



# YEAR 8 NEWSLETTER

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October



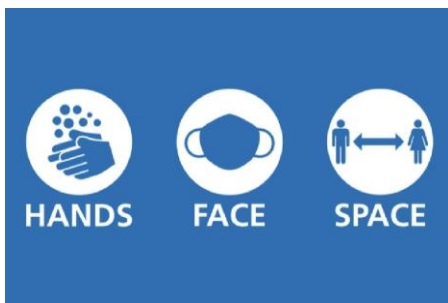
Dear Parents and Carers,

I can honestly say that whilst this first half-term has been somewhat unusual your children have worked incredibly hard in lessons and it is clear that they are determined to reduce any gaps in their learning from the forced closures due to lockdown. The year group show a real sense of maturity in following the school expectations and display our core values of Excellence, Perseverance, Community, Kindness and Respect in abundance. With this in mind I am incredibly proud to announce that over 10,000 Good News Notes have been issued to the Year 8 cohort alone, since starting back in September. Over 10% of the year group have individually surpassed 100 achievement points and there are 70 students in Year 8 who have not received a single behavior point. The incredible resilience of this year group is highlighted by more than a third of our cohort demonstrating the grit and determination to have 100% attendance. These students will be rewarded for their efforts and you will be notified of these achievements directly.



## The first week back after half-term is a Week A

This means Year 8 students arrive on site for 08:40 - We advise students to not get here any earlier than 08:30. They go straight to their form room when they arrive and, as always, students are to use the top Wiltshire Lane entrance only.



### Covid 19

Thank you for your support in reinforcing the Hands, Face, Space directive. All of the year 8 students have been informed about wearing masks in the corridors around school and I am impressed with their responsible attitude in ensuring that they their mask is in place as soon as they enter the building and leave their classroom.

### Home Learning

I have been really pleased to have lots of students speak to me this year to say how much they enjoyed the virtual content that was shared during lock down. With this in mind you may find the following link of interest:

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/resources/online-courses-and-learning-for-children-and-teens/>

*The School Reading List* has lots of educational information and virtual activities for learners of all ages. The site started out with the aim of recommending appropriate reading books to children and young adults between the ages of 5-19, which I wish I had been given access to as a youngster myself. I found reading difficult as a child and remember a very wise teacher informing me that if 'you don't like reading, then you clearly haven't found the right book'. There are many studies that explore the direct correlation of reading for pleasure with higher academic outcomes so I personally cannot think of a better time to find that 'right book' for you and your child than at the start of a half-term.





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## Haydon@Home - Half Term Photo Challenge

The Haydon@Home challenge entries proved to be a highlight of last year and I would therefore love to see our students' creative side once again during this half-term break. I am asking the students to take some photos under the title of 'Our Natural World'. I want to see original pictures of landscapes, varieties of weather, wildlife, sunsets, the sky or anything else that they feel meets this brief.



All finalist entries will be on display outside the Year 8 Office and there will be additional prizes for those who are judged to submit the top 3 images.

If your child wishes to take part please direct them to Satchel:ONE where I have posted further information along with a number of examples.

## ***All truly great thoughts are conceived while walking – Friedrich Nietzsche***

Whilst on my morning duty I like to have a chat with the students who are waiting to be allowed in to the school. A few days ago it came to my attention that one of our students walks, what I would consider to be, a long way to and from school on most days. She sets off early and picks her friend up on route. It got me thinking what are the benefits to walking to school so I asked the two girls to write a short article for the newsletter as an inspiration to others.

Marisa's Reasons to Walk:

1. Environment – it is better to walk than wait for the bus or get a lift in a car because then you are not wasting fuel and creating unnecessary pollution
2. Exercise – It's proven to be mentally and physically good for your health
3. Calming – If you walk to school it is usually quite relaxing and can relieve stress
4. Socialising – Walking home with a friend is great as it's nice to be able to talk about your day with someone

*Marisa Yorke 8WJM*

The distance I walk on my journey to school is about 3.8miles which takes me a little more than 75 minutes. I usually do around 10,000 steps on the way to school and another 10,000 steps on the way home, so that's 20,000 before I account for any distance covered during my school day. I find it fun to do, it wakes me up and gets me ready to learn. In my opinion I feel it is quite relaxing and calming. I usually walk with my friend Marisa which makes it really fun and I would recommend walking to everyone.

*Rebeca Mihaila 8GKP*

## Homework club

Runs every day from 2.40pm to 3.40pm (Except Friday's which finish at 3.30pm) in room T2. I strongly recommend students who are finding it difficult to concentrate at home attend.





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**GCSE Options** - What better time than half term to start the initial conversations with your child about what options they wish to pursue next year. More options information will be sent out around Christmas but you may wish to explore last year's information which is available on the school website:

<https://www.haydonschool.com/page/?title=KS4+Options&pid=139>

### Final Thoughts

I wish you all a relaxing week and I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. If any of your children are interested in coding, computers and/or cyber security I would recommend joining the HM Government's free online extracurricular programme *Cyber Discovery* – all of the necessary details can be accessed by following this link:

<https://joincyberdiscovery.com>

Please be aware that there are limited places and the closing date for entries is Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

I hope you are finding these communications useful and if there is anything in particular that you would like me to include in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me on [amaclean1.312@lgflmail.org](mailto:amaclean1.312@lgflmail.org)

Kind regards,

Alexander Maclean  
Year Leader – Year 8

Sonal Hansora  
Deputy Year Leader – Year 8

