

December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer



It has certainly been an eventful half-term. As such, many thanks for your support for the school and I wish the whole-school community all the best for the festive period.

In advance of the end of term, we have a few updates for you.

School building

I reiterate my thanks to all those who have extended their support following the recent damage to the listed building following the extreme weather last weekend. We have been working at pace to remedy the issues and make the school safe. The following joint press release with further information was issued yesterday which I am sure you will find helpful.

Work to repair damage caused by Storm Darragh at Hawarden High has begun and will continue over the Christmas holiday period.

During the high winds on Saturday a large tree fell and brought down several overhead cables which were fixed to the gable wall of the school which in turn brought down a section of the wall.

Representatives from Flintshire County Council met with the headteacher of Hawarden High on Sunday to survey the damage and organised remedial measures to make the area safe. A decision was made to close the school on Monday as a precautionary measure to ensure the damaged walls were surveyed and inspected by a structural engineer.

A specialist consultant visited the site on Monday to assess the structural integrity of the affected section of wall, as well as the three other gables, all of which were deemed safe. Scaffolding has been erected and the building is now water and windproofed to prevent further damage.

Flintshire County Council can confirm that permanent repair works will take place at the end of school term during the Christmas holidays.

Headteacher, Simon Budgen said: "The primary focus has been on ensuring the school is safe and ready to welcome pupils and staff back as quickly as possible, and I'm pleased this has been achieved. I'm grateful to Flintshire County Council and the structural engineers for their swift and professional response, as well as to our whole school community for their patience and support. We look forward to resuming normal routines whilst permanent repair work is carried out over the Christmas break."

Christmas Service

I would like to invite parents, pupils and friends of the school to join us on the occasion of our Christmas Service, which will be held at St. Deiniol's Church, Hawarden, on **Tuesday, 17 December**, commencing at **6.00 p.m.** We are most grateful to the Reverend Canon Andrea Jones for agreeing to host this important occasion in our school calendar. Seating is limited and tickets are now available, free of charge, from the School Office.

School closures

Despite having already rehearsed this procedure twice this term, it is prudent to remind parents/carers about the procedures that we follow in the event of poor weather conditions which might result in the school closing. In this event I

will communicate the situation to parents as early as I possibly can. **Please assume therefore, that unless you hear positive information to the contrary, the school will be open.**

The main medium of communication for a school closure is the Flintshire website (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures>). We will also endeavour to put this information on the school website and send a text message/email. You may also find it helpful to sign up for email alerts on the Flintshire website.

In the event of deteriorating conditions during the course of the school day pupils may be instructed to return home. However, students' safety is of paramount importance and, **should such a situation arise, students will not be granted permission to leave the school site before the end of the school day unless you have notified the school that you, or another responsible person, are available to receive them.** I ask that, in the event that snow is forecast, you should also remind your child of your instructions as to where they should go in the event that the school closes during the course of the school day.

Please contact the school should you require further clarification of the school's response to such circumstances, or in the event that these arrangements present potential difficulties for you.

Curriculum information

In order to assist parents / carers to support their child's learning at home, we have created a micro-site that can be found on our main school website. There is a range of information and resources that have been designed to help pupils be supported with their work at home that can be accessed by parents / carers. This can be found in the parent section of the school website under the parent support menu and by clicking this link:

<https://sites.google.com/hhclassroom.org/knowledge-experts/home>

Parking / traffic on The Highway

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.

Additionally, may I remind parents that any student leaving the school site during the day must be collected from reception, unless prior permission has been granted for them to walk home (e.g., a note in their planner).

Whole School Approach to Mental Health and Emotional Well-being

The World Health Organisation defines health as 'a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'. Education and mental well-being are closely linked and promoting the health and well-being of learners within schools can positively impact learner cooperation, commitment, learning and engagement (Public Health England, 2014). This means having a school culture, ethos and environment that nurtures learners' health and well-being can improve their educational outcomes.

A whole school approach to this recognises that every aspect of the life of the school can impact on our health and well-being and all of those within the school community; support for students, teachers and support staff. A whole school approach acknowledges that the environment and ethos of a school is just as important as the curriculum and policies. It involves working across the curriculum and extra-curricular activities. It should involve learners, parents and carers, staff and governors all working together as a school community to improve well-being based on a good understanding of the needs of the school community and using relevant tools to tackle identified needs.

We would, therefore, greatly appreciate if you could find a few minutes to complete the attached survey to help us identify what the school is currently doing well and what areas need further development or improvement.

[Parent / Carer Questionnaire](#)

Educational Trips and Visits 2024-25

Educational trips and visits are a key part of educational provision at Hawarden High School. These can range from local sporting fixtures, to a single day curriculum trip and even multi-day excursions abroad. We try to ensure that a full range of opportunities are available for all year groups and we aim to give parents as much advance warning as possible. It is, for this reason, that I wanted to share some information about some residential trips that are currently being planned, and will be launched with comprehensive details, very soon. I've also outlined the other main residential trips that have already been organised and are taking place this academic year.

Enrichment Week- July 2025

Year 7: Arete Residential to Llanrug, North Wales

This is an outdoor and adventurous residential trip. Mr Smith will be launching this trip very soon where he will share more details with students. Students must receive a letter from Mr Smith following the launch, before paying a deposit via Gateway.

Year 8: Cultural and Social Visit to Barcelona

The dates for this five day, four-night trip will be 7th -11th July 2025. The cost of the trip will be £1031.50 per student. Mrs Sloane has already launched this trip, although there are some spaces left. Any students who are interested in participating must see Mrs Sloane to obtain a letter from her before paying a deposit via Gateway, which is due by Wednesday, 18 December 2024.

Year 9: Watersports trip to Costa Brava

Mrs Hargreaves and Miss Field have recently launched this trip. While it is currently fully booked, students who are interested can speak to a trip leader to have their names added to the reserve list. Please note, students must be able to swim to participate.

Additional Residential Trips this academic year, which have already been organised:

- Years 10-13: Iceland trip to explore the tectonic landscapes: February Half term 2025
- Ski trip to Prato Nevoso: February half term 2025

End and start of term

School finishes at the normal time on Friday, 20 December 2024 and the spring term for pupils will commence on Tuesday, 7 January 2025 at 8.40 a.m.

Yours sincerely



Mr. S. Budgen
Headteacher