

17 April, 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start this update by thanking all of the staff who gave up part of their Easter holidays to support students in Year 11 and Year 13 with additional revision lessons. When I visit lessons, students are working extremely hard in preparation for their forthcoming examinations.

Robotics Team Shines with Determination and Innovation at Southampton University

Our Year 12 students delivered an unforgettable performance at the Student Robotics competition held at the University of Southampton - an experience that truly celebrated innovation, perseverance, and the power of student-led learning. In November 2025, five ambitious students stepped forward to take on what would become an intense and rewarding challenge. The competition officially launched with the kickstart event, bringing together students aged 16-19 from across the UK and Europe. Teams were introduced to the competition kit, support systems, and the exciting game for this year- The Neutral Zone. Over five months, our students invested more than 100 hours designing, building, coding, testing, and refining their robot. They embraced every challenge- whether it was tackling additional league tasks, iterating on designs, or debugging code late into their sessions.

After successfully progressing through a series of demanding online rounds, the team competed at the finals held on 12th and 13th April at the University of Southampton. Competing against some of the best young minds, they rose to the occasion brilliantly. On day 1, their robot dominated multiple rounds, securing a place in the top 5, standing out for its intelligent programming and simple design. In an unfortunate twist during the second elimination round on day 2, their robot was damaged in a collision with another bot, bringing their competition journey to an abrupt end. However, what truly defined our students was their response- resilience in the face of adversity, grace under pressure, and exemplary sportsmanship. We are immensely proud of this exceptional team. Their passion, perseverance, and commitment to pushing boundaries embody the very best of student achievement.

Astro Turf Non-Uniform Day

On the final day of term, we held a non-uniform day in support of our new floodlit astroturf pitch, and it was wonderful to see the school filled with colour and a real sense of community. We are extremely grateful for the generosity and positive support shown by students and families, which helped us raise just over £1,000 towards the project.



Achieving individual excellence
in a caring community

This is an encouraging step as we work towards the school's £250,000 contribution within a total project cost of £1.3 million. The day brought a great atmosphere across the school and reflected the collective enthusiasm for this important development. We look forward to sharing further events and opportunities for our community to get involved and support this exciting investment.



Year 10 trip to Hastings

Year 10's completed a successful trip to Hastings on the 27th of April. Student thoroughly enjoyed history being brought to life, and experiencing the battle site and artifices first hand. Gaining specialist knowledge and guidance through the site and self led exploration was truly memorable.



House Event and Updates

This half term there are some amazing weekly house competitions being run. Please encourage your child to attend as many as they can, it is a great way to be involved in the school community and build new friendships. There are weekly updates in the house bulletin: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wp4bQqBgDHD_UaQisYiC3qJqpXfcpQ7tHN6DUwR4AIM/edit?usp=sharing

Please also familiarise yourself with the event schedule for this half term. You will notice there is also a rewards trip for those who attend the most events over the term! It is completely free and a fun day out to celebrate those who are contributing to the school's community. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wp4bQqBgDHD_UaQisYiC3qJqpXfcpQ7tHN6DUwR4AIM/edit?usp=sharing

Student Timetables - Science

As of Monday 20th April, there will be a few minor changes to the student timetables in Science. Please remind students to carefully check their classrooms and teachers for their lessons from Monday morning.

Year 8 Parents Evening - 14th May 2026

We are pleased to invite you to attend the upcoming Year 8 Parents' Evening, which provides an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress, achievements, and next steps with their subject teachers. Please see the details below

Date: Thursday 14th May 2026

Location: Online Platform Detail - School Cloud

During the evening, you will have the chance to meet with your child's teachers to review their academic performance, behaviour, and overall engagement in lessons. These conversations are invaluable in supporting your child's continued development and ensuring they reach their full potential. In the next term, you will be sent a letter inviting you all and to book appointments with your child's teachers. We kindly ask that you book your slots in advance to avoid disappointment. Each appointment will last approximately 5-minutes, allowing you to speak with as many teachers as possible. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend, as your involvement plays a vital role in your child's education. We look forward to welcoming you and working together to support your child's success.

Year 8 Lunch Time Homework Club

This term the Year 8 School Council collected some feedback from the students in the year group and it was raised that the students wanted a Year 8 Lunch Time Homework Club. Following on from this, after the Easter break, Miss Thomas will be running a Year 8 Lunch Time Homework Club on Tuesdays in D001 from 13:10-13:40!

Homework Club also runs in the Library everyday before and after school. This is open for all students to attend.

Year 10 Mock Exams

Please [click here](#) to view the letter sent to all Year 10 parents on Monday 13th April.

Year 12 Mock Exams

Year 12 students are currently doing their A-Level Mock Examinations. Please click [this link](#) to view the letter sent to all Year 12 parents

The exam timetables are published on the Haydon School website. Please use the following link to access this information www.haydonschool.com/exams

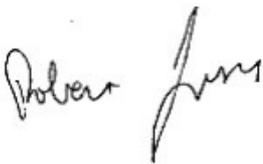
Sixth Form

Years 12 and 13 are having a non-school uniform day on the 29th April. This is to raise money to improve the outside spaces in the Sixth Form area, organised by the Student Leadership Team.

OFSTED Parentview

As previously mentioned, I am currently working with Mrs De Jong, my successor, on shaping the priorities for the next academic year. It would be very helpful if we had parental input into developing those priorities and I would be grateful if you could complete the OFSTED Parentview about Haydon School. The link is [here](#). You need to register but the survey is very short, consisting of 10 questions. Thank you to those who have completed the survey already. We appreciate your feedback.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Jones
Headteacher

Key Dates

- Thursday 23rd April - Year 7 Parent's Evening (Early Closure at 1pm) Please note, if any students in Year 10 or Year 12 have a scheduled exam, they are expected to remain on school site and attend their exam.
- Monday 4th May - May Bank Holiday School closed
- Thursday 14th May - Year 8 Parent's Evening (Early Closure at 1pm)
- Wednesday 20th May - Friday 22nd May - Year 10 Work Experience
- Half Term - Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

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