

20 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer



It's certainly been an eventful final week of the half-term – the high point of which has been the school production of School of Rock. Many thanks to all those who came along to see our students performing. The pupils 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.

### Staff Training Day

A reminder that Friday, 21 February 2025 is a designated staff training day. Pupils return to school at the normal time on Monday, 3 March 2025.

### Communication with school

I would like to remind you that the preferred way to contact the school in the first instance is by telephone or email. If you choose to email, please ensure your message is sent to [hhmail@hawardenhigh.flintshire.sch.uk](mailto:hhmail@hawardenhigh.flintshire.sch.uk).

Please avoid replying to or using email addresses generated automatically by our systems. This includes addresses used for sending letters (such as this one) and receipts from our school gateway payment system (typically starting with **664000@sims...**). These mailboxes are not routinely monitored, meaning messages sent there may not be received. The **only exception** is absence alert emails, where you are asked to provide a reason for your child's absence—this information is automatically attached to their attendance log.

I 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.

### AV1 Robots

As a school, we are participating in a pilot scheme run by Flintshire County Council's Inclusion Service. As part of this initiative, the school has received three AV1 Robots. The AV1 Robots are designed to support a small number of learners with very specific medical or additional learning needs that prevent them from physically attending school.

These robots enable eligible learners to watch lessons, listen to the teacher, and actively participate in real time via a secure connection. The AV1 live streams directly to a tablet or mobile phone with end-to-end encryption, ensuring that no external parties can access the video or audio. Importantly, the AV1 is focused only on the teacher - it does not capture children's faces or any other personal data. Recording or taking screenshots within the AV1 app is not possible, and the robots are fully GDPR compliant.

Strict safeguarding procedures remain in place, and any pupil using an AV1 must sign an agreement outlining the terms and conditions of use. We will write separately to those students who are likely to benefit from using this technology.

Your child may notice an AV1 robot in lessons or around school. More information can be found via this link: <https://www.noisolation.com/uk>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

### Water Safety Wales

Please see attached poster which we have been asked to share with you.

## **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 very much appreciated.

## **Parent Governor**

Following the recent ballot I am pleased to confirm that Mrs. Rebecca McGowan has been elected as Parent Governor.

## **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 [schooluniformexchange@hawardenhigh.flintshire.sch.uk](mailto:schooluniformexchange@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.

The following link can be used to access information about entitlement to Free School Meals and also about financial help towards the costs of uniform and equipment <https://gov.wales/get-help-school-costs>

Direct link to Flintshire County Council website <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Council-Tax-and-Benefits-and-Grants/Benefits-Forms.aspx>

## **School Building**

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the repair work following the damage caused by Storm Darragh at the end of last year. We are pleased to confirm that the building work on the gable wall has been completed and has been officially signed off as safe. We are now just awaiting the installation of specialist finials to complete the decorative element of the roof. In addition, we are delighted to report that phase 1 of the repairs to the sports hall roof has been completed, though the affected areas remain out of bounds. We would like to thank all students for their cooperation in adhering to the restrictions around the PE department, which will remain in place until April.

## **Curriculum support for Parents**

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/hhsclassroom.org/knowledge-experts/home>

## **Period Proud Flintshire**

Flintshire County Council are offering free reusable period products for home delivery through 'Cheeky Wipes', until the end of March 2025. Students and parent/carers can choose from a range of reusable product bundles; either reusable period pads, reusable period underwear or a period cup and sterilising pod bundle. This would be free of charge and delivered to your home address. Students aged 8-18 years and attending a school in Flintshire, can visit <https://www.cheekywipes.com/flintshire.html> to apply for free period products.

There is a page on the Council's website with further information and links to the project and promotions will be tweeted from the Council's Twitter account and promoted on the Council's Facebook page:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Period-Proud-Flintshire.aspx>

Yours sincerely



Mr. S. Budgen  
Headteacher

# Talk to your children about Water Safety!

Flooding and ice in winter can be dangerous for children. Keep your children safe and talk to them about water safety.



## STAY AWAY FROM THE EDGE



- Keep back from slippery banks.
- Never walk or play on ice.
- Stick to well-lit areas and plan your walks during daylight.
- Avoid walking or driving through floodwater.

## KEEP CHILDREN AND PETS CLOSE



- Teach children to stay off the ice and avoid floodwater.
- Keep dogs on a lead near ice and slippery banks.

## IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE



- Keep calm and call for help.
- Float on your back until you feel calm, then try to climb out.
- If you cannot climb out, continue to float and keep your head clear of the water.

## IF YOU SEE SOMEONE IN TROUBLE – CALL 999



- Do not enter cold water, ice, or flood water to rescue someone.
- Assist from a safe distance. Use rescue equipment, something that floats or something that could help such as a rope or tree branch.

## FLOOD SAFETY UPDATES

- Check your local flood risk on the [Natural Resources Wales website](#)
- Sign up for flood warnings on the [Natural Resources Wales website](#)

Stay informed about weather conditions and flood warnings.



**ENJOY THE WINTER SAFELY!**