

19 January, 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very belated Happy New Year! I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas holiday. The first two weeks of school have been extremely positive. I have visited a number of lessons and it is good to see the students engaged with their learning.

I would like to welcome the following new staff to school who have joined us in January: Caroline Adams teacher of Science; Christopher Brady teacher of English; Donna Sams Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Joe Morris Senior IT Technician.

Extended Project Qualification Results (EPQ)

17 Year 13 Haydon students and their families celebrated outstanding results for their EPQ projects this year, with EPQ lead Mrs Foxon and the team of supervisors.

Over 50% of the students achieved the highest A* grade and over 75% achieved either an A* or an A grade.

EPQs are formal qualifications which allow students to explore areas of personal interest outside the curriculum of standard A Levels. EPQs help students develop a vital range of extra study skills, helping prepare them for the demands of university work. It is valued by Universities, as it demonstrates a huge dedication to independent learning and is often included in offers made by institutions to applicants.

Some examples of projects this year were:

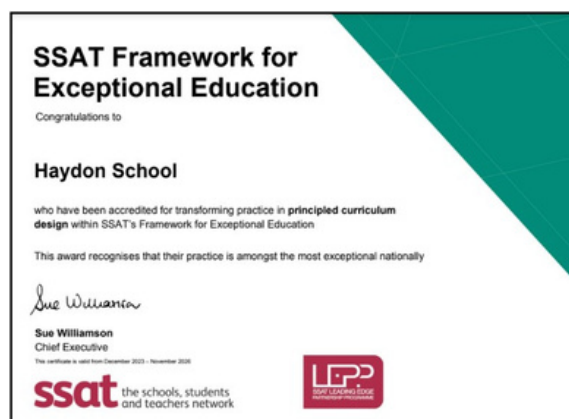
- Should Artificial Intelligence be used to fully automate diagnoses for the NHS?
- Do environmental influences affect a child's stress responses more than epigenetic inheritance?
- To design and produce a scale model of a space capsule body for long-term accommodation, reviewing features against conventional capsule structures.
- Is It Beneficial To Broadcast Judicial Proceedings, And Does It Influence Public Attitudes?

Oxbridge University Research Project at Haydon

Haydon School has been selected, along with 6 other schools in England, by researchers at the University of Oxford, to take part in a highly significant study investigating the relationships between technology use in schools and social and educational equity. As part of the study, the researcher Dr Valentina Andries will be based at Haydon and will observe technology use in different classrooms with different year groups. Please see the attached [information sheet](#) for more details. We hope you will fully support this exciting project, but you will find a short form on the information sheet to complete if you do not want your child to participate in the study.

Framework for Exceptional Leadership - Principled Curriculum Design Specialist Schools and Academy Trusts

I am very pleased to inform you that we have been accredited for transforming practice in Principled Curriculum Design with the Specialist schools and Academy Trust framework for exceptional education. This award recognises that our practice is amongst the most exceptional nationally. In order to achieve the award the school took part in a peer review and was visited by a Leading Edge moderator as well as providing evidence for standards against 7 different criteria.



Uniform Policy Implementation

This will be starting on Monday 22nd January 2024. Please click [here](#) to view a copy of the letter sent to all on Thursday 18th January 2024.

Attendance

I was pleased to observe that our attendance figures did not fall during the week before Christmas in the same way that they did nationally. Many students attended school each day to gain their daily raffle ticket for the Christmas Chocolate raffle at the end of the week. This is something we will repeat towards the Easter Holiday.

Nationally, the picture of attendance is fairly bleak, and is the main cause of underachievement at school. We completely understand that illness is unavoidable, but request your support in helping your children avoid their attendance falling below 95%. Achieving 94% on a test is fantastic, but as an attendance figure at the end of the year would mean that a child has missed approximately 57 hours of learning. If you log into satchel, you can view your child's current attendance figure.



House Results

House Competitions began in earnest towards the back of the autumn term with competitions in Science, PE and the House Captains choice of Christmas Cake decorating! House Competitions this half term will centre around the Maths & Humanities faculties, I hope as many students as possible take the opportunity to participate

Running Total	Dec 2023
Strand	110
Fleet	80
Bloomsbury	100
Tilbury	90
Alexandra	80



Snow Plan

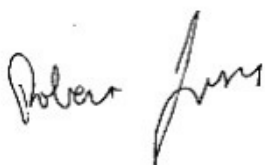
It looks like we are going to have a couple of cold weeks. Snow has disrupted schools in many parts of the country this week. We will do all that we can to open the school if it snows. I think we have closed the school for snow and ice on one day during the twelve years that I have been headteacher.

On days of significant snow, we will post an announcement on the school website (www.haydonschool.com) by 7.30 am stating whether school will be closed and children will work remotely (as they did during the pandemic) or whether school will be open as usual. The message will also be sent from the school's twitter account (@haydonschool).

Dropping Children Off Before School

I often stand at the school gates before school welcoming students in the morning. The significant congestion that parents are causing by dropping their children off at the school gate could be resolved if students were dropped further from the school and allowed to walk the last 500m. Please can you be supportive of this as at times the traffic on the road is so heavy that it becomes stationary for minutes.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Jones
Headteacher



Achieving individual excellence
in a caring community

Key Dates

Year 11 Core Revision Parents Evening : Thursday 1st February 2024

Year 13 Economics Conference : Friday 2nd February - Saturday 3rd February 2024

Year 12 Futures Evening : Wednesday 7th February 2024

Year 13 Parents Evening : Thursday 8th February 2024

End of Term : Friday 9th February 2024

Headteacher: Mr R Jones BSc(Econ) MBA NPQH

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