



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE
HANDSWORTH
SECONDARY SCHOOL



September 18th, 2020

Dear Handsworth Families:

I would like to start with a sincere **Handsworth thanks** to all the students, staff and parents for contributing to an extremely successful first week back in classes. The students have been fantastic – their resilience, adaptability and compliance with the **many** health and safety processes and procedures has been nothing short of impressive! I have also appreciated connecting with parents via email, phone and also occasionally in person – the feedback you have provided has helped inform school-based processes, including this letter. The teaching and support staff have done a tremendous job adapting to a very different schedule and delivery model– delivering lessons to full classes, hybrid classes and completely online. **Well done everyone, you have exemplified what it means to be a team!** I would also like to extend a special note of thanks to my administrative colleagues Mr. Mark Barrett and Ms. Sarah Best and my entire office team led by Ms. Trace Bell. My team has worked tirelessly - early mornings, late nights and weekends to ensure a smooth start-up - I am extremely grateful to be a part of the Handsworth family.

There have been a few questions from families that I thought may be helpful to address here in my letter:

SCHEDULE: I hope there is now some clarity on the new Daily Schedule – details for the [GRADE 8 DAILY SCHEDULE](#) and the [GRADE 9 -12 DAILY SCHEDULE](#) are now available on our website. Additional information can be found here - [Handsworth Timetable Information](#). We have also updated the [2020-21 STUDENT CALENDAR](#) on the Handsworth website. The calendar includes important details on delivery model switch dates including quarter start/end dates and reporting timelines. **I would encourage you to review this information.**

LUNCH: When students have a face to face afternoon class, they are welcome to eat their lunch in the common areas of their assigned zone. Students are asked to put their masks back on when they are finished eating. As always students are welcome to go home or outside to eat their lunch.

ABSENCES DUE TO ILLNESS: We ask families to please keep their child(ren) home if ill. If you are unsure of when you keep your child(ren) home, the [NVSD HEALTH CHECK](#) is a helpful guide. Rest assured that the teachers are well equipped to support the continuation of educational programming if your child is ill and unable to report to classes. As an additional measure I would encourage students to find a “buddy” in class - this system works well for studying but also for gathering information that may have been missed in classes. If there is an extended absence for any reason, please connect with your Grade Counsellor and/or Grade Administrator and they will be able to support.



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FLEX TIME: A reminder that teachers are available in-person and virtually to support students during the optional morning FLEX TIME. Please have your child connect with their teacher directly to schedule a time if they require additional support.

MASK ETIQUETTE and SOCIAL DISTANCING: We continue to ask with your support with reminding your child(ren) to adhere to the mask policies - wearing a mask in all common areas, except when eating in your zone. Please also discuss the importance of respecting individual choices with respect to wearing masks in learning cohorts and allowing for ample personal space whenever possible. Encourage your child to be a self-advocate and advocate for themselves if they need more personal space - Counsellors are here to support if your child(ren) require any support navigating tricky situations.

A reminder that our first HPAC Meeting will be on Monday September 21st at 7pm, please see the attached agenda. I encourage you to attend our virtual [HPAC](#) meetings and get involved with the Handsworth Parent Advisory Council. The most up to date information can be found by visiting our [Handsworth school website](#).

Wishing all of you a wonderful weekend!

Stay well,

Rupi Samra-Gynane, Principal

The Handsworth Community develops empowered, innovative, and compassionate learners who serve and lead with curiosity and integrity.