# Hedingham School & Sixth Form



# Sixth Form Parent Information

2024 - 2025

## Hedingham School & Sixth Form



Headteacher:	Mr Paul Finch
Deputy Headteacher:	Mr Chris Abrey <u>hed.abreyc@hedingham.essex</u>
Head of Sixth Form:	Mr Rory Hyde hed.hyder@hedingham.essex.sch.uk
Deputy Leader of Sixth Form:	Mr Paddy Sadler hed.sadlerp@hedingham.essex.sch.uk
Sixth Form Assistant:	Mrs Sue Miley hed.mileys@hedingham.essex.sch.uk
Sixth Form Assistant:	Miss Sian Hannam hed.hannams@hedingham.essex.sch.uk

 Telephone Number:
 01787 460470

 Sixth Form Office:
 Ext. 208/230

# THE SCHOOL DAY

Arrival	08.40 - 09.10
Period I	09.10 - 10.10
Period 2	10.10 - 11.10
Period 3	11.30 - 12.30
Period 4	12.30 - 13.30
Lunch	13.30 - 14.15
Period 5	14.15 - 15.15

#### Attendance, Tutorials & Briefing

Excellent attendance underpins the success of Post 16 education. We expect all students to have more than 95% attendance if they are to achieve their potential in the Sixth Form. It is important that you are here on time each day. Attendance will be monitored throughout the year. Students are expected to sign in when they arrive in the morning and when they leave. Students must sign into all independent study sessions. Failure to sign in will impact on a student's overall attendance. Where we identify concerns with attendance, students will be spoked to directly and contact will be made with parents.

All students must be in a for an 8.40am start.

#### **Student Absence**

You must inform the school of any absence by 9.00am. Please contact the Sixth Form office on 01787 460470 (extension 341/342). You must do this on each day a student is absent. For Year 12 students a parent/guardian must call.

# Holiday requests during term time will not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances. Careful consideration needs to be given when booking summer holidays with friends or family.

For Year 12 students, the second-year course material will start to be delivered as soon as the Mock exams are completed, or coursework deadline dates reached. The academic year finishes at the end of the summer term on the 22 July 2025. For Year 13 students, they are required to stay until the end of their exam dates, and they may be required to stay longer if their coursework is unfinished.

If students have a planned absence e.g. for a hospital appointment or university visit they must complete a blue form from the Sixth Form office before the absence.

#### **Employment**

We understand that many Year 12 and 13 students have paid employment for a number of hours each week. It is important that this is always outside of school hours, and we recommend that eight hours should be the maximum length of time spent in paid employment per week. Additional hours will have a detrimental effect on a student's ability to study effectively. Students are not allowed to undertake paid

work during the school day, and it is recommended that they think carefully about evening work as post-16 courses are very demanding.

#### **Independent Study**

Students should use the Sixth Form Study Rooms during their independent study time. Arrangements can be made to work in curriculum areas with the agreement of their teachers. Students may also be asked to attend after school intervention in study areas. The Sixth Form study facilities are open every day after school hours between 3.15 - 4.30pm for study support and for interventions when students fall behind with their work.

Students should expect to dedicate at least four hours for each subject studied to complete as independent study per week. Students should undertake reading, note-taking, and research on the topics they are studying as well as homework, essays, or assessments. They should also actively revisit previous learning to support retention and long-term memory.

It is important students record homework set by staff and keep a track of all on-going assignments and appointments.

The way students use study periods will be crucial to achieving success in Year 12. Study periods will be identified and negotiated with their Form Tutor.

Independent study sessions will be monitored by staff and the Sixth Form Assistants.

#### Teams

Microsoft Teams will form an important part of supporting students' independent study work. Teachers will set work on Teams which will be monitored by Sixth Form staff.

#### **Study Skills**

Post 16 study, especially at Advanced Level, requires a wide range of study skills. The ability to write in a range of extended writing styles (essays, reporting); effective note taking and independent research involving a variety of resource materials are but a few. Some of these skills will be taught in subject lessons and tutorials but it is essential that students look to acquiring and refining these themselves. Students must pay particular attention to the quality of spelling, punctuation, and grammar. A concise fluent writing style should be developed as apriority.

#### **Personal Organisation**

We expect students to have folders and note paper for each subject and for them to keep these organised throughout their course. Students may find it useful to purchase:

Ring binders Lined note paper pads Coloured dividers Plastic pockets for storing loose sheets Pens and pencils Camera for Photography Calculator Eraser Barrel sharpener Highlighters Glue stick Art equipment D&T equipment Laptop or MacBook Memory stick Safety glasses will be used in science when appropriate. You may want to purchase your own safety glasses for personal use. Folder checks will be routinely conducted. Concerns will be relayed to students and parents.

#### **Deadlines**

Deadlines are important and there are two types of deadlines:

**Internal deadlines** – set by subject staff. Staff need to plan their work and if students miss internal deadlines there is a knock-on effect for the member of staff and perhaps the whole group. There is also a serious effect on the student, as missed deadlines means that work builds up and can begin to seem unmanageable.

**External deadlines** – set by external bodies, such as the examination boards. These are not negotiable. Only in very exceptional cases do examination boards accept late work.

#### **Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones/AirPods must not be used in classrooms or around main building. They must not be seen or heard in lessons unless directed by the Teacher. They can be used in designated Sixth Form areas.

