

9 February 2024



Dear Parent/Carer

It's certainly been an eventful final week of the half-term – the highpoint of which has been the school production of High School Musical Jr. Many thanks to all those who braved the cold and wet weather to come along and watch our students performing. They had an enjoyable time and did themselves and the school proud. I would also like to thank parents who transported them to and from school for evening and weekend rehearsals and to all the staff involved for their support. Do look out for more in our forthcoming newsletter.

Staff Training Day

A reminder that Monday, 19 February 2024 is a designated staff training day. Pupils return to school on Tuesday, 20 February at the normal time.

Communication with school

I would like to remind parents that the preferred contact method for contacting the school in the first instance is via telephone or email. When using email, please ensure that your correspondence is directed to hhmail@hawardenhigh.flintshire.sch.uk. Care should be taken not to reply to, or use the addresses of, those emails which are generated automatically by our systems, i.e. from those which letters such as this are sent, or from receipts for transactions on our school gateway payment system. The exception to this is the absence alerts where you will be asked for a reason for absence which then attaches to your child's attendance log. The rest of the mailboxes and incoming traffic are not routinely monitored and so these messages are not readily picked up on. The main school email address is continually monitored throughout each working day so your messages will be forwarded to the relevant staff without delay.

I should also remind parents that visits to the school should be pre-arranged. It is very difficult to accommodate any unannounced visits owing to the teaching commitments of staff.

Parking

I have once again had requests from our neighbours on The Highway and on Upper Aston Hall Lane for parents/carers not to park in front of their houses when dropping off or collecting their child(ren). Not only does this cause inconvenience but it is also dangerous for cars to be causing obstructions on these very busy roads. Your support with this is appreciated.

School Uniform Exchange

I would also like to remind parents about our Uniform Exchange Programme which is open to all parents and carers where you can obtain or donate items. We welcome donations of jumpers, shirts, ties and PE kits. If you have any of these items that your child has outgrown and no longer needs, we kindly ask that you bring them to the school office. These donations will form the basis of our exchange inventory, allowing us to assist families who are in need.

Participating in the Uniform Exchange Programme does not require you to donate any items. Even if you do not have uniforms to contribute, you can still take advantage of the programme and acquire uniforms for your child. The service is entirely confidential and discrete. Your privacy is important and we assure you that any information shared will be handled with the strictest confidentiality.

To request specific items from the Uniform Exchange Programme, we kindly ask that you email Lisa Donnelly, PA to Headteacher, lisa.donnelly@hawardenhigh.flintshire.sch.uk. In your email, please provide a list of the required items, including the sizes and any specific preference. Once we receive your email, we will respond promptly and provide you with information regarding the availability of the requested uniforms.

Next steps for key year groups

It is an exciting time for many of our students who are planning the next steps in their education. Following the GCSE Information Evening last week, the GCSE Options process is now fully underway for our Year 9 pupils. They have had subject specific presentation assemblies and talks with employers on how to choose their options.

Our Year 11 students continue to prepare for their final external examinations, with the next round of trial exams taking place next month. In order to prepare them for their post-16 choices, a range of activities will take place to support our students in making the right, most informed choices for their next steps in their academic journey. These will include interviews which take place with members of the Leadership and Sixth Form Teams; the upcoming launch of the 6th Form Information Evening; an A/S Level options survey, plus many more exploration activities that will be offered as part of the REACH curriculum. Details of these activities are included in a separate letter to Year 11 parents.

Our Year 13 students are now finalising plans for the next chapter of education, apprenticeship or employment. Approximately 80% of students have applied to university and a significant amount are pursuing fully funded higher level degree apprenticeships. We've been very fortunate to host a number employers who have presented to students on the apprenticeships they have on offer. We are excited to see where all of their future destinations will be!

Some important dates:

Year 9: GCSE Option choice deadline: 1 March

Year 11: Mock Exams: 8 March - 19 March

Year 11: 6th Form Information Evening: 29 February

Yours sincerely



Mr. S. Budgen
Headteacher