

Haydon School



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE LETTER

RWJ/jmp/Headteacher's Update
18 March 2019

Dear Parents

Level 1 and 2 EPQ Results

At the end of the summer term 2018, thirteen Year 8 students and nineteen Year 10 students embarked on the Extended Project Qualification at level 1 and 2 respectively. The students had to choose an investigation to research, write a 200-400 word report and present their findings to teachers, mentors, governors and SLT. The students did the whole project (worth half a GCSE) in their own time, over the holidays and after school, they are to be commended for their hard work, perseverance and dedication. The results were impressive with 11A*s and 2 As at level 1 and 14 A*s, 4 As and 1 B at level 2. Thank you to all the teachers who gave up their time to mentor the students and the HAPs team for running the programme. Well done!

Good Schools Guide

https://www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk/schools/haydon-school-pinner/e14b85f#tab_review

PiXL Leaders' Visit

Last week we hosted three senior leaders from two inner London secondary schools who spent time interviewing our staff and students and visiting lessons and looking at the way the school was run. As part of the process we were given an extensive de-brief which included areas for the school to improve, but also a glowing set of positives.

It came as no surprise to me, but the visitors emphasised that our students are our biggest strength as they talked glowingly about the school, how they feel safe and value their broad curriculum offer and the extensive extra-curricular opportunities they are given. Positive praise was directed towards our ReACT and green pen marking and many other instances of excellent teaching and how staff and students were able to talk of our shared vision within the school. I would like to congratulate all the staff and students who were involved.

Relationship Charter Update

We have had a really positive start to the relaunch of the Relationship Charter and students have responded really well to the new initiative on mobile phones. Staff are noticing a real change at social times and within classrooms. I would like to thank parents who have been very helpful in supporting staff with its implementation. It is in everyone's interests that we are able to spend more time on teaching and learning rather than dealing with the inappropriate use of phones. Please can you remind your child to have their phone switched off in their bag and not visible from the time they enter the school site. Phones or electronic devices which are confiscated for the second time onwards will need to be collected by parents at a mutually convenient time.

The Charter prides itself on rewards and recognition and we are encouraging all staff to praise students with Good News Notes, Postcards and Phone calls or emails home. Please check the Student Learning Gateway to monitor your child.

It is also important that your child is in the correct uniform and that all students (including sixth formers) wear their lanyard around their neck at all times so they are easily identifiable for security purposes.

Seneca Revision Platform

All students and teachers now have free access to Seneca - a revision and homework platform making studying more fun. Seneca is an interactive way to learn official course content. Their web app covers 150+ exam board specific courses condensing what students need to know for their exams. The software is able to identify gaps in learning. For instance, when you get a question wrong, the platform will repeat the topic in different formats and their smart algorithm has proven to make students remember topics 2x faster. Seneca is totally free for students, teachers and parents. You can sign up via: senecalearning.com .

‘Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher’

I have really enjoyed meeting with groups of students from Year 7 and Year 8 over the last two weeks. During break time the students who were nominated by their Year Team talked to me about what they enjoyed about being a student at Haydon School and raised any concerns or suggestions for improvement. Congratulations to Naina Bhasin, Anna Billiet, Lex Clarke, Sydney Cole, Jenny Davies, Madde James, Megan Linnell, Ahmar Razzaq, and Ryan Stoddart from Year 7 and Laura Demchuk, Jonathan Ingram, Gabriele Ivanovaite, Mahi Kapadia, Adam Norquoy, Matthew Schettino, Jonathan Tang and Ley Vickers from Year 8. I look forward to meeting students from the other year groups in the coming weeks.

Careers Week

I would like to thank all staff, parents, members of the community and students for their participation in the Careers Week. The event was very well received and we had great feedback from everyone who took part. The Year 9 Work Experience was a great success with just over 80% of students gaining a valuable insight into the world of work in a real range of careers. We would like to also take this opportunity to congratulate the Year 10 students on the level of maturity they displayed in the preparation and also participation in the mock interviews. All the employers who took part were full of praise.

Book Day

Last Friday, everyone at Haydon celebrated ‘World Book Day’ with a brilliant book themed menu in the canteen, a hunt for Wally, spotting the teacher reading and a bookmark competition organised by our librarian. It was a brilliant day enjoyed by the students who managed to win themselves some prizes as well as receive their World Book Day voucher entitling them to a FREE BOOK! The theme this year was ‘Share A Story’, so everyone read/listened to a part of a story at the start of every lesson, and had to wait until their next lesson to find out what happened next - the twist at the end really was worth the wait!

Our lucky winners were:

Where's Wally competition: Leithusha Ambikapathy

‘6 word story’ tutor competition: 11KAS

Spot the Teacher Competition: Erica Martins

Bookmark competition: 1st - Bianca Bodrug, 2nd - Kara Harot, Joint 3rd: Noor Razzaq & Molly Dorricott

School Production – ‘Oliver!’

This week students from Years 7 to 13 were involved in the whole school production of ‘Oliver!’ as actors, musicians, technicians and backstage crew. The show was performed on Monday to Coteford junior school and then to staff, students and parents on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The show was a fantastic opportunity for the many year groups to unite in order to create an impressive and entertaining performance of a classic musical. The show was well attended and gained great praise from staff and parents alike. Many thanks and well done to all of the students involved in the performance and to the Performing Arts Faculty and all of the staff



involved and a special thanks to our Musical Director Mr Bowman, our Technical Director Mr. Lapham and our Director Ms Pennell.

Haydon School Student Appears with Beckham, Pogba and Zidane

I will share the new Adidas advert that has recently been published which includes Miguel Azeez, a Year 11 student who currently plays for Arsenal and England Under 16s.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OP90--jU22U>

R W Jones
Headteacher

KEY DATES

Wednesday 20 March	Year 9 Camp – Parents Meeting 6pm
Thursday 21 March	Year 8 Options Evening – 6.30pm
Friday 22 March	Whole School Non-Uniform Day Meningitis Research in memory of Caitlin Baker
Tuesday 26 March	EARLY CLOSURE – 1.20pm Year 9 Parents Afternoon/Evening
Tuesday 2 April	Spring Concert – 7.00pm
Friday 5 April	Last Day of Spring Term – 2.50pm finish
Monday 8 to Monday 22 April	EASTER HOLIDAY
Tuesday 23 April	First Day of Summer Term – 8.40am start