

The Highway
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Yr Highway
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February 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

As we come to the end of another busy and productive half term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Our students have engaged enthusiastically in a wide range of activities and initiatives, and we are proud of the hard work, commitment and positive attitude they have shown. The purpose of this letter is to update you on the life of the school.

This term, our school is proud to introduce two new initiatives aimed at reducing food waste while supporting our wider community and environment. Through our partnership with ReFood, any unavoidable food waste from our kitchen will be collected and processed using anaerobic digestion — an environmentally friendly method that transforms waste into nutrient-rich fertiliser for local farms and renewable gas used to heat homes. In addition, we are working with Olio, a community food-sharing network, where trained Food Waste Hero volunteers will collect any suitable surplus meals from school and redistribute them to local families who can make good use of them. These initiatives not only help us reduce our environmental impact but also allow our school to play a positive role in supporting sustainability and our local community.

School Uniform:

We would like to thank the many parents and carers who continue to support Hawarden High School by ensuring their child attends school in the correct uniform. Your support helps us maintain high standards and a positive school environment, and it is greatly appreciated.

We do need to remind families of some key uniform expectations where we have seen an increase in non-compliance. In particular, students are expected to wear plain black school shoes, and skirts should be worn at the correct length and type as outlined in the school uniform policy. Only one pair of small ear studs are permitted in terms of piercings, and these must be removable for PE lessons.

We kindly ask parents and carers to check uniform items regularly and support the school in addressing these points. Maintaining consistent standards helps all students feel part of our school community, reduces peer pressure and squabbles and enables them to be ready to learn.

Eisteddfod:

On Friday, 27 February, pupils in Year 7 and 8 will be participating in our school Eisteddfod, we will also be joined by Year 5 pupils from our primary schools. Pupils have been busy rehearsing for their group performances, submitting Eisteddfod entries across various competitions, practising their 'dawnsio gwerin' and generally getting into the spirit of the Eisteddfod. A significant number of house points are available for the overall winners on the day! I look forward to celebrating this important occasion in the calendar.

Period Proud Flintshire:

Funded by the Welsh Government, Flintshire County Council is once again offering free reusable period products for home delivery through [Cheeky Wipes](#) as part of the Period Proud Flintshire initiative, available until the end of March 2026. Parents or learners themselves can choose from a range of reusable product bundles, including reusable period pads, reusable period underwear, or a period cup with sterilising pod bundle; all items are free of charge and will be delivered directly to your home. Learners aged 8–18 who attend a school in Flintshire can apply by visiting www.cheekywipes.com/flintshire.html, where a short instructional video is also available to support the ordering process, and further information can be found via [Flintshire Period Proud](#).

Curriculum Support for Parents:

We continue to develop our [Curriculum Support Website](#) to help parents/carers support their child's learning at home, with the newest section featuring a wide range of websites and applications to support revision and homework tasks. Please do take a look.

Safer Internet Day:

On Tuesday 10 February 2026, and throughout this week and last, Hawarden High School has marked Safer Internet Day, a national event promoting the safe, positive and responsible use of the internet. This year's theme focused on how Artificial Intelligence (AI) shapes young people's digital experiences and how it can be used safely and responsibly. During form time, all pupils took part in a 20-minute, age-appropriate session based on Welsh Government Hwb resources. Years 7–9 explored what AI chatbots are, how they work and how to use them safely and sensibly, while Years 10–13 examined these themes in greater depth, considering reliability, independence and the responsible use of AI in their learning. I also held an assembly with pupils where I shared the history of AI and how pupils might get the most out of it safely and responsibly. The sessions encouraged pupils to think critically about the information they encounter online and to understand the importance of academic integrity and responsible digital behaviour. We encourage parents and carers to continue these conversations at home by discussing where AI appears in everyday life, supporting young people to question and verify online information, and reinforcing the importance of using digital tools appropriately, particularly for schoolwork. We appreciate your continued support in helping our young people become confident, safe and responsible digital citizens.

Year 10 Work Experience:

A gentle reminder that Year 10 pupils need to secure their work experience placements by the end of March. The half-term break would be a brilliant opportunity to talk to local employers/organisations to try and get their placement secured and finalised. Once they have confirmation of a placement they need to upload the details onto Unifrog, in the 'placements' section.

Sixth Form Information Evening:

On behalf of the staff and Sixth Form students we have great pleasure in extending an invitation to you and your child to attend our Sixth Form Information Evening. This will be held in school, face-to-face, on Thursday, 26 February, at 6pm.

Year 12 UCAS Discovery Visit:

Later in the year, after examinations have finished, we will be focusing upon the vast array of opportunities post Sixth Form. For the majority of students in the year group, this will be the securing of university places but, for a growing number of students, seeking apprenticeship placements or entering directly into a career will be more suitable. In order to support students to explore their options we have organised a trip to the UCAS Exhibition in Manchester on Wednesday, 4 March. During the event students will be able to talk to universities about available courses, entry requirements, bursaries, scholarships. They can also talk to employers who offer sponsored degrees or apprenticeships. More information will follow in a letter to parents. The list of universities and employers present, can be found here: [UCAS Discovery Manchester 2026 | UCAS](#)

I shall take the opportunity to remind you of some forthcoming dates in the school calendar:

- Monday, 23 February – school opens
- Thursday, 26 February – Sixth Form Information Evening
- Monday, 2 March – Year 11 trial exams commence
- Thursday, 12 March – Year 12/13 Parents' Evening
- Friday, 20 March – Staff Training Day (school closed for pupils)
- Monday, 23 March – Year 12/13 trial exams commence
- Friday, 27 March – school closes for Easter
- Monday, 13 April – school opens for Summer Term

With best wishes for the half-term break.

Yours sincerely



Mr. S. Budgen
Headteacher