

2nd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are having a good week and students continue to work well online. Teachers continue to send me examples of work from students, I have particularly enjoyed seeing a number of science experiments this week so far.

Remember that on the website under online learning there are a number of projects that students can access if they are interested in completing an independent project. <https://www.richardhale.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Independent-Project-work-2021.pdf> These can be uploaded to Google Classroom for Dr Morris to review. Details are all included in the link above.

Road to the Euro's

As I reported on Friday we have made a very positive start on the road to the Euro's with lots of students taking part. We have hit the first two stadiums and are now on the way to San Mames Stadium having walked, run or cycled 1683 miles (as of yesterday). We will keep you updated with our progress and house totals on Friday (Croft have stolen an early lead). The staff are also taking part in the challenge (however they are a fair way behind the students at the moment!)

Please encourage your child to take part, every step helps to reach our goal of 9,059 miles and the Baku Olympic Stadium.

Children's Mental Health Week

As you may be aware, this week is Children's Mental Health Week, which is an annual week-long campaign run by children's mental health charity [Place2Be](#). The theme for this year is, "Express Yourself," with the focus on children finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas through creativity. Place2Be and Mentally Healthy Schools have created a [toolkit of resources](#) for children, staff and parents to use during Children's Mental Health Week.

Please continue to remind students to use the Mental Health Google Classroom which has a wide range of resources and links for students to access. Students can contact their form tutor or head of year if they need support. The parental support email is also available if you need any help, please email us and we will get back to you. parentalsupport@richardhale.co.uk

Critical Worker Students

If you are a critical worker and need your son to attend school next week can you please complete the survey using this link, <https://forms.gle/sy9mfYknNA1Dw6gF7>. The deadline for completion is Thursday at 12pm so we are able to plan supervision for the following week.

Students who attend will need to wear full school uniform and bring a pair of trainers to use at lunchtime. There are no food facilities on site and so students will need to supply their own snack and lunch. Students will also need hand sanitiser and a face covering.

Please note that the school will be shut for all students during half term (week beginning the 15th February).

Free School Meals

The vouchers that were issued from Edenred this week were for two weeks and cover the period up to half term.

For the half term holiday, the vouchers will revert to the Hertfordshire County Council system that was used during the Christmas holidays and we hope to be able to email these to eligible parents next week along with the relevant instructions.

There is currently no news on the arrangements for after half term but we are hoping that the government's Edenred system will continue. Further details will be communicated when we have them.

Half Term and Inset Day

A reminder that the school will be closed for all students from Friday 12th February at 3.20 until Monday 22nd February 2021. Online learning will resume after half term on Tuesday 23rd February and the school will re-open for critical worker students on the same day. Hopefully by the time we return after February half term we will have more detail as to the Government's plans for the re-opening of schools from the 8th March. We will keep you updated with any information that we receive on this.

Burns Night Takeaway

The Burns Night Takeaway was a resounding success with approaching 90 individual meals bring ordered. With the donations received, alongside the orders, the PA managed to make a staggering £1,757.00.

A huge thank you must go out to all those who purchased meals and donated so generously. It was great to keep Burns Night the PA's biggest fundraiser of the year in such difficult circumstances. A true reflection of the Richard Hale spirit. A big thank you to the school kitchen who once again gave the PA access and use to prepare everything.

The biggest thanks of all though must go to Jess Tatlow, and the staff at The Golden Fleece, who gave up their time for free to have this event executed. Without Jess and her team this simply would not have happened.

Year 11 Post-16 Appointments

Over the next two weeks, all Year 11 students have an appointment with a member of SLT to discuss their post-16 options. A letter from Mr Robins was sent last Friday with details of how to log in, please note we are using the same system used for the Year 11 Parents Evening. Please ensure you have checked your appointment time on the Year 11 Google Classroom.

YCH Services for Young People

YCH Services have asked schools to pass on the following information and link following a survey of young people last year.

In the summer of 2020, YCH Services for Young People conducted a survey with young people in Hertfordshire to identify and better understand young people's priorities and concerns across the county. The findings of this survey identified that crime was one of respondents' top five concerns.

Young people shared that they were concerned about the risk of becoming a victim of crime, as well as feeling generally unsafe within certain areas in their communities. Many also expressed a wish for a greater adult and/or police presence in some areas, to act as a deterrent to those committing acts of violence, crime or anti-social behaviour.

Further consultation has since taken place between young people and the East Herts Youth Strategy Group, a group of partners who either directly deliver services to young people, or who have a strategic responsibility for young people's services. Together, the group is working to join up service delivery and respond to young people's needs. We collectively identified a need to better identify the specific areas which were causing these concerns for young people and, to this end, Hertfordshire Police have designed a bespoke Echo Survey to capture the voice of young people across East Herts. The survey asks three simple questions:

- *How safe do you feel in the area where you live?*
- *Why do you feel that way?*
- *What could be done to make you feel safer?*

Through these questions, Hertfordshire Police hope to better understand the links between actual crime and the perceived risk of crime, as well as using the findings to inform the joint planning, delivery and allocation of resources by all partners within the East Herts Youth Strategy Group.

The greater the number of young people who complete the survey, the more that our partners will be able to understand specific geographic areas of concern, as well as the risk factors that are causing young people to feel unsafe. Please use this link to the survey www.bit.ly/eherts-youth With thanks

Ian Hawkins
Headteacher

February 2021 Calendar

Thursday 4 th	Extended Tutor Time
Wednesday 10 th	Year 9 Parents Evening
Friday 12 th	School finishes at 3.20pm
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th	Half Term Week
Monday 22 nd	Inset Day – School Closed
Thursday 25 th	Year 13 Parents Evening
Friday 26 th	Extended Tutor Time