

HOLLAND PARK

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an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

Airlie Gardens | Campden Hill Road | London W8 7AF
020 7908 1000 | www.hollandparkschool.co.uk

11th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to write to you today with a number of important pieces of news to make sure you are fully up to date with school life.

First, we are pleased to say that Holland Park School's interim headteacher, Arwel Jones, is now back in school after his leave of absence for bereavement. We send Mr Jones and his family our very best wishes following his sad news.

Secondly, you will recall that we wrote to you on 4th May regarding the findings of the independent investigation. As we said, the issues are of such seriousness that it is appropriate that we commence a disciplinary investigation in respect of three members of staff, while we also intend to make one referral to the Teaching Regulation Agency. All these individuals have been informed and will be given a full opportunity to respond before any conclusion is reached. The Governing Body would like to reiterate that we have no plans whatsoever to take any further disciplinary measures in relation to other staff. We can also be absolutely clear that we have full confidence in all members of the senior leadership team who are still in school as well as the wider staff team. We hope that this is reassuring and that it supports our aim – one that we know you share – that the school moves forward positively and enjoys a period of stability for the good of our students, the staff and you as parents.

That objective is at risk, however, following our third update, which concerns the ballot organised by the National Education Union (NEU) asking staff to vote in favour of taking industrial action on a number of dates this term. The vote was passed and we now have dates when there may be strike action. These dates are as follows: Wednesday 18th May; Tuesday 24th May; Wednesday 25th May; Tuesday 7th June; Wednesday 8th June; and Thursday 9th June.

Clearly if action is taken, it will not only be hugely inconvenient for you as parents and carers, but also, and most importantly, significantly disrupt students' education, impacting those taking exams this summer in particular. There is no reason that justifies something so self-evidently not in the best interests of students. We continue to speak with the NEU to do all we can to avoid action being taken.

Finally, we are pleased to let you know that Governors will be holding a series of group drop-in sessions at which you will be able to meet them and discuss all areas of school life. We aim to add more opportunities depending on take-up but can share the details of the first three that will be held:

- Friday 13th May – 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

You can book for this event at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parents-drop-in-session-13-may-2022-tickets-338239963837>

Further sessions will be held on the dates below, and information will follow on booking for these.

- Monday 23rd May – 8.30am to 10am.
- Tuesday 24th May 4.30pm to 6pm.

We are also arranging opportunities for parents to have a one-to-one conversation with a governor if they would prefer that. We propose holding these as phone calls. If you would like to take this up, please email info@hps-stakeholders.co.uk with the subject title of Governor Phone Call and then we will arrange a time and date.

On the subject of parent meetings, it was good to see those of you who were able to attend the meetings at the school on the evening of 5th May; and we know a number of parents and carers also attended the stakeholder engagement process session with United Learning on Monday evening this week. We hope that these were helpful opportunities to provide further information on both of these important matters.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Farrell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jane Farrell
Chair of Governors, Holland Park School