summer exams this year for our current year 11 students. The implications are massive and impacts on the learning for our older pupils. I hope the following information will help you to chart your way through some of these challenges.

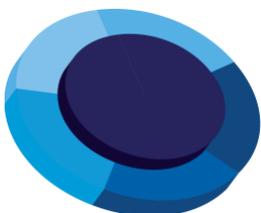
As shared with you previously HAPS is an independent school, and the requirements of us are slightly different than other schools. We do class ourselves as very important to our most vulnerable learners and are doing all that we can to provide face to face tuition for all our pupils. We have been open from 0900 to 1130 am Monday to Friday and our vulnerable learners have been able to attend. From Monday 08<sup>th</sup> February we have extended the school day. The new times are **0900 to 1230 Monday to Thursday, with a 1130 finish on Fridays**. This enables us to offer students a breakfast from 0900 am and also a school dinner before they leave at 1230. School will close for ½ term week on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 1130 and re-open at 0900 on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

School will be open from **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April for our vulnerable pupils.**

**For attendance at face to face sessions, both pupils and staff are required to have a face covering for use in school. Given the current spread of the virus, I know that parents/carers will understand the need for this.**

For all pupils, we are working hard to come up with ways for them to access remote learning, learning at home. Staff have been delivering paper-based resources to every student's home on Tuesdays and collecting completed work at the same time. This home learning has been successful and will continue after the ½ term break. There will be no delivery of work during the ½ term. We will continue to use the safeguarding routines used throughout the lockdowns to maintain regular contact with all our families.

The work students do at home **is important work** and will be used by examination boards to agree with any grades awarded by schools. It is probably going to be that GCSE grading, and any Key Stage 3 levels arrived at, will be checked against pupils' work and results from any 'mock' exams or tests. We will have to present a log of home-based learning to external bodies and exam



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boards. We hope to have a clearer idea soon, the government is due to make its next announcements about education after the ½ term – we await their guidance.

We are also working to keep our school as safe as possible. We have been delivering COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests' twice a week for staff and students who we have consent for. It is with pride that I see our students prepared to 'do their bit' by taking part in the testing and helping to break the chain of transmission for the virus.

These tests help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I encourage everyone to take it.

Those taking the test are supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating; parents or legal guardians will also be informed if a test is positive. This testing is free of charge. If the test is found to be positive, we will complete a standard COVID test on your behalf. Consent for these is on one form which you should already have completed. We will provide advice and guidance on how we share the results of this test with you. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school and we will help in any way that we can.

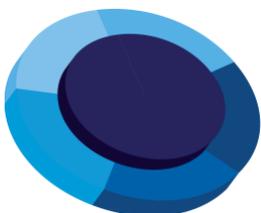
Finally, I would like to thank all our parents/carers and students for helping to make this half term such a success by attending school, completing work & wearing correct uniform (black trousers & black top & and a face covering). It has been a real pleasure to speak to you each day as I hand over how your child's day has gone at HAPs, and to listen to you as you share your stories of where you are displaying the many certificates that have been brought home.

As with all our work, should you need any advice or guidance, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will do all we can to help out, there is a lot to take in here for us as well as our parents/carers.

Best wishes, stay safe & enjoy your ½ term break,



Mr Michael Hill  
**Headteacher**



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