

19 September 2025



Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a pleasure to welcome pupils back to school following the summer break, and I am delighted with the positive start they have made to the new academic year. Our new Year 7 and sixth form students, in particular, have settled quickly into life at Hawarden High, and we are proud of the way they have embraced the challenges and opportunities of the term so far. Staff have also worked hard to ensure pupils are supported and challenged from the outset, setting a purposeful tone for the year ahead.

Traffic, parking and pupil safety

As in previous years, I must remind all parents and carers of the importance of following the school's arrangements for site access and for the use of The Highway directly outside school. The start and end of the day are especially busy, and it is vital that we all work together to keep pupils safe.

- **Vehicle access:** parents should avoid driving onto the school site at the beginning or end of the school day unless absolutely necessary. Where access is required, please drop pupils at the end of the bus bay and do not obstruct the school gates, which are closed at the end of the day until buses have left the site.
- **Pedestrian safety:** pupils must use designated footpaths and gates, and not walk through vehicular access points.
- **Drop-off and collection:** please park legally and considerately outside school. Do not stop on yellow lines or zig-zag markings, and avoid blocking local driveways. These restrictions are in place to protect children's safety. Remember that Hawarden Community Council allow parents to use the car park at the Gladstone playing fields for the purposes of drop off and collection.
- **New pedestrian crossing:** a new crossing has been installed on The Highway, adjacent to Upper Aston Hall Lane. While works are not yet complete, please note this is currently an *informal crossing* and vehicles are not obliged to stop. Pupils have been reminded of this in assemblies and advised to take extra care; I ask parents to reinforce this message at home.

We appreciate the pressures traffic places on families, but your cooperation is essential. By following these arrangements, we can help ensure that all pupils arrive and leave school safely each day.

Staffing

I am pleased to be able to welcome a number of new staff to the school following departures at the end of last academic year. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming them to the school community.

Miss. A. Kelly, Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs. D. Kulesha, Cover Supervisor
Mrs. R. Rawley, ALN Administrator
Miss. R. Reaney, Learning Support Assistant
Miss. M. Taylor, Teacher of Design & Technology
Mrs. A. Williams, Teacher of Welsh

Open Day and Open Evening

This term we will hold our annual **Open Day and Open Evening** for prospective pupils and parents. These events take place on:

- **Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th October – Open Day (during school hours)**
- **Thursday 9th October – Open Evening (from 6.00pm)**

Both occasions are an important opportunity to showcase our school, and many of our pupils will be directly involved in welcoming visitors and supporting activities. Further details can be found here: [Hawarden High School Open Events](#).

Looking ahead

Key dates for the year can be found in the pupil [calendar](#) on our website. I would also like to remind families of the support available to help with school costs, including the [School Essentials Grant](#). You should already have received a communication from us regarding Free School Meals Information and links can be found through the Flintshire [website](#).

Working in partnership

As ever, we greatly value the partnership between school and home. Your role in upholding high standards of attendance, behaviour and uniform makes a real difference, and I am grateful for your continued commitment. I have been particularly impressed with how smartly pupils have presented themselves this year, and I thank parents and carers for reinforcing these expectations. We also recognise that the current financial climate can make purchasing uniform and other essentials difficult; if this is the case, please contact Student Support. We can offer direct help in some circumstances and provide guidance towards external sources of assistance.

As a reminder, our **Uniform Exchange** is available to all parents and carers, offering the chance to donate or obtain school uniform items. We welcome donations of jumpers, shirts, ties and PE kits; if your child has outgrown any of these, please drop them at the School Office so we can keep a good supply for families who need them.

Please note that you do not need to donate in order to use the service — all families are welcome to request items at any time. The exchange is completely confidential, and any information shared will be treated with the utmost care.

If you would like to request specific items, please complete the [online form](#). We will contact you by email once your order is ready for collection.

Reporting a Student Absence

If your child is unable to attend school, please inform us **as soon as possible on the morning of the absence** by one of the following methods:

- **Telephone:** Call the main school line, 01244 526400 and select the appropriate extension to report an absence.
- **Email:** Send an email to hhmail@hawardenhigh.flintshire.sch.uk

To help us keep accurate records, please ensure you clearly state your child's **full name, form group, and the reason for the absence**. Please note that following morning registration, the school will endeavour to send an absence alert to notify you if your child has not been registered as present. If there are any outstanding reasons for absence, parents and carers should also record these in the student planner by writing a brief note which the tutor can check. Please note that all holiday requests are unauthorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Thank you for your support in maintaining accurate attendance records and helping us keep all pupils safe.

Curriculum information

Parental support at home makes a real difference to your child's learning and wellbeing. Talking with them about what they are learning and how they learn best helps build confidence and good study habits. More ideas, guidance, and resources which may help can be found on our dedicated [curriculum support](#) page on the school website.

Societies and Clubs

We encourage all pupils to take part in extra-curricular clubs wherever possible, as these provide excellent opportunities to develop new skills, make friends and pursue personal interests. There is something for everyone — from Dungeons & Dragons to Cheerleading, and from Dodgeball to Chess. The full and up-to-date timetable is available on our school [website](#).

Examination Group Information Evenings

Thank you to those parents who attended the recent Year 12 information session. We have also arranged dedicated evenings for parents of pupils in **Year 10 and Year 11**, designed to share key information about the expectations for the year ahead and how best to support your child's progress.

- [Year 10 Information Evening](#) – Thursday, 2 October, 5.00–6.00pm, School Hall
- [Year 11 Information Evening](#) – Thursday, 2 October, 6.30–7.30pm, School Hall

At both events, parents will hear from the Deputy Headteacher, Mr Boyd, alongside the Curriculum Leaders for English, Maths and Science. Presentations will outline revision strategies, subject-specific guidance and a clear overview of the examination timelines.

Health and wellbeing

As part of our wider commitment to pupils' wellbeing, I would also like to draw your attention to the information provided by **Public Health Wales** on routine vaccinations for children and young people. This includes flu, HPV, MenACWY and the teenage booster, with clear details about eligibility, catch-up programmes and further guidance. Families can find the most up-to-date advice here: [School-age children and young people – Public Health Wales](#).

We look forward to building on the strong start already made this term and ensuring a productive and successful year for all pupils.

Yours sincerely



Mr. S. Budgen
Headteacher