



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

7 March 2024

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Dear Parent/Guardian

As we progress through a very short half-term, I wanted to write to you all to update you on some key events and also to keep you informed about what is going on in school.

Last week, we conducted 'standards' assemblies for all students in Years 7-11 which focused on school Vision and Values. We communicated some key messages to students about 'doing the right thing' which aligns with the school motto 'Ready, Respect, Safe'. We also reminded students about behaviours that constitute a serious breach of our Behaviour Policy. Students, as always, reacted positively and understand the need to continually adopt positive approaches to their learning. This presentation is available on the school website under 'News'.

Years 11 and 13:

Students in these year groups are now fully focused on their preparation for their summer examinations. Indeed, many are already involved in practical assessments and finalising coursework commitments.

We have a Year 13 Targeted Parents' Evening this week, following the Year 11 evening which took place a few weeks ago.

Full details surrounding Year 11 and 13 leaving arrangements, examination support and general updates will be circulated in the near future.

Year 10 Careers Programme:

We have been very pleased with the way our Year 10 students have embraced the opportunities to focus on next steps. Following a successful and insightful visit to the Apprenticeship Fair at Colchester Institute, they also took part in a World of Work day last Thursday. Students worked on a variety of projects and tasks related to a field of interest. This included computer game design, sport, journalism, media, business, working in the care industry and Essex Ambulance service. This week students in Year 10 now have their follow up interviews related to their chosen fields. I would like to thank all the outside organisations and employers who have worked with the school on this exciting careers' programme.

Year 9 Guided Choice:

Over the next month our Year 9 students will be selecting their 'options' programme for Year 10.

The process will start week beginning the 18 March, in which there will be a Parents' Virtual Information evening which starts at 5.00 pm. Mr Finch will write to all Year 9 parents with a clear programme and timeline.

Attendance:

As you will have heard in the news recently, the DfE have issued clear guidance related to attendance. As a school, we will be looking closely at our own policy and will ensure that it aligns with central Government.

We need to work together with yourselves as parents to ensure that students attend regularly to school. The policy is centred on support and positive relationships but also to make clear the legal requirements, particularly around requests for absence. Attendance will be a consistent feature of communication with parents in the future. We must set high expectations for attendance and punctuality and work together to ensure that we are all aware that regular schooling is significant for a child's attainment, well-being and wider development.


Dates for the Diary:

8 March	Performing Arts Trip
11 and 14 March	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork trips
14 March	Year 9 Science/Museum trip
w/b 18 March	Year 9 Guided Choice process starts
21 March	Year 9 Parents' Evening
26 March	Year 12 Geography Fieldwork trip
27 March	Year 11 Thorpe Park trip
28 March	Last day of Spring Term
Easter Holidays	Students return to school on the 15 April 2024

We look forward to an active and purposeful half-term.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Harvison
Headteacher

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