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Dear Parents

As we reach half-term, I am writing with a request for volunteers and to give you some information about the new systems we are developing at the school to support students' learning.

1. Language Conversation Volunteers.

Do you speak French or Spanish well enough to engage our students in conversation practice? If you do and have some time to spare, we would be delighted if you could volunteer to support our languages department by offering some conversation sessions. If this is something you would consider, please contact the Head of MFL, Ms Robinson by email for more information.

arobinson@highburygrove.islington.sch.uk

2. Google Classroom/Apps for Education www.google.com

Staff and students have been using the Google system since the start of term, with all of us learning how to make good use of it. All homework that is set should be recorded on the system which provides a calendar, email, document-writing applications and a directory of folders for students' work - Google drive. The key to the whole system is the students' login using their @hgschool.uk email address and their password.

Please take time to ask your child to show you their homework on Google Classroom. Once students have logged in to www.google.com, the nine-square symbol in the top-right corner, provides access to all the google applications. It would be great if you could explore this with your child to make sure you all know how it works. All assignment deadlines will show in the calendar as well as in a list in their work stream.

If you have any problem with passwords or navigating the system please email our e-learning Coordinator Mr Carter at help@hgschool.uk and he will try to support you.

3. e-Praise www.epraise.co.uk

We are moving all of our rewards to the e-Praise system from November. All of their existing points have been transferred across already and the system is live. It is a fabulous website that makes it easy for teachers to award achievement points and for students and parents to see the various rewards that the school was awarded each child. We will be developing a whole series of badges and accolades over the coming months. You can receive an email notification every time your child reaches a milestone with their achievement points total.

To get started, please read the parents' guide attached. You can get the ePraise app set up on your phone, and log in with the same email address you have given the school. (NB: We are not using the Planner feature as this side of things is covered by Google Classroom.) Students can see their own profile by logging in with their @hgschool.uk login details while parents use their own personal emails.

As with any new system, it will take a while to get used to but please login and explore the settings so that you can keep in touch with your child's achievements.

Here is a summary:

Where and how do we log in?

Google Apps for Education

- Visit www.google.com and sign in using the @hgschool.uk address
- Access mail, classroom, drive, docs and the other features through the web page

E-Praise - Students

- Visit www.epraise.co.uk and click sign in.
- Search for Highbury Grove.
- Sign in with Google and enter the @hgschool.uk username and password.

E-Praise - Parents

- Visit www.epraise.co.uk and click sign in.
- Search for Highbury Grove.
- Enter the email you use for communication with the school, leaving the password field blank.
- Follow the details shown in the subsequent email from epraise.

4. Catch-Up Programme

After half-term we will be launching a whole-school catch-up programme with subject sessions running every week before and after school and on some Saturdays to help students catch-up with their work. I will send details of this in a separate email. All of these systems are designed to support students in their learning and we will need your involvement to make them work as well as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the school. I hope you and your children have a great half-term.
Regards

Tom Sherrington
Headteacher