

11 October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

The purpose of my letter is to update you on the life of the school. This half-term has been an incredibly busy one with many activities ongoing and also planned for the next few weeks.

### Open Day and Evening

I would like to pass on my personal thanks to all those students who participated in the recent Open Evening events - and indeed to you as parents for ferrying them to and from school! It was pleasing to see so many students rightly proud of their school and answering questions so confidently for prospective parents. There was a real buzz around the school.

### Official Opening of the Astro turf

I was delighted to welcome Mrs. Claire Homard, Interim Chief Officer for Education and Youth and Cllr. Ian Roberts, Cabinet Member for Education, along with many members of the community to the school earlier this term to officially open our new Astro turf facility. The re-opening of the important facility within the school is really pleasing and will be sure to benefit our youngsters for many years.

### CareersWales Mark

I was pleased to accept the prestigious CareersWales Mark for a third time on behalf of the school earlier this half-term. This accolade recognises the school's commitment to continuous quality improvement and dedication towards preparing young people entering the world of work.

### Newsletter

Please look out for the whole school Newsletter which will be emailed out to all parents in the coming days.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

Please do encourage your son/daughter to attend as many extra-curricular clubs as they can. These really do provide students with great opportunities. We have something for everyone from Rock Club to Cheerleading and from Breakfast Club to Classics Club.

I was delighted to hear that we were overall Flintshire Athletics champions earlier this term along with lots of other success in netball and football. Congratulations to all.

We have lots of trips going out in the next few weeks: Iceland and Cologne, but also theatre trips to the Globe in London and Theatr Clwyd to mention a few.

## **Presentation Evening**

Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September saw our annual Governors' Presentation Event at Beaufort Park, Mold. The event was attended by some 150 guests and saw awards from each faculty area and all aspects of school life. My congratulations to all those in receipt of well-deserved awards.

## **Headteacher Surgeries**

I extend my thanks to all those parents that have attended a surgery appointment this year. I have enjoyed meeting with you and hearing your views about our school. Parent partnership is an important vehicle for school improvement, so I welcome the opportunity to speak with you. Please do contact the school if you would like an appointment in the next few weeks.

## **Twitter Accounts**

Tweeting is well and truly taking off here at school. Even I have become hooked! Please do follow as many accounts as you can as they really do give a sense of the school's work day-to-day. The best one to follow for starters is @hawardenhs, in addition to my own account (@HeadHawarden), of course!

## **Maths Workshop**

Parents of Year 10 and Year 11 students will soon be invited to a maths workshop on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 5.30-6.30p.m. The purpose of this evening is to assist parents with preparing their child for their forthcoming maths examinations. Do keep your diaries clear for this important event.

## **Uniform, Equipment and Punctuality**

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that Hawarden High School students maintain their high standards. A great deal has happened in the last few weeks and we will continue to be relentless in our drive to ensure that students have the very best educational opportunity. However, they can only do this with a sense of belonging and preparedness for school. We will continue to carry out equipment checks and place importance on looking neat and tidy in all aspects of school life.

One other area I would like to ask for your support with is encouraging your child to be on-time for school in the morning. There are one or two students who have got themselves into bad habits of late and think it is acceptable to wander into school after the morning session has started. If you are dropping off your child(ren) at school please remember that they need to be sat in their seats in school by 8.45a.m.

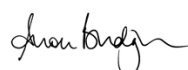
## **Half-Termly Grade Cards**

One aspect of the school's work which parents have requested improvements to is regular communication of your child's progress. Starting this half-term you will be emailed a Grade Sheet which details the expected grade for students at the end of their Key Stage (Year 9, Year 11 or Year 13) and their current performance in addition to an attitude to learning score for every subject. This will be repeated every half-term in addition to the annual written report that you receive for your child so that you can see how they are progressing. I'm sure you will be pleased with this development.

## **Use of bicycles as a method of transport**

Following a number of concerns raised by members of the public we have issued some general advice to students about bike safety. However, we remain concerned about the number of students who are being allowed to travel to school without a safety helmet. The school is therefore planning on introducing a safe bicycle usage agreement that all students who use our bicycle store will be required to abide by. Further details about this will be given out soon.

Yours sincerely



Mr. S. Budgen  
Headteacher