

17 January, 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I will start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year! I do hope that you managed to have an enjoyable holiday with your family.

EPQ Results

I would like to congratulate a group of Year 13 students who yesterday received their results for an additional qualification they have worked tirelessly on since Year 12, alongside their A-level studies. Eighteen students successfully completed their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) under the leadership of Mrs Foxon and with the dedicated support of an exceptional team of supervisors. Out of the 18 students, 13 earned A* grades, 2 achieved A grades, and 3 were awarded B grades. Throughout their EPQ journey, the students demonstrated remarkable insight, determination, and resilience. Not only have they achieved outstanding results, but their projects were also highly praised by the exam board. We are immensely proud of their achievements and wholeheartedly celebrate their success.

Christmas Donations

Throughout December, we requested your support in raising donations to go towards Hillingdon Hospital Children's Bumblebee Ward. Your donations reached £606 and allowed us to purchase some of their requested Christmas gifts such as toys, slippers, colouring books and pens. The monies left over have been transferred to Hillingdon Hospital where the nurses will continue to buy gifts for the children throughout the year. On Friday 20th December, two of our students accompanied by Mrs Appleby and Mr Wake, delivered our donations and were lucky enough to have a brief tour, meeting the children and the nurses on the ward. We would like to thank you all for your donations and commitment to helping young, vulnerable children enjoy their time in hospital this Christmas.



Effectively Supporting your Child to Study

Supporting your child in their studies at home is vitally important to their progress, especially during the final term before exams. As parents it can be difficult to know how to support your children, especially when they are learning content you are not sure of yourself. However, you can really make a difference to their performance by encouraging them to regularly review work they have done in class and assessments to spot strengths and areas needing improvement and to establish a consistent routine for home study. Encourage them to use active learning techniques like summarising notes, teaching back concepts to you, and making flashcards.

Starting meaningful conversations with your child about their school day can help build connections and show you are interested in their experiences. I know that teenagers are not always the most forthcoming in talking about their day at school, so instead of asking how was your day and getting a 'fine' in response try these conversation starters to get them talking:

- "Tell me about the most interesting thing that happened at school today."
- "What was the best part of your day and why?"
- "Was there anything that you found challenging or surprising today?"
- "Was there a moment today when you felt really proud of something you did?"

Most importantly, be positive and supportive, by asking questions regularly and building your child's confidence that they can improve if they put the work in. All homework is set by teachers on the Satchel App and I would encourage you to actively use this with your child to support them in organising their time. Check out [BBC Bitesize](#) for helpful resources.

Parent Voice

We are excited to announce the formation of a new Parents Voice Group to support the school in reviewing current practices and developing future plans. Your insights and participation will be very useful to us. If you are interested in joining, please complete the Google form linked [here](#) to express your interest.

Importance of Attendance to School

Having now been back at school for two weeks, I felt it is important to remind you again about the importance of school attendance. It is arguably one of the biggest factors affecting student outcomes, both academically, and in preparation for life after school when our students enter the world of work. Whilst we are obligated to ensure our students attend school regularly given the effect this will have on their outcomes, we are also legally obliged to ensure school attendance is as good as it can be. There are two points to this that you should be aware of:

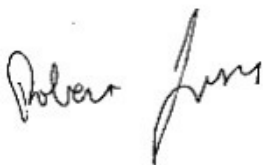
1) Holidays during term time cannot be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. I appreciate that this has a big impact on the cost of travel and holidays, but students at Haydon have 13 weeks off school a year and holidays should be taken during this time. When we are notified or become aware that unauthorised holidays are being taken during term time, we are obliged to refer this to the attendance support team at Hillingdon Local Authority who have the power to issue fines to parents.

2) Where we have concerns that a student's attendance is lower than it should be, and our contact with home has failed to improve attendance, we may refer this to the Local Authority. They have the power to issue a fine to parents if a student is absent from school for 5 days within a rolling 10 week period. This referral would only happen if we have already been in touch with you about our attendance concerns.

Whilst this approach may appear harsh, it is with the best interests of all students that these thresholds have been designed. Whilst illness is unavoidable, students should be in school working wherever possible. I would like to thank you for your support with this. If you would like any further information about attendance, or if you would like our support with this matter, please contact our attendance team:

Mrs Quantrell (Attendance officer) - kquantrell3@haydonschool.com
Mrs Carlin (Attendance Officer) - lcarlin@haydonschool.com

Yours sincerely,



Robert Jones
Headteacher

Key Dates

Year 9 Parent Evening - Early Closure: Thursday 13th February 2025
Half Term: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025
Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday 6th March 2025
Y 9 Work Experience day - Thursday 20th March 2025

Headteacher: Mr R Jones BSc(Econ) MBA NPQH

Company Registered in England and Wales. Registration N^o 07557791
Wiltshire Lane, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 2LX
Telephone: 020 8429 0005 • Email: info@haydonschool.com
www.haydonschool.com

