



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE LETTER

RWJ/jmp/Headteacher's Update
15 February 2019

Dear Parents

Careers Week

We are planning a very exciting 'Careers Week', which will take place during the week Monday 4 March – Friday 8 March. The main focus during this week is to provide students with an insight into careers and the world of work and to support them thinking about the choices they will make in the future.

Year 7 and 8 students will be presented with a careers focused assembly, introducing them to the world of work and what a typical working day would entail. We will also be inviting some guest speakers who will provide more information on the companies that they work for.

Year 9 students will be undertaking a Work Experience day. We are really looking forward to hearing about the experience they will have during this day. I would like to thank all the parents/carers who have secured a placement for their child, this is a valuable opportunity for them to get a taste of the world of work.

Year 10 students will be undertaking Mock Interviews for the workplace. This involves them preparing CVs and learning about interview techniques, appropriate attire, body language and eye contact. The Mock interviews will be conducted on 6 and 7 March with employers.

Year 11 students will also attend an assembly that will focus on work skills, how they can build their CV and gain key skills through work experience, we are also planning as a follow up to this week an apprenticeship invite afternoon for a selected group of students who want to follow this route into employment.

Our teachers will be sharing their personal journeys of education and experiences with their classes throughout the week in each subject, and also focusing on the employment opportunities that their subjects may lead to.

Year 7 Arts Alliance

You will be aware that each year Haydon runs the Arts Alliance project for Year 7 students. This is a cross curricular project that focuses on developing understanding of other cultures, creativity, research, public speaking and public performance. Each Year 7 group is given a country/continent to research and each subject covers topics in their area that involve that country. The students take six weeks to devise a public performance that reflects their new understanding of some aspect of that country. On Thursday Year 7 students completed their Arts Alliance performances in St Mary's Hall and they were a tremendous success. I would like to thank all of the staff and students involved and a special thanks to Ms Pennell who organized and ran the event.

Year 7s Lead Assembly on Culture and Diversity

All members of form 7BEB wrote and presented an assembly to a hall full of Year 7 students, on Thursday 31 January. They celebrated the cultural diversity of Haydon School, and shared with their peers their favourite holiday destinations and international foods. It was a huge achievement for all the students who took part. Miss Brock, their Form Tutor, is exceptionally proud of them all for taking part.

Year 8 Rugby Success

Over the last couple of years we have been liaising with London Irish RFC and they have invited us to send players for academy trials. We sent five Year 8 students to become part of the U13s London Irish DPP (Development Player Programme) - Stefan Martin McKeivitt, Morgan Pitt, Noah Huddle, Jakob Leo and Borys Switaj. I was delighted to hear that all five were accepted. This involved hard work and commitment to school rugby.

The Year 8 Rugby team were also invited to attend a rugby tournament at the London Irish training ground today where they will get an opportunity to meet some of the players. I am sure this will be a great experience for them.

Seneca Learning

A helpful resource for helping with GCSE and A-Level revision is a free app that covers most exam boards. It is very easy to set up and use and another resource that students could use for revision. <https://www.senecalearning.com/>

Information from the Local Police

I have been asked to pass on the following information that has been sent to me by the Local Police.

'An ongoing issue that we have in Hillingdon Borough is youths doing wheelies on bicycles. They are a danger to themselves and other road users with their actions. In areas where this issue is prevalent our Safer Neighbourhoods Teams will be asking the public to film (where safe to do so) any youth(s) that act in an inconsiderate manner on a bicycle, on the road. Footage will then be used to identify them, and in the first instance speak to their parents. Should the behaviour persist, Police will then start issuing FPNs for section 29 of the RTA 1988, Careless and Inconsiderate Cycling, which carries a financial penalty for their parents.'

PTA Quiz Night

The PTA organise events throughout the year to raise money to use for the benefit of all the students at Haydon School. The next event is a Quiz Night on Friday 1 March at 7.30pm (details attached). I am sure this will be a very enjoyable evening and encourage as many of you as possible to attend.

Update on the Relationship Charter

I would like to update you on some new developments regarding our Relationship Charter. Since Mrs Hitchman has taken over responsibility for the Relationship Charter she has held meetings with staff, students and governors so that improvements can be made to how the Charter is embedded into the daily life of the school. We are currently amending the Charter, which will be re-launched as part of a Parent handbook.

Assemblies have taken place this week regarding the philosophy of the Charter and the three simple rules we expect all students to follow, which are:

- Ready
- Respectful
- Safe

After half-term, we will have a 'Phone Free site', we would like students to be focused on their learning and not be distracted by their phones during the day. All staff, visitors and students will be also be expected to switch off their mobile phones.

There has been lots of information regarding the negative impact of mobile phones on children. In the media the government has cited concerns linked to mental health, cyber bullying and impact on social relationships. Research has shown that mobile phones can affect levels of attainment, the ability to concentrate. Studies have found that after schools have banned mobile phones economists have estimated this is the 'equivalent to adding five days to the school year.'

I would be very grateful if you could discuss this with your children over the school holiday and support the school with our mobile phone policy.

Finally, over the half-term holiday we have two trips involving a number of students and staff. These are a Year 10 trip to Iceland and the annual Ski Trip. I wish all involved an enjoyable trip and safe return and I wish all parents, students and staff a very enjoyable half-term break.

R W Jones
Headteacher

Key Dates

Monday 18 – Friday 22 February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Wednesday 27 February	EARLY Closure (1.20pm) Year 8 Parents' Afternoon/Evening
Thursday 7 March	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 March	School Production – 'Oliver'
Thursday 14 March	Parent Forum – 5.30pm
Thursday 21 March	Year 8 Options Evening
Friday 22 March	Whole School Non-Uniform Day Meningitis Research in memory of Caitlin Baker

