

22 September, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Open Evening

I draft this newsletter following a very successful Open Evening last night. I always feel very proud showcasing the school. We had over one thousand visitors to the school and I received some very positive feedback. I would like to thank the students who gave up their evening to act as guides or work in departments as well as the many staff who worked very late.

We will also be offering three opportunities for parents and Year 6 students to visit the school during a working day for a brief presentation and tour during the school day on the dates listed below.

- **Thursday 28th September** - [Click here to book](#)
- **Wednesday 4th October** - [Click here to book](#)
- **Wednesday 11th October** - [Click here to book](#)

Calendar

The term dates for the academic year 2024-25 have now been finalised and can be found [here](#) on the school website. Please do not book holidays outside of these dates.

Extra Curricular Activities - Autumn Term

Staff have been busy setting up the extra-curricular clubs for this term. To make it as easy as possible for our families, we have created a centralised timetable of activities for students to choose from. The timetable will be updated on a half termly basis and can be viewed [here](#): www.haydonschool.com/clubs

Humanities Trips

The History department took students in Years 10 and 11 to the Tower of London. The students received special access to closed-off sections of the White Tower and an in-depth talk that deepened their understanding of their GCSE Normans paper. The students also enjoyed seeing the Crown Jewels, and it sparked discussions on the origins of the jewels in the crowns and whether Britain should still have them. I want to thank Mr Tsakiridis for organising the trip.

The Year 13 historians also went to the National Archives to access some original documents written by the Tudor monarchs. After initially struggling to decipher Tudor handwriting and spelling, the students were able to pick out key features of all the sources they were

investigating. These helped plot the alleged crisis of Mary I's reign, and the Year 13's could form their own judgements based on actual primary sources. The Year 13 students gained an insight into the role of historians beyond university. One of the highlights was viewing a letter written by Queen Elizabeth I herself. Thank you to Mr Cooper for organising and assisting.

Attendance

Learning time is gained by attending school. At Haydon, we want all our students to have attended school 96% or more of the year.

Being around teachers and friends at Haydon is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential. Time in school keeps your children safe and provides extra-curricular opportunities and individual pastoral care.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. Please read the information from the NHS for further details:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



We have experienced a really positive start to this academic year as the students have been generally settled and seem happy to be back at school. Though most of them enjoy being off on holidays, they do look forward to returning so they can reconnect with their friends and get involved with several of their favourite activities within the school. It has also been especially refreshing to walk around the school and see the students hard at work and focussed in lessons, keen to make the best of a fresh start. So far, we have had very few negative behaviour incidents which have been swiftly addressed, as we continue to reinforce expectations amongst the students. Your support in engaging with the school and attending parent meetings when requested has also been invaluable in allowing us to create a calm learning environment for our students to thrive in.

We were especially proud to welcome our new Year 7 cohort, who have shown tremendous resilience in adapting to their new environment. They have embraced the challenges of being at secondary school and have adjusted well to the daily routines at Haydon. On my daily walks throughout the school, I am frequently greeted with polite smiles and big hello's as they make their way to and from lessons. It is also a delight to see them in lessons whether they are vibrantly participating in discussions, diligently completing written tasks or quietly engrossed in what their teachers are saying. Their eager faces and general enthusiasm are telltale signs of how exciting it is for them to be at this stage of their academic journey. I am especially looking forward to seeing how they will progress and blossom in the coming months.

Flying Start Evenings

We want to thank parents and carers for attending the flying start evenings last week. It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you into the school to discuss the year ahead. We look forward to welcoming Years 7, 12 and 10 families and carers for next week's evenings.

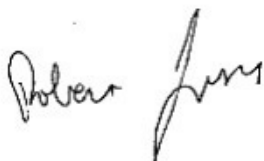
Your child's Year Leader leads Flying Start evenings. During the evening, they will go over how you can support your child in the coming year, both in terms of academic development and their wellbeing, as well as reviewing key dates and expectations. After the presentation, you will be able to meet your child's form tutor and socialise with other parents with refreshments being provided. The dates for the evenings are:

- **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](#)**

Collecting Children from School by Car

I would like to ask you to collect your children away from the school. Wiltshire Lane is extremely busy and is not suitable for the large numbers of cars that are currently using it.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Jones
Headteacher

Key Dates

Year 7 Flying Start evening: Monday 25th September 6-7:30pm

Year 12 Flying Start evening: Tuesday 26th September 6-7:30pm

Year 10 Flying Start evening: Wednesday, 27th September 6-7:30pm

Half Term: Monday 23rd October - Friday 3rd November 2023

Headteacher: Mr R Jones BSc(Econ) MBA NPQH

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