

12 September, 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 6 Open Evening

Our annual Year 6 Open Evening will be held next Thursday 18th September. This is an excellent opportunity for us to showcase the successes of our school, and to allow potential students and their parents the opportunity to make an informed decision about their choice of secondary school. We will be asking students to attend the evening, if they can, as guides to show parents around. If your child is able to help us with this, they should arrive at 5:45pm and will be finished by 8pm. We have found in previous years that parents really appreciate being shown around the school by current students as it provides them with really honest feedback about what it is like to attend Haydon School.

As in previous years, we close at lunchtime on Thursday 18th to allow teachers to prepare their classrooms for Open Evening, and in a change to previous years, we will be starting the next school day slightly later, at 9:40am, which means students will need to arrive at school in time for the start of lesson 2. The reason for this change is that many of our teachers are at school very late on Thursday evening for Open Evening.

School Show Auditions – The Wizard of Oz

We are excited to announce that auditions for this year's school show, The Wizard of Oz, will take place on Wednesday, 17 September 2025, at 3.30 pm in St Mary's Hall. Students should prepare a verse and a chorus of a song of their choice for the audition. For full details, [please see the poster](#).

Phone Pouches

We are delighted with the success of the phone pouch initiative this year. The students have adapted well to this change of procedure, and have been excellent at putting their phones away each morning. Our teachers have already noticed a marked improvement in concentration in lessons, and students are talking to each other and socialising more at break and lunchtime, as the distraction of phones has been removed. If you have any questions or feedback about the rollout of the phone pouch system, please feel free to let us know through the enquiry form on the website.



Importance of Attendance to School

We are happy to welcome all students back to school and look forward to working with them so that they can maximise their potential. Therefore, we ask for your support in ensuring your children attend school on time everyday, as this is a foolproof way to assure their progress. Be reminded that each school day builds upon the last so when your child is absent, they miss crucial instruction, class discussions, and activities that can be difficult to catch up on. This can lead to major gaps in their learning, making it harder for them to grasp new concepts and maintain their focus which can then create a vicious cycle of dislike for school which can become difficult to navigate. As such, always aim to send your child to school, even when they are reluctant to attend. Coax them, cajole them, urge them, but do not allow them to make poor decisions that can affect their outcomes. Together, we can support your child in developing lifelong habits of responsibility, resilience, and a love for learning that will serve them well in adulthood.

However, despite your best efforts, we understand that sometimes absences are unavoidable due to genuine illness or family emergencies, so we appreciate your efforts in letting us know when this happens using the absence form [linked here](#). Guidance on when your child is too ill for school can be accessed [here](#), to help you make the best decision for your child. Moreover, If you are facing challenges that are making it difficult for your child to attend school, please reach out to the Year Team or the Attendance Team. We are here to help and can connect you with resources that may be of assistance. Remember, every absence is a missed opportunity for your child to flourish and become the best versions of themselves, so always send them to school.

Sixth Form

We have been delighted to see that 151 of last year's Year 13 students were placed at UK universities as well as 4 students going to international universities. In very pleasing news, 33% of our students who applied to UK universities are going to Russell Group universities, generally accepted as amongst the very best Universities in the country. Our Sixth Form Open Evening is on Thursday 20th November 6-8pm. Mr Gosling will be writing to our Year 11 families with information regarding the evening. Families in Year 10 will also find it a useful evening to start thinking about options after GCSE examinations have finished.

Careers Education - Small Group Industry Speakers

We are appealing to our community for any links to individuals who may be interested in hosting small group talks to students in the industry they work in. Our vision this year is to cater for as many different career pathways as possible to enable our students to get a small taste of the wider world and the opportunities that can become a reality for them. The talks will be for small groups of students who express a genuine interest in the particular sector and therefore a captive audience is guaranteed! If you know of anyone who may be able to assist, please contact Mr Gosling directly dgosling@haydonschool.com or fill out the short form at www.haydonschool.com/inspiringtalks

Behaviour and Uniform

I have had the pleasure of walking around the school and visiting many lessons since the start of the year and have been incredibly impressed with the positive attitude and focused behaviour I've seen from the students. They've settled into their new classes really well and many have already received multiple positive achievement points. You can track your child's achievement and behaviour at school via the Bromcom: My Child At School app.

While students have made a positive start to the year, we know that sometimes following the rules can be challenging. We appreciate your support in working with us, especially in attending meetings following lessons removals. These support the need to address any outstanding problems and enable the student to get back on track and into class again quickly.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you that students are not permitted to bring aerosol canisters and in line with the recent [government ban](#) on the selling of energy drinks to under 16's these are also not permitted on the school site. Any banned items will be confiscated by staff. You can find our full [behaviour policy](#) on the school website.

I also want to praise our students for their excellent standard of uniform, and thank you for your support. They've started the year looking very smart. As the weather gets cooler, please remember that only resin jackets or coats are allowed over jumpers or blazers, no sports tops or hoodies are to be worn. For a reminder of uniform expectations, you can view the [daily uniform slides](#) that form tutors share with students.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Declarations of Interest

We are now inviting parents and carers to complete the Declaration of Interest for students wishing to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bronze, Silver or Gold level. Please ensure the relevant online form is completed by Friday, 19th September 2025.

- Gold Award (new notice): Students interested in joining the Gold Award should read the [Gold DofE Letter 2025](#). The Practice Expedition for Year 12 and the Assessment Expedition for Year 13 will take place Monday, 13th July - Friday, 17th July 2026.
- Silver Award (reminder): Year 10 students wishing to continue to the Silver Award should read the [Silver DofE Letter 2025](#). Please note that both the Practice Expedition and the Assessment Expedition will take place on Bank Holiday weekends at the beginning and end of May. Attendance at both expeditions is required in order to complete this section of the Award.
- Bronze Award (reminder): Year 9 students interested in starting the Bronze Award should read the [Bronze DofE Letter 2025](#).

All letters, including full details and relevant links, can be found at the links above.

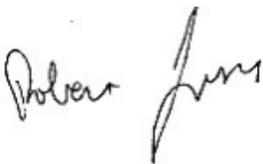
Parent Voice

We are continuing our Parent Voice Group this year; the aim of the group is to support the school in reviewing current practices and developing future plans. Your insights and participation are really useful to us. If you are interested in joining the group this year, please complete the Google form linked [here](#) to express your interest.

Safeguarding Newsletter

Please [click here for Haydon Hive](#), our Safeguarding Newsletter

Yours sincerely,



Robert Jones
Headteacher

Important dates for Term 1 2025

Wednesday 17th September - Individual photos Year 7,9 and 12

Thursday 18th September - Year 7 Open Evening

Friday 19th September - Late Start at 9:40am

Monday 27th October - Friday 7th November Half Term

Headteacher: Mr R Jones BSc(Econ) MBA NPQH

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