

# Haggerston School

## Weekly Bulletin

Haggerston School

### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have had a lovely Easter break and have had some quality family time.

I am sure some of you will be looking ahead to next week with trepidation. Balancing childcare and home-schooling alongside work is a challenging reality for many of us in the current circumstances and we want to support you as much as possible by making things as clear and simple as possible. Now that we have trialled the system for two weeks we have been able to make some refinements following feedback from staff, students and parents. Below is a list of clarifications which we hope will help to make distance learning work as smoothly as possible:

- Students should continue to follow their normal timetable and keep to the routine of normal school hours. Teachers will continue to set work on the DPR and students should upload work when completed.
- To help students plan their time, some teachers will set work for the whole week at the beginning of the week. This should help your child to assess how much time to spend on each task across the spread of lessons.
- Teachers will not set separate homework for students. Instead students should use this time to complete any tasks they were unable to finish within the lesson time or for reading.
- It is important that students are getting regular exercise, even if this is just a walk in the fresh air. It is useful to build this into their daily routine so that it provides a balance to their school work.
- If IT access is difficult at home, students can print work off and/or complete tasks on paper. They are able to upload photographs of their work onto the DPR if it is not possible to complete work online.
- It is hard for teachers to judge the level of challenge remotely and get this right for every child. If your child is finding work too difficult, encourage them to seek help from their teacher through the DPR or email. If work is taking them longer than the lesson/homework time, they should do what they can within the time available and contact their teacher to let them know they are taking longer to complete the work. Their teacher can help them to prioritise tasks and/or modify the expectations.
- Create clear distinctions between working hours and time off. In school, children would be playing outside and socialising at breaktime. Creating clear boundaries between these different parts of the day will help students to manage the monotony of being in one space throughout the day. This is also important at weekends. If you maintain school start times and earlier bedtimes in the week, for example, it helps to make the weekend feel different when these are relaxed.

If you are concerned or have any queries about any aspect of distance learning, please contact your child's Head of Year. There is clearly no substitute for face to face teaching but it is vital that we minimise the disruption to students' education as much as possible so that they are not disadvantaged long term. Making sure they are working productively and routinely is the most effective way to do this. Having this structure should also help you as parents to continue with working from home. Many of you will already be doing the suggestions above and we are really impressed by the quality of work students have produced. The above advice is not meant to be lecturing or patronising as everyone will need to find a routine which works for them and their family. However, it is intended as a response to some of the questions and feedback we have had from staff, students and parents and to help parents to know what to do if you encounter issues at home.

We are still receiving daily updates from the Department of Education and will pass on any important developments as we receive them. We are looking forward to returning to normal school arrangements as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, I wish you and your families good health during this period.

Ciara Emmerson  
Headteacher

### Coronavirus – Advice for Schools and Parents/Guardians

Please follow this link to our website page to view advice and updates:

<https://haggerston.hackney.sch.uk/2020/02/12/coronavirus-advice-for-schools-parents-guardians/>

# Haggerston Recorder

Easter 2020 newsletter

[Click here to view the new Spring Haggerston Recorder](#)

For more of our latest news and stories please follow us on:



<https://www.facebook.com/HaggerstonSchoolHackney/>



<https://twitter.com/haggerstonsch>

## Children's guide to coronavirus

Many children will be anxious or worried about the coronavirus outbreak and that many will have questions about everything that is happening at the moment.

Children's Commissioner for England have put together a [short guide](#) to help explain to children, in a language they can understand, some of the issues surrounding coronavirus. Thousands of people have downloaded the guide already or shared it on social media - so please do share with parents or groups you know if you find it useful.

They have also created a page full of advice, information, suggestions and resources for parents, educators and other professionals who work with children to help during the pandemic. This can be found [here](#)

## Kooth

Kooth is a new online counselling and emotional wellbeing service for children and young people (11-19yrs) from 1 April 2020. The service will provide a safe and secure means for young people to access online support from a professional team of qualified counsellors who will provide guided, outcome-focused help for each individual.

