

**10 February, 2023**

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

**Year 11 Interviews**

I have had an extremely enjoyable week interviewing a number of our Year 11 students. It has been wonderful seeing how well they are doing with their GCSE courses and also discussing their plans for the future. My colleagues have also commented to me how enjoyable they have found the experience!

**Year 11 into Sixth Form - Cambridge University Talk**

On Thursday sixty of our Year 11 students were invited to a talk by Cambridge University on the exciting avenues open at Cambridge University and how best they can prepare for possible interviews at Oxbridge and/or Russell Group Universities in the future. I'd like to thank Mrs Baker-Perkins for her continued hard work in creating such good links with outside speakers to ensure the aspirations of our young people are as high as possible and that Haydon Sixth Form can be the avenue for a great future for all of our students.



**Half Term Revision**

We will be having some Year 11 and 13 mathematics and science revision sessions over the half term break. The teachers are inviting students into school to provide targeted support. We hope they find it useful.



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### **Safer Internet Day**

It was Safer Internet Day Tuesday, 7th February. The UK celebrated by putting children and young people's voices at the heart of the day. Haydon School encourages our students to shape the online safety support they receive. The specific theme this week was 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. Within form time Tutors facilitated discussion around this important area across all year groups. A core focus for our school was around privacy on the internet. Social media and sharing networks are a normal and valuable part of young people's lives. Internet use has a lot of positives and these were explored.

### **[Online Safety Helpline link](#)**

### **Year 9 Options**

We are very excited to be starting our Year 9 options process next half term. Students in Year 9 have reacted very positively to having the opportunity to be involved in the options carousel and we hope this will make the choices they make about the next stage of their education more informed. We will be communicating with parents, carers and students in the first week back regarding the process of selecting their KS4 choices and the time frame through PSHE lessons, assemblies, the options booklet and also an evening on the 9th March. To support your discussions at home around option choices we would recommend looking at the resources from the [Start website](#) which contains information collated by the London Careers Hubs.

***I am delighted that the number of school trips has increased as I feel students have really missed out on this important aspect of school life during the Covid pandemic.***

### **Geography Field Trip**

Last week seventy Year 10 Geographers visited Surrey to complete their GCSE residential fieldwork at Juniper Hall Field Study Centre. The students arrived on Monday and visited the town centre of Guildford to complete their urban fieldwork, investigating how urban areas change as we move away from the Central Business District, the centre of the urban area. The next day students were taken to three different sites along the River Tillingbourne where they were measuring how the river changes from the upper course down to the lower course and whether this confirmed the theory of the Bradshaw Model. On the final day students were given the opportunity to begin evaluating their findings and practise some exam questions. The Year 10s will be assessed on this trip in their Geography GCSE in 2024. The trip allowed for enrichment of the Geography curriculum and allowed students to get out on the field. I would like to thank Ms Sureshgar for organising this trip and the other staff members who supported the students.



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### **National History Trip**

Some of our students in Year 7 and 8 had a very enjoyable day out at the Natural History Museum. Highlights included the Volcano section with its earthquake simulation, a vast blue whale, a 4.5 billion year old meteorite, Mary Anning's fossils from Lyme Regis, the mind-boggling dinosaur gallery (with an animatronic T-Rex), and the Darwin centre with its intriguing specimens in glass jars. I would like to thank Ms Kennedy-Martin for organising the trip.

### **Arts Alliance**

I have just returned from some of the performances for the Arts Alliance Project from our Year 7 students. This is a cross curricular project that focuses on developing understanding of other cultures, creativity, research, public speaking and public performance. Each Year 7 group is given a country to research and each subject covers topics in their area that involve that country. The students take six weeks to devise a public performance that reflects their new understanding of some aspect of that country.

This is, as you can imagine, no small task for students or teachers. I believe this is a very valuable project for students of this age. At Haydon we want to provide opportunities for this type of cross curricular performance-based education as often as possible, especially during Key Stage Three. I would like to thank all of the staff involved.

### **Indoor Athletics**

On Wednesday, 8th February 2023, the Year 7 and 8 girls' indoor athletics teams travelled to Harrow Leisure Centre to represent Hillingdon at the West London finals.

Both teams were outstanding in both the track and field events, with a special mention to our Year 8 relay team (Jayden Clarke, Ophelia Anwar, Chloe Pottle and Grace Dwyer) who ran the 2 lap relay in a record time!

Results were as follows:

Year 7 Girls 1st

Year 8 Girls 1st

This now means that both teams will represent West London in the London Youth Games Final next month. What an achievement, good luck girls!



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### **International Rhythmic Gymnastics - Maria Switaj (7TED)**

Maria Switaj in 7TED competed in her first International Rhythmic Gymnastics competition winning 2 gold medals and 2 silver medals representing Great Britain. Maria was also involved in Regional Grades 2023 last weekend (one of the most important competitions in the Gymnastics calendar), in which she performed 2 routines and won 3 gold medals, finishing overall in 1st place. Congratulations to Maria, and we wish her every success in her future competitions.

### **Industrial Action by the NEU**

As outlined recently in a number of communications to you, I have been notified of strikes by the NEU on Thursday 2nd March, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March. The first of those dates was due to be our Year 9 Parents' Evening. I have made the decision to change the date of this evening to Tuesday 28th February. This will be the date for the Parents' Evening even if the industrial action is called off. School will close early on this day.

There were over 50 teaching staff on strike on the last day of action and we will keep arrangements the same for any future industrial action. The students will stay at home and will be taught remotely by the teachers who are working.

Yours sincerely,

**Robert Jones**  
**Headteacher**

### **Key Dates**

Monday, 20 February - Term starts  
Tuesday 28th February - Year 9 Parents' Evening - Early closure  
Tuesday, 21 March - Year 8 Parents' Evening - Early closure  
Friday, 31 March - End of Term  
Monday, 3 April - Friday 14 April 2023 - Easter Holiday  
Monday, 17 April - Return to school

When there is an early closure, the school day continues as normal for periods 1 to 4. There is a form time at 1.10 to 1.30 and then lunch is available for students who want it. Students can leave at 1.30 if they wish.

