

**4 September, 2023**

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

At the start of a new term, I would like to provide you with an update of news from Haydon School. I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer and that your child is looking forward to the new term. A particular warm welcome to all parents of children who have joined us this term. I hope that this is the start of a positive relationship together.

**Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)**

There has been a lot in the media about this over the last couple of days. Haydon School was inspected on 26th July 2023 and I have received a report from the structural engineer on 21st August 2023 which states that RAAC has not been used in the construction of any of the school buildings and we are unaffected by the current concerns. This is a great relief as many areas of the school were built when this type of concrete was used for construction!

**Examination Results**

I was delighted with this summer's examination results and I would like to congratulate all of the students in last year's Year 11 and 13. It gives me a real sense of pride seeing the youngsters rewarded for their hard work. We know that the last few years have been a very challenging time for everyone and we are pleased that our students have still received an outstanding set of results which will ensure that they can move on to the next phase of their education and lives. They have all shown extraordinary resilience and determination.

I will provide more detailed analysis in a future update later but I am delighted that 134 of our Year 13 students have been placed at University with 28 getting Russell Group University offers as well as 2 getting into Oxford University! Other Year 13 students have gone straight into work and have taken some excellent higher level apprenticeship posts.

**Timings of the School Day**

We would like to inform you of a small change we have made to the school day. For the last academic year, period one has been ten minutes longer than other lessons, to allow teachers to complete an equipment check. We have moved this ten minutes to form time, still at the end of the day, to allow form tutors to conduct a meaningful form time, and to support students with developing skills they might not be taught in their regular academic lessons.

The start and end times are unchanged, but lesson times are now as follows:



Achieving individual excellence  
in a caring community

8:40-9:40 - Period 1  
9:40-10:40 - Period 2  
10:40-11:00 - Breaktime  
11:00-12:00 - Period 3  
12:00-13:00 - Period 4  
13:00-13:40 - Lunchtime  
13:40-14:40 - Period 5  
14:40-15:10 - Form Time.

As a gentle reminder - On Tuesday 5th September we expect only Year 7 and Year 12 in school. Year 7 should go to St Mary's Hall, whilst Year 12 should go to the sixth form common room. We will ensure that staff are available on the gates to direct students, so please don't be worried if you or your students do not know where these places are!

All other students should return to school on Wednesday 6th September. They should go to their form rooms by 8:40 for an extended form time, and to be issued with timetables.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is the first of our three priorities at Haydon for this year. There is a vast amount of educational research that shows a clear link between educational outcomes and attendance to school. It is vital that the students' attendance is high and our target for students is 96%. Students are considered to be 'Persistently Absent' if the attendance drops below 90%. Parents are reminded that all term time absences (except for sickness) must be requested in writing to me in advance. Please do not book holidays in term time, as this will not be authorised. Sickness absences should be reported by emailing [absence@haydonschool.org.uk](mailto:absence@haydonschool.org.uk) or telephoning 020 8429 0005 - Option 1. Please include your child's full name and form and the reason for the absence. We are aware that our stance on attendance may appear harsh, but we have seen so many times the disadvantage it places students at when they have missed a proportion of their schooling.

### **Uniform and Equipment**

It is very important that students arrive in school each day in full uniform, with the equipment they need for their lessons. One of the best ways you can support your children with achieving at school is by checking this from home. If they are in full uniform with full equipment, it removes the need for us to have unnecessarily negative conversations, rather than discussing learning and achievement with them. Students will be issued with sanctions from their form tutors if they are missing crucial parts of their equipment, or have incorrect or missing uniform, but we would far rather students turned up prepared and we can engage with them on matters related to learning in lessons!

### Flying Start Evenings

We would like to welcome all parents to a Flying Start evening led by your child's Year Leader, during this evening they will go over how you can support your child in the coming year both in terms of the academic development and their wellbeing as well as reviewing key dates and expectations. After the presentation there will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's form tutor and socialise with other parents with refreshments being provided. The dates for the evenings are:

- **Monday 11th September - Year 11 - [Click here to book](#)**
- **Tuesday 12th September - Year 13 - [Click here to book](#)**
- **Wednesday 13th September - Year 8 - [Click here to book](#)**
- **Thursday 14th September - Year 9 - [Click here to book](#)**
- **Monday 25th September - Year 7 - [Click here to book](#)**
- **Thursday 26th September - Year 12 - [Click here to book](#)**
- **Wednesday 27th September - Year 10 - [Click here to book](#)**

### Canteen Prices

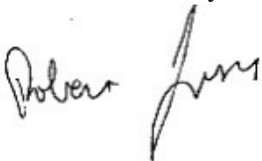
We have kept our prices unchanged for a number of years. This year we had to make the difficult decision to adjust them as the cost of production increased.

Main meal with pudding is £2.60

Pasta pots with pudding is £2.50

Prices for other items are clearly displayed. We kept the adjustment as low as possible. You are able to see all purchases on ParentPay.

Yours sincerely



**Robert Jones**  
**Headteacher**

### Key Dates

- Thursday 21 September School Open Evening – Year 6 (Early Closure)
- Monday 23rd October to Friday 3rd November (2 weeks) – HALF TERM

**Headteacher: Mr R Jones BSc(Econ) MBA NPQH**

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