



## HEDINGHAM SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

24 November 2025

Official Sensitive

Dear Parent/Guardian

Firstly, I would like to extend a massive thank you to the majority of you who have attended the Exam Information evening, and our Year 11 Parents' Evening, with a fantastic turnout of 87% at the Parents' Evening. Your buy in and support in your child's education will provide them with the best possible chance of success in the summer and in the future – so thank you!

This is a crucial and exciting term, and I am writing to inform you about the upcoming events that we have both in school, and in the evenings in the coming months, as well as providing some advice and resources to aid in exam preparation.

### Mock Exams

The mocks are closing in fast and will be on us before we know. These are a crucial part of preparation for the formal exams in the summer. I commonly use the analogy that you wouldn't run a marathon without going on a series of practice runs, and mocks provide exactly that for the GCSE exams.

Please be aware that exams are stressful! They are designed to be so. Feelings of unease, anxiety, and not wanting to do them are completely normal. Part of the benefit of completing the mocks is students beginning to condition themselves to operate at their highest levels when under stress and pressure.

We are aware that sometimes students will find knowing where to start and how to structure their revision time overwhelming. I sincerely hope that students are actively engaged in a programme of planned revision. However, to help with this, attached to this letter is a prepopulated revision timetable for students to follow. This is intended as a **minimum** expectation of time spent revising out of school. If you wish to adapt the schedule to one that fits your family better, please feel free too.

Lastly, please do not accept the favourite excuse of students who will claim that they're not revising so they can 'find out what they need to revise', this is nonsense!

### Dress Up Day

The much looked forward to Dress Up Day is going to be held on **Thursday 18 December**. In order to qualify for this, students need to gain a balance of +60 credits by **Friday 12 December**. Students can gain credits in a variety of ways, including attending revision sessions, and having 100% attendance for a full week of school. Lessons will continue as usual on this day, and students who have not met the +60 credits balance by the deadline above will be expected to attend school as usual in regular uniform.

This is a fantastic day that has been running for years, and we want all students to be able to attend. Students are being kept up to date regularly by their form tutors as to their credits balance, and I have spoken to students in assembly recently who we are concerned will not achieve the required amount of credits. If you are concerned that your child may not achieve the required number of credits, then please contact their form tutor or myself to discuss this and the things they can do to qualify for this great reward.

### Mock Results Day

After completing their mock exams, there will be an embargo on all results until **Friday 9 January 2026**. Students will then receive their results in a sealed envelope in assembly, giving them a taste of what the real results day will be like. There will be reflection opportunities available during PD time in the subsequent weeks, and staff will be able to answer any questions that students may have and provide support when they are opening their envelopes. Mock results will be sent home with updated reports and predictions in the New Year.

## **Year 11 Parents' Evening 2**

On **Thursday 22 January 2026** we will be holding our second Parents' Evening of the year. In a change to previous years, this year the evening will be for all students, not specifically targeted ones, and it will be face to face, not online. We believe that this will provide a great opportunity to reflect on the mock results, and, in a three-way partnership between your child, yourself and the teacher, forge a plan moving forward to maximise their success in the summer. With the fantastic 87% turnout at the previous evening, our target is to break 90% this time around!

## **Exam Preparation Evening**

On Wednesday **4 March 2026** we will be running an Exam Preparation Evening. This event will be aimed at parents in providing ways to support your child through the build up to and then process of the examination season. There will be talks surrounding supporting revision at home, helping to deal with stress and anxiety, and more. Our Exam Information evening was really well attended, and I believe that this event too will provide really useful information for supporting your child during this time.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Form Applications**

We had an excellent turnout at our Sixth Form Open Evening and there was a buzz of excitement around potential routes in Year 12. Compared to many establishments we offer the unique opportunity to not only take A Levels, or Vocational qualifications, but also a hybrid of the two, truly offering a flexible and individualized curriculum for our students. Combining this with the relationships forged with staff over the last 5 years (and the brilliant new Café in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form), has led to a surge in popularity of students staying on in the Sixth Form. We look forward to student interviews on receipt of applications.

## **Attendance**

There is a proven link between attendance and academic outcomes. It seems obvious – the more you're in school, the more you will learn, therefore the more successful you will be in your GCSE's. At the time of writing, the average attendance for Year 11 this year is 89.8%, meaning that across the year group, each student averages one day off per fortnight. This is below the national average of 91.4%. In relation to the summer examinations, to echo my point at the Exam Information Evening, GCSE results are graded on a curve, and to get the higher grades, students need to finish higher up in the national rankings.

If our students are not attending school as frequently as those nationally, they are putting themselves at a disadvantage before they have even sat in the exam hall, as they will be competing against students who have been better prepared due to being in school more frequently and having access to the expert knowledge, exam technique and practice imparted by their teachers.

When possible, please ensure that your child is attending school, and doing so punctually. It's one of the easiest 'quick wins' that you can do in terms of boosting your child's chances of success in the summer, and a thank you to the large number of parents and students who already have exemplary attendance and are already on the front foot. To those who are struggling – it's not too late!

## **Pupil Premium**

If your child is in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG), and there are any revision materials or support that we can assist in providing, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Pearson who will be able to advise if we are able to provide any financial support in these matters. Areas in which we are able to support include, but are not limited to, providing revision books, equipment (such as Scientific calculators), subscriptions to revision resources.

## **Key Contacts**

### **Form Tutors:**

Ms Nevill	<a href="mailto:hed.nevillc@hedingham.essex.uk">hed.nevillc@hedingham.essex.uk</a>
Mr North	<a href="mailto:hed.northd@hedingham.essex.uk">hed.northd@hedingham.essex.uk</a>
Mr Sergeant	<a href="mailto:hed.sergeantd@hedingham.essex.uk">hed.sergeantd@hedingham.essex.uk</a>
Ms Duncan	<a href="mailto:hed.duncane@hedingham.essex.uk">hed.duncane@hedingham.essex.uk</a>
Mr Wincott	<a href="mailto:hed.wincotte@hedingham.essex.uk">hed.wincotte@hedingham.essex.uk</a>
Ms Butler	<a href="mailto:hed.butlerk@hedingham.essex.uk">hed.butlerk@hedingham.essex.uk</a>
Mrs North	<a href="mailto:hed.northk@hedingham.essex.uk">hed.northk@hedingham.essex.uk</a>
Mr Townsend	<a href="mailto:hed.townsendk@hedingham.essex.uk">hed.townsendk@hedingham.essex.uk</a>

**PPG Coordinator**

Mr Pearson [hed.pearsonj@hedingham.essex.uk](mailto:hed.pearsonj@hedingham.essex.uk)

Lastly, I would like to once again thank you for your support of not only your child's education, but also the school. Working cohesively together will maximise your child's chances of being proud of the contents of their results envelope in August. I look forward to welcoming you back into the school building in January and continuing with the momentum of the great start to the year that everyone has worked so hard to build so far.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Abrey  
Deputy 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](mailto:enquiries@hedingham.essex.sch.uk) • Website: [www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk](http://www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk) • Registered Company No. 8330173



Approved  
Centre

