

June 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

Diary Dates

The next staff training day is scheduled for **Friday, 20th July**. This means that students will finish for the summer term on **Thursday, 19th July** as per the school calendar. We will be finishing school at the normal time on that day. I would also like to advise that we have confirmed the first two training days of the next academic year as **Monday, 3rd** and **Tuesday, 4th September**. Students will therefore start school on **Wednesday, 5th September**, with the exception of Year 13 who return on **Thursday, 6th September**.

I would also like to remind you of our forthcoming Family Quiz, taking place on **Thursday, 12th July**. This is a great opportunity to meet with other parents and staff and enjoy an informal evening. I have attached the flyer for the quiz to this email. It is £1 entry per person, with children playing free and will be held this year at Hawarden Golf Club. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Behaviour Policy

Having been appointed to the post of Headteacher just over one year ago now, I have recently been reflecting on the work of the school over that time with my Senior Leadership Team. One area that I feel still needs further improvement is the school's consistent application of the behaviour policy. In my rounds, particularly at break and lunchtime, I don't see enough excellent behaviour and, despite my firm belief that students are now much better prepared for school and generally compliant, there are a few occasions where a very small minority of students' attitudes to school do not meet with my expectation. I am therefore proposing to adopt a new behaviour policy which provides much clearer guidelines as to the sanctions that students will face if they do not comply with school rules. Obviously, parents' views on any new behaviour policy are important. I have therefore created a survey which you can access via this link (<https://bit.ly/2HJZ7pl>). I would appreciate as many parents as possible taking the time to complete it - many thanks in advance.

Health & Wellbeing Survey

You may recall that your child recently took part in the Schools' Health Research Network Survey which was completed by all secondary schools in Wales. We are now in receipt of the results for Hawarden High which allows us to identify Health and Wellbeing priorities for our students. The school council will be analysing this information carefully and adopting strategies to help address our priorities. However, I wanted to confirm that our emerging priorities are:

1. To increase the percentage of students drinking water on a regular basis and to reduce the number of energy drinks/ sugary drinks consumed;
2. To encourage learners to be more physically active;
3. To help examination age students develop coping strategies for dealing with school work pressure;
4. To eliminate name calling;
5. To improve students' awareness of and approaches to social media;
6. To improve students' awareness and attitudes towards smoking and other drugs.

Attendance to school

This year, for the second time out of the last four years, we have narrowly missed our overall school attendance target for the period up to May half-term. Unfortunately, we were adversely affected by the poor weather conditions earlier in the year with a minority of students not being able to get to school. However, it still remains that students appear to be missing too much school for various reasons, some of which are superficial and could, in our opinion, be avoided. Of course, there will always be occasions where absence is unavoidable, but I would appeal to you for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter is encouraged into school whenever possible – it is only then that they are likely to truly maximise their chances of success. Next academic year we will be looking at the attendance of every child even more closely in order that we can ensure students do not fall behind in their school work. I will also take action against those parents who repeatedly fail in their duty to ensure that their child is present for school. Unfortunately, I have had reason to proceed with four prosecutions for poor attendance this year, with the maximum fine being levied by the courts of £950.

New Summative Reports

This year we introduced the regular issuing of grade cards in direct response to parents requesting more information about their child's progress in school. I do hope you have found these to be beneficial.

Alongside these reports I am looking to modify the current summative report that you receive annually for your child into a more user friendly document. This will be over less pages and with a specific concise comment about areas of progress and improvement. The current document takes too much time to collate and for teachers to write – time which would be better spent planning lessons and assessing student's work. I would encourage all parents to ask to see the exercise books and/or folders of their son/daughter in order to gauge progress over a period of time. This is where diagnostic comments are placed about progress and targets for improvement and often mitigate the need for an historical progress report. That being said, I would like a focus group of parents to consider our new draft summative report and offer some feedback on its planned content. I will ask our Parent Governors and the members of the Friends of Hawarden High School to consider our plans, but if you would like to be part of the group considering the proposals, please email hhmail@hawardenhigh.flintshire.sch.uk stating your wish to do so.

Parent Governor:

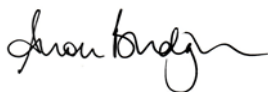
Two nominations were received for the two vacancies for parent governor. I am pleased to report that Ms H. Rees and Mr I. Biggs have been duly appointed to these positions.

Accommodation Changes

You may be aware that we are making some changes to areas of the school in order to create a more conducive learning environment, particularly for our Sixth Form. Come September our Sixth Form students will benefit from a brand new location which will comprise an IT suite including their own dedicated high speed Wi-Fi facilities, a state of the art social space and meeting/study rooms for their exclusive use. In order that important works can be undertaken in good time for the project completion, we will have to close some of our existing facilities. The current Sixth Form House is closed now and the school library will be closed over the next few weeks. Obviously, this will create some inconvenience to students for which I apologise in advance. We communicate contingency plans directly to the students in due course.

I shall write to you again prior to the end of the academic year with other news relating to September.

Yours sincerely



S. Budgen
Headteacher

Hawarden Family Quiz Night

Thursday, 12 July 2018

What
is happening?

When
is the story
taking place?

Who
are the
characters?

Where
is the story
taking place?

Why
is it
happening?

How
do you
know?



Hawarden
Golf Club
7-10pm

£1 entry
per person
Children free

Please return entry sheets to the
school office