

# Haydon School

## Deputy Headteachers' letter to Students



23rd May 2022

Dear Students,

Over the next 5 weeks we are going to explore each one of our core Haydon values, and ask your form tutors to discuss with you how embodying these values can help guide the choices you make and support your success at Haydon. Today we would like to focus on the value of **Excellence**.

When we consider what we mean by **excellence** most of us initially think it means being the greatest. When we give examples of excellent individuals we often think of those people who reached the top of their field, the writer Charles Dickens, the mathematician Kathrine Jonson, the physicist Steven Hawking or the athlete Mo Farah.



However, what we often fail to remember is that to become the 'greatest' individuals have had to conquer many challenges and being the 'greatest' did not come easily. Dickens, left school at the age of 12 to work in a factory when his dad was sent to debtors prison; Katherine Jonson overcame systemic racism and sexism becoming the first African American woman to be appointed an engineer at NASA; Steven Hawking was diagnosed with an incurable disease affecting his muscle control when he was 21 but went on to become one of the most influential scientists in history and Mo Farah become the most decorated British athlete ever, despite fleeing Somalia and spending his early childhood in a refugee camp.



As we have seen in the examples above, being excellent doesn't just happen overnight. It takes a lot of hard work to perfect the things you do and the behaviours we display.



Excellence is not being the greatest, but rather it is displayed through the effort we dedicate to become better versions of ourselves. It is measured through perseverance and commitment rather than the achievements. Excellence is when you try your best to create an outstanding atmosphere around you. Excellence is when you create a piece of work thoughtfully, with dedication. It is having a growth mindset, the belief and application that hard work, learning from mistakes and maintaining high expectations produce astonishing results and the only limitation you face is that which you place on yourself. Excellence goes beyond the academic classroom too. It can mean being part of a winning sports team, performing in the school play or playing a solo in an orchestra.



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*We don't get a chance to do that many things, and every one should be really excellent. Because this is our life. Life is brief, and then you die, you know? And we've all chosen to do this with our lives. So, it better be damn good. It better be worth it.*

Steve Jobs

We would like to challenge the whole school community this week to display excellence in everything you do, these are some opportunities where you can display your commitment to being excellent:

- Show respect to members of staff and each other.
- Attend all lessons on time.
- Being prepared for learning by having all equipment and books for the day ahead.
- Wear the correct uniform (and smart business dress in the 6th form).
- Enter classrooms in a calm and polite manner.
- In class, respect each other and make it possible for all students to learn
- Persevere when you find work challenging.
- Join an extracurricular activity.

We would like to wish the all year 10 success in their Mock interviews this Monday and in their work experience placements on Thursday and Friday. We are also really excited to attend the Art Alliance performances on Thursday and see the scripted performances and songs they have been working on.

We hope you have a great week, and a relaxing and sunny May half term. 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

