

01 December, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Sixth Form Open Evening and Applications

I'd like to thank Mr Gosling, the Sixth Form pastoral team and all the teaching staff involved for making the Open Evening such an informative evening. It was a pleasure speaking to so many students about their aspirations and the opportunities that are available to them in Sixth Form. We have had lots of positive feedback including this email "I would like to say thank you to the teachers that attended the Sixth Form Open Evening as they were very engaging, enthusiastic and inspiring"

Please do not worry if you were unable to attend. You can find the Sixth Form presentation here: [Sixth Form Open Evening Presentation 2023](#)

Applications are now open and students can apply through the school website www.haydonschool.com/apply. The deadline for applications is Friday 15th December and the process only takes 10 minutes to complete. If any parents or students have any questions at all, you can contact Mr Gosling directly dgosling@haydonschool.com.

Year 13 Oxbridge applicants

Some of our students are beginning to find out whether they have achieved an interview at either Oxford or Cambridge. We are delighted to confirm that 8 students have already been invited to interview, with more likely to follow.

- 1.Computer Science
- 2.Pure Maths
- 3.Human, Social and Political Sciences
- 4.Engineering
- 5.Natural Sciences
- 6.Natural Sciences
- 7.Medicine
- 8.Design

This is the result of some extremely hard work from the students and some amazing support from Mrs Baker-Perkins and our Sixth Form staff. The Sixth Form has ensured all students applying to Oxbridge have had mock interviews, the Haydon Scholars lunchtime club, an Oxbridge interview workshop and bespoke mentoring to help with applications and references. It really does go to show that our students can achieve everything they want at our Sixth Form. Good luck to all of our Year 13 students currently going through the application process for Universities and Degree Apprenticeships.

Importance of Maintaining High Attendance through December

It is expected that all students have an attendance of 96% or above. If a child's attendance dips below 96% then they are at risk of falling into the category of persistent absence which is defined as an attendance rate of 90% or below. This means that a considerable amount of learning has been lost. As we begin December and the final few weeks of term approach, it is even more important that students are in school.

A child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life. 90% of young people with attendance rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all! Poor examination results limit young people's options. Poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable. Poor school attendance can lead to potential involvement in crime - a quarter of school age offenders have truanted repeatedly.

Children learn from those around them and you as parents/carers set the standards and expectations for them. Showing your child the importance of attending school every day not only helps your child to settle quickly when starting school, but helps them to keep and maintain friendships and enjoy the school environment.

Be organised, have a plan, be consistent and involve your child. Create good routines for mornings at home so that your child can arrive punctually and they are properly equipped. Talk to them about the things they have been learning. A short chat may produce a better result than a long list of questions. Read all school communications. Attend school parents' evenings and functions.

Avoid absence from school wherever possible. Avoid GP and dental appointments during school hours. Absence means your child will miss out on academic studies and begin to feel that education is not a priority. This can have a negative lifelong effect. There tends to be good reasons why children become reluctant to attend school. Take the time to listen to your child, share any concerns you or your child may have with the appropriate member of school staff and seek support at the very earliest opportunity.

Coughs and colds can be more common at this time of year. As they take hold pupils' attendance can dip. As previously shared, please see again: 'Is my child too ill for school?' <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

An excerpt reads: "It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold". We want all our students in school for every December school day. We really appreciate your support working together with us to make this happen.

Congratulations to all our students who have 100% attendance at Haydon this year! This is a great achievement.

Slight Changes to Holiday Dates in Academic Year 2024-25

The Local Authority has made some changes to the term dates for the academic year 2024-25 (the next academic school year). I try to set the dates so that they match those of the Local Authority. The term dates can be found on [the school website](#).

Flood Resilience Project

We are really pleased RPA (Risk Protection Arrangement - a DfE insurance scheme) has chosen Haydon School to improve our flood resilience. They are going to spend around £350K to:

- Repair and improve the drainage system across the school site
- Arrange 14 SuDS Planters (sustainable drainage systems) to divert water from downpipe drains
- To build a rain garden in front of the admin block

Year 11 Form Changes

To support our year 11 students to achieve the best results in their English, Maths and Science GCSEs we have made some changes to the structure of form time. Students in year 11 will now be grouped into English, Maths and Science classes for a 30 minute exam focused session. Groups will be reviewed after the Mocks in January and March. We would like to congratulate our year 11 students for their mature response to this change which we feel will have a positive impact on their outcomes in the summer examinations.

Hillingdon Cove

Hillingdon Cove is a drop-in service where residents of Hillingdon can go if they are experiencing a mental health crisis. For more information see link below:

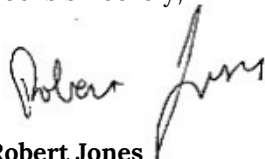
<https://www.hestia.org/hillingdon-cove>

The Digital World for Teenagers

The below webinar is created by Brilliant Parents. It offers guidance for how to raise emotionally sound teenagers with the attraction of the digital world.

[The Digital World for Teenagers](#)

Yours sincerely,



Robert Jones
Headteacher

Key Dates

Year 8 Parents Evening : Thursday 7th December 2023

Prize Giving : Thursday 21st December 2023

End of Term : Friday 22nd December 2023

Headteacher: Mr R Jones BSc(Econ) MBA NPQH

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