



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

4 April 2025

Official Sensitive

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we reach the end of another term, I wanted to write to update you on some news and events that we have enjoyed over the last few weeks.

Year 11 Dress Up Day

Friday 21 March was certainly a day with a difference! Our Year 11's enjoyed a well-earned break from the stresses and strains of approaching GCSE examinations with a fancy dress day. There were some superb outfits which resulted in much entertainment for all other students in the school. Not to be left out, all staff also attended in fancy dress which just added to the occasion.



Students completed a parade into Sible Hedingham and it was nice to see some of the community come out to welcome them.

Careers Events

This term we have continued to provide opportunities for our students to explore and prepare for their next steps in education or career. Back in January, Year 9 visited the University of Essex for an insight into Higher Education, students were treated to a taster lesson, a campus tour and a student Q&A panel to find out the benefits and undergraduate degree can bring. The Year 8 Enterprise Day enabled students to experience what it is like to own and run your own small business, making financial decisions as well as creating a brand identity to stand out from the crowd. Year 10 took part in a series of events designed to teach them about the job application process starting with and CV Workshop followed by a mock workday and interview with a local employer. Year 10 also visited Colchester Institute for an Apprenticeship event designed to broaden their knowledge of possible career routes available to them.

Assessments and Progress Checks

Year 12 students have completed their mid-term assessments recently. The vast majority approached these with diligence and focus. The outcome data is being reviewed by the Sixth Form team and will result in progress meetings to identify next steps.

Year 11 students have recently completed GCSE English Literature assessments as they rapidly approach the onset of formal examinations in May. We intend to have end of year examinations for all students in Years 7, 8, 10 and 12 this Summer. The details of these assessments, including content assessed, expected revision, access to revision resources as well as timetables will be shared with parents of each year group in the near future.

Our hope is that students develop habitual routines for revision and examinations as they progress through the school which will lay a solid foundation for terminal external examinations which are inevitable in Year 11 and 13. It also provides excellent information about generic and individual progress trends that we can use to drive attainment.

Science Week

The week beginning 10 March saw the celebration of Science Week. Students were involved in a range of different scientific experiments as well as opportunities to get involved in lunchtime challenges including rocket making and maggot racing! It was great to see student enthusiasm towards a week with a spotlight on Science.

School Production



We had three wonderful evenings of Little Shop of Horrors as well as an adapted morning performance for our local Primary schools. It was humbling to witness the wealth of talent and ability of those students involved; from stage performance, set design, costume production, lighting and sound as well as those students in the band. Such events are long in the making, and I recognise the huge effort that has been applied over many months, both by students and staff.

Thanks to those parents and families that attended as well as to the PTA for their involvement in actively trying to generate funds for improved equipment to help such events.

Attendance

Much has been made public about national concerns with students' regular attendance at school. Undoubtedly, we see the negative impact of intermittent absence, educationally, with attainment, as well as on a social and continuity level. We celebrate strong attendance with our students and educate about the importance of consistent attendance. However, we continue to face significant levels of students who are at persistent absence threshold, essentially missing one day per fortnight. Your support as families is a key ingredient in helping address this challenge and we appreciate your support in ensuring your children consistently attend school.

Stunt Workshop

We have been looking at different experiences to offer our students to help broaden horizons. We have tried to tie these into our reward programmes to recognise those students who repeatedly and consistently do the right things day to day. As such, a select group of Year 8 students took part in a Muay-Thai and Stunt Workshop with a local provider. Students were brilliant and really valued the opportunity.

School Uniform

Generally, students have the correct uniform in school, but we have been closely monitoring to check that it is worn appropriately. Under my tenure as Headteacher, I have ensured that all Year 7 students wear formal school shoes rather than a collection of branded black trainers. I appreciate that historically, black trainers have been tolerated which is why this change has been focused on Year 7 and will continue to grow through the school with Year 6 students' arrival in September. However, if you are replacing shoes and your child is in other year groups, please can you replace in line with our published policy and support me with making this adjustment in school. From September, this will be enforced more diligently with all other year groups. The following link will direct you to our Behaviour, Relationships and Recognition Policy 2024 page on our website. [School Policies - Hedingham School and Sixth Form -](#)



Year 11 and 13

This is a crucial time for two hugely important year groups. As a wider school community we all have them in mind as they navigate their formal examination period. At the moment, they will not be able to think a great deal beyond June when examinations finish, but we have plans in place to help them celebrate reaching a key milestone in their educational journey. We are proud of them all and wish them all the very best through a difficult period of examinations throughout May and June.

Key Dates for the Summer Term:

- 22 April - Students return to school
- 22 April - Year 11 Thorpe Park trip
- 30 April - Year 9 Careers Fair
- 1 May - Year 8 Parents' Evening
- 5 May - Bank Holiday
- 8 May - Public Exams start
- 5 June - Year 10 Sixth Form Taster Day
- 17 June - Year 12 Higher Education Fair TBC
- 17 June - Year 10 Euro Space Centre Trip
- 19 June - Public Exams end
- w/b 23 June - Careers in the Curriculum and Year 10 and 12 Mock Exams
- 24 June - Year 5 Taster Day
- 24 June - CERN trip TBC
- 25 June - Year 11 Prom
- 26 and 27 June - Year 6 Induction Days and Year 6 Parents' Information Evening
- 7 July - Sports Day
- 8 July - Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day
- 10 July - Summer Show and Sixth Form Summer Ball
- 14 July - Sports Awards Evening
- 15-18 July - Year 12 Enterprise Challenge Week
- 21 July - House/Student celebrations
- 22 July - Last day of the Summer Term – students will leave at 1.30 pm

I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Finch
Headteacher

Headteacher • Paul Finch BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Yeldham Road • Sible Hedingham • Essex • CO9 3QH • Telephone 01787 460470

e-mail: enquiries@hedingham.essex.sch.uk • Website: www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk • Registered Company No. 8330173



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