

# Haydon School

## Deputy Headteachers' letter to Students



16th September 2022

Dear Students,

As we reach the end of the third week of school we wanted to both write to you to say well done for how well these last few weeks have gone at school, and to give you a few reminders about the school site. Overall we have been really impressed with the way you have returned to school. Your uniform is smart, behaviour around the school site is vastly improved, and there appears to be vast amounts of learning taking place in classrooms.

### A few reminders

- **Lunch and break** - At the start of break and lunchtime, Y7,8 and 9 can use the canteen, Y10 the quad and Y11 the undercroft to purchase food, Towards the end of lunch and break students in y10 and 11 can use the canteen when the ques have reduced. Sixth form students can use any of the food serving areas on site. We have been impressed with the speed at which you're returning to lessons at the end of break and lunch, but remember you should be back and ready to work by 11:10 and 13:50.
- **Uniform** - Whilst uniform appears vastly improved this year, remember that you should have your blazer with you each day and wear it around the school site. This is part of the school uniform and not an optional extra! Sixth form students should be in business attire, following the sixth form dress code.
- **Punctuality and attendance** - We know as teachers that in order for you to achieve your potential in school you need to be present in your lessons and on time. If you are 5 minutes late to a lesson that will add up to 3 whole days lost over the school year. In order to give yourself the best opportunity to succeed you need to be on time.



### Learning update

We have visited many lessons over the last three weeks and are very impressed with the level of focus you are making and also the progress we are seeing in your learning. Hopefully you have noticed that all your lessons are starting with a purposeful starter as you enter the classroom. This will often be called a "Do Now" task with



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the focus on retrieving previous information you have learnt, or practising **interleaving**.

Having a quick retrieval task at the start of the lesson, not only helps to settle the class and focus everyone on the learning that is about to take place but it also strengthens memory recall by training your brain to focus on thinking and finding different responses to bring into your

short-term memory. By revisiting and interleaving material from each topic several times, in short bursts, you can increase the amount you remember for exams and also in your life after school. Each time you revise information, it strengthens your memory recall and learning is spread over time rather than in concentration on narrow topics one after the other. The short video in this [link](#) explains the science behind this process a bit further.

We hope you have a great week. As always if you need any support or have any ideas which would add value to the school and your experience here please let us or any other adult in the school community know.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Kidd and Ms Appleby**  
Deputy Headteachers