The service will provide additional support through moderated, scheduled forums to facilitate peer led support and self-help articles (many written by service users) to provide self-help support. Kooth has no referrals or waiting lists, and young people can access this service anonymously by signing onto the Kooth site. Please refer to the Kooth [guide](#) which shows how to sign young people up. To find out more please visit [www.Kooth.com](http://www.Kooth.com).

## National Stephen Lawrence Day - Home resources for children and young people

National Stephen Lawrence Day on Wednesday, 22 April 2020, celebrates the life and legacy of Stephen Lawrence, who was killed in a racist attack at just 18 years old. Home learning resources suitable for a range of ages in support of the day have been produced by the [Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust](#). Please find the resources below.

- [Be the next poetry sensation](#)
- [Challenge accepted](#)
- [Get hands-on building your own bridge](#)
- [Read up a storm](#)

Regular communication with parents/carers is important to us at Haggerston School. It is vital that the school office holds *updated and current contact information* in order that you can receive important messages from school or in case of a medical and/or emergency situation.

*Please contact the school office to update or confirm that your contact information is correct.*

P: 020 7739 7324

E: [haggerstonschool@haggerston.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:haggerstonschool@haggerston.hackney.sch.uk)

**Upcoming events:** week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

**SUMMER TERM**

START	HALF TERM	FINISH
Monday 20 April 2020	Monday 25 – Friday 29 May 2020	Friday 17 July 2020 Early Closure 12.45pm

## **IMPORTANT NOTICES**

### **Attendance to school and GCSE outcomes**

**If your child attends 4 days per week on average over the year, their attendance will average 80% over the year.**

**A child who misses half a day per week on average will typically be around 90%.**

**Your child's attendance should ideally be 100% every week.** We know from our own data that our students achieve their best when they are here every day. The less a child attends, the lower their overall GCSE outcomes.

At Haggerston School, the average GCSE grade for a child with 97% attendance is grade 7. Compare this to a child with 90% attendance whose average grade is nearer a 3 and you will see why we worry about those children who do not attend school every day. Other factors of course will impact on a child's overall attainment at the end of Year 11 but the easiest way to ensure that your child has the opportunity to achieve to the best of his/her ability, is for him/her to attend school daily.

**Children also lose significant learning time if they are repeatedly late to period 1, as period 1 is lesson one of the day.**

**Your child should be on site by 8.30am every day.**

### **Medicines and remedies**

If your child has a minor cough or cold, please send them to school. We will send them home if needed.

For minor injuries or ailments, paracetamol (and or other medication) can be handed in to reception and taken on site as appropriate

### **Unauthorised absences**

Medical appointments should not be taken in school time. If this is unavoidable, the appointment card should be brought in and shown to the Head of Year **48 hours in advance of the appointment**. Requests to leave for an appointment are unlikely to be authorised if this procedure is not followed.

Medical evidence is needed for any absence which lasts for 5 days or more. In the case of persistently low attendance, absences will not be authorised unless medical evidence is provided. In cases of persistent absence, the Educational Welfare Officer may refer to the local authority and statutory action can result.

If absences are sporadic and persistent, medical evidence will be requested before absences can be authorised.

Holidays are not authorised by the school at any time and should not be taken during the school term. Fines are issued in these circumstances.

### **Lateness**

If a child is late to school, 3 corrections are awarded (this leads to a 1 hr detention). The detention is on the same day for Year 11 and the day after for Years 7 to 10. If your child wishes to discuss the reason for the detention, he/she will need to speak with their Head of Year. For children who are persistently late, statutory action may follow.

### **Parents/Carers**

In the rare case where you need to report an absence for your child, please contact the absence line by 8.30am with a specific reason: **02077397324, Option 2** (Please note we cannot accept "unwell" as a reason for absence.)

Parents and Carers are legally responsible for overseeing that their child attends school every day and arrives on time. Please help us to ensure your child makes the most of every opportunity at school by arriving on time every day and arrives prepared and ready to learn. If you have any questions or information that needs sharing between home and school regarding your child's attendance and punctuality, please contact your child's Head of Year.