

Haydon School



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE LETTER

RWJ/jmp/Headteacher's Update
17 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Return to School

We have been extremely impressed with the positive start students have made this academic year, and the overwhelming majority of students have settled back into lessons well. Moving out of year group bubbles and returning to having access to the whole site has been beneficial to the students and they have adapted well. We are particularly impressed with the standard of uniform students have displayed over the last week, and ask for your continued support with this. Welcoming the students to school in the morning and seeing how smart and well presented they are has been a great joy this term. I try to walk the school site at least once a day visiting lessons, and have been more impressed than ever before with the focus and effort of the students.

We would like to gently remind you that mobile phones are not to be seen during the school day, they should be switched off and in pockets. Students are following this rule well, and this has a beneficial effect on their progress - both academically and socially.

Attendance and Punctuality

We would like to remind you that school starts at 8:40am each day, and by this time students should be in their form rooms, ready for the day. We have a small number of students who still arrive after 8:40, which puts them at a disadvantage, and prevents a smooth start to the school day for teachers and other students. It is also important to remember that good attendance is crucial to academic achievement, and students should be in school if they possibly can be.

Year 6 Open Evening at Haydon on 23rd September

If you, your friends or someone from your family have children currently attending Year 6, this is the perfect opportunity. Come and learn about this exciting transition from primary to secondary school at Haydon. Our doors will be open.

When: 23rd September - 6:00 pm / 8:30 pm

I will be giving a short presentation in St Mary's hall. Tickets should be booked in advance through the school website <https://www.haydonschool.com/page/?title=Virtual+Open+Evening&pid=142>

Open Evening Thursday 23rd September - Early Closure

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who have volunteered as guides and helpers at the Open Evening for prospective Year 7 students. To ensure staff have time for a break and to set up displays in preparation for the Open Evening, school will finish at 1.20pm. There will be no lunchtime in school and students will be dismissed at the end of period 4.

Measures to Mitigate against the spread of Covid 19

We have recently completed over 2200 lateral flow tests in school ready for the start of term. This identified eight positive cases. It is important for students wherever possible to continue to test twice weekly (ideally Sunday and Wednesday.) The majority of students should have received a box of home test Kits (x7). Year teams have been given spare boxes. Results of the LFD test should be reported on the government website and for a positive result parents should also e-mail cv19@haydonschool.org.uk. Students who live with someone who has tested positive or has covid symptoms do not need to self-isolate but should take a PCR test. For more information, please follow this [link](#)

Earlier this week, you will have heard that all 12-15 year olds will now be offered one Pfizer vaccination. Following this, I have had an initial meeting with the local authority and I have been informed that the

vaccinations will take place in school. The local authority is organising the distribution of the vaccinations including medical staff to administer them. We will provide a venue and be responsible for collecting consent forms. There will be a pilot of the process, not at Haydon School. I am not sure of the time frames for the vaccination and I will provide you with more information as soon as I receive it. Young people aged 16 to 19 are also able to get vaccinated and can simply attend a vaccination walk in centre. Further information can be found [here](#). The government has produced a communication for parents that can be found [here](#).

PTA Grant

We would like to thank our PTA for their generous grant of £20,000. There are several substantial sources of heat gain to St Mary's Gym. This, coupled with the lack of adequate ventilation, is leading to uncomfortable temperatures in the Gym during summer months, rendering the space unusable for large periods of time. This generous grant will assist us to put in place various measures to reduce overheating in St Mary's Gym in hot weather conditions and will enable our students to use this very valuable space all year round.

ParentPay (Cashless system)

From 1st October we will no longer accept any cash payments for purchases of ties, books, etc., or in our canteen. All these items will be on the ParentPay system to purchase online. Students will then be able to pick up the ordered items from relevant departments by showing proof of payment and will be able to spend the amount put on ParentPay in the canteen.

Please make sure to top up your child's ParentPay account as needed and allow up to 24 hours for the money to be in the account.

Speakers' Programme

Earlier this week, we launched our Haydon Speakers programme. This programme is our commitment to ensuring that students have the opportunity to hear a range of inspiring speakers from a range of fields, all designed to support the curriculum and to offer invaluable advice about future directions.

On Tuesday, we welcomed our first speaker, former student Sonja Jessup. Since leaving Haydon, Sonja has forged a successful career in journalism and broadcasting, and can be regularly seen on our screens presenting and reporting on the news on the BBC. Over 100 students from Years 12 and 13, were in attendance as Sonja spoke about the realities of working in news broadcasting as well as talking through examples of reports and the practicalities of constructing them. We were also pleased to invite several year 9 nine students who last year were involved in the BBC Young Reporters initiative and who themselves had had the opportunity to create their own news reports. Following her talk, Sonja kindly spent further time with our students, fielding questions and offering advice.



We are currently busy working on our programme and will be inviting further speakers to Haydon school.

Sixth Form News: Year 13 Medics and Oxbridge applicants

As part of the Oxbridge and Medic application process, the students have been given the opportunity to take part in various workshops. In June, the students took part in a bespoke personal statement

workshop run by an Oxford University lecturer, which enabled them to hone their skills and learn how to write a personal statement specifically for Oxbridge and Medicine. The medics also had a one to one Q&A with a doctor who is a former Haydon student and have attended a talk today given by various doctors run by the British Medical Association. The talk included a short presentation from three speakers, a current medical student and two practicing doctors. They discussed their personal experience of studying/working in medicine and shared their insights on becoming a doctor. The presentations were then followed by a panel discussion. The students will also be attending a workshop developing their interview skills in October. These exciting workshops help to improve the students' skills and prospects.

Parking, Waiting and Turning Around in Residential Driveways

We have received a few complaints from local residents about parents parking or waiting in cars across residential driveways and using private driveways to turn around. Please be aware that it is important for the school to maintain good relationships with all local residents and we therefore ask that you avoid the above. I realise that the works in Norwich Road are not helping but would be very grateful for your support and consideration in this matter.

Job Opportunity at Haydon

We are excited to advertise a new position at Haydon School for Science Technician. The Job Description and Person Specification can be found on our website <https://www.haydonschool.com/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=23>

If you are interested, please complete an Application Form and Covering Letter and send it to: gmcauliffe.312@lqfmail.org .

Parent Governor Vacancy

I have recently been made aware of a vacancy that has arisen on the Governing Body for a Parent Governor. Information about this position with details of how to apply will be sent out to all parents very soon.

Yours sincerely

Robert Jones
Headteacher

Key Dates

Thursday 23 September	School Open Evening – Year 6 (Early Closure – 1.20pm)
Wednesday 06 October	Year 11 Parents Afternoon/Evening (Early Closure)
Thursday 14 October	Sixth Form Open Evening (Early Closure)
Monday 25 October to Friday 5 November (2 weeks) – HALF TERM	