#### Sixth Form Code of Conduct

All students must read and familiarise themselves with all aspects of the Code of Conduct. It is expected that all students wishing to attend Hedingham School Sixth Form accept and understand the conditions applied to their place. Parents and Students need to sign the Code of Conduct and return it to the Sixth Form.

#### See Appendix 2: Sixth Form Code of Conduct

#### **Dress Code**

Students are expected to wear clothes suitable for a learning environment and remember that they are role models for younger students.

T-shirts with any wording that may be considered offensive are not appropriate. Students should not wear clothing in the summer that exposes large areas of flesh. Flip flops should not be worn to school due to health and safety issues.

Sixth Form students are not allowed to wear hoods or hats anywhere on the school site.

Students must always wear their photo ID badge.

#### Sixth Form Curriculum

All students negotiate a balanced and realistic study programme during an individual interview with a member of staff at the beginning of Year 12 and 13. We offer a wide range of both academic and vocational courses, so it is possible to tailor make a curriculum depending on student ability and interests. They are

expected to complete the agreed courses and may not make any changes to them without consulting the Sixth Form team. This needs to be documented and be signed by parents. Any changes to programmes must take place within the first six weeks of study.

Where possible Sixth Form lessons are covered when their teachers are absent by cover supervisors. Students should therefore go to all timetabled lessons even if they think their teacher is absent and they will be registered and provided with work set by their teachers.

Cover work will also be set using Microsoft Teams.

#### **Monitoring of Academic Progress**

At the beginning of Year 12, GCSE results are used to give every student a Target Grade for each subject they are studying.

Progress towards these targets will be assessed in subject areas. Progress reports will be sent home during Autumn and Spring Terms. Students should also keep a record of target grades and their progress towards them in their organisers.

Students will have regular one to one mentoring interviews with their tutors or a member of the Sixth Form Team to discuss their progress towards their targets. These will occur in tutorial time.

#### **Personal Tutor and Sixth Form Support**

Post 16 students have access to guidance and support with their allocated personal tutor – who is an experienced member of teaching staff. In addition, students can access support from the Sixth Form Assistants.

#### **Future Choices**

There is comprehensive careers and guidance in the Sixth Form programme. Help and support is offered to Year 12 and 13 students throughout the year. It is important that students attend all briefings and tutorial sessions as they may miss vital opportunities. Advice and support are offered primarily through Sixth Form tutors who regularly mentor students. College, apprenticeships, and careers advice can be discussed with Mr Hyde, Mr Sadler, Mrs Miley and Miss Hannam. Individual help and support about university is offered by Mr Hyde and tutors.

#### **Examination Entries**

The school will pay for all examination entry fees. The exception to this is:

Where a student has clearly not shown enough commitment to his/her studies i.e. Attendance/Effort

#### **Student Leadership**

All Year 12 students are strongly encouraged to join the Leadership Programme. The programme consists of peer mentoring, paired reading or being a subject ambassador and tutor. Supporting students in the lower school demonstrates a commitment on the part of our students and is part of what makes a Hedingham Sixth Former stand out.

Year 12 students will be invited to apply for posts as House Captains. This is a thorough application process, within which applicants will be interviewed a member of the Sixth Form Team and the Head of

Year 11. House Captains play an important role in helping to organise and run events in the lower school. The role of a House Captain is part of the larger Sixth Form Leadership Programme.

Students in Year 12 and 13 are encouraged to join the Sixth Form Council which helps to run and organise various events through the Year. Both the council and the House Captains are overseen by the Headship team. The headship team consists of 4 students in Year 13 who go through a rigorous selection process to be appointed.

All of these are fantastic opportunities that would act as a great addition to any UCAS application or CV.

#### **E-safety**

The school is passionate about the use of technology. However, with all technological advance new risks are presented as well as opportunities. The aim is to maintain an environment that harnesses technology but also ensures students remain safe by detailing the acceptable use of the internet, recording devices and mobile phones. The policy identifies what is an E-Safety incident and the procedures the school will follow.

#### See Appendix I: E-Safety Advice for Parents

#### **Bursary Fund**

Students may be eligible for financial support from the Post 16 bursary scheme. Support varies depending on individual circumstances and will be considered on a case-by-case basis in line with the school policy. Students who may benefit from financial support should obtain a copy of the policy and application form from the Sixth Form Office or contact the School Business Manager for advice.

#### Earls Colne & Halstead Educational Charity

Earls Colne and Halstead Charitable Charity is a registered educational charity which offers support to young people engaged in any type of educational activity. Please refer to our website for further information.

#### **Sixth Form Trips and Social Activities**

As part of the wider Sixth Form curriculum, various activities, trips and visits are organised for students such as a visit to Auschwitz for History, New York for Media and Photography and Iceland for Science. In addition to these, students can participate in various social occasions organised through the Sixth Form such as the annual Summer Ball.

All students are encouraged to actively support these events and activities.

#### Enrichment

Alongside their subjects most Sixth Formers choose to take an enrichment course to further boost their university application or career prospects. We offer a range of different courses all of which will help make them stand out.

These courses range from academic qualifications to sporting awards or practical skills.

AS photography Core Maths EPQ Community Sports Leadership Award Further Maths Criminology CTEC Digital Media CTEC Business

#### **Qualifications & Ucas Points Guide**

It is important students understand the type of course they are studying and the qualification they will receive at the end of it. Students will also need to know how many UCAS points would receive for their qualification if they were to apply to university.

Targets are set using national data which compares your actual GCSE results with the average outcome at A Level for students with similar GCSE results. If students work above their target grades, they may have their target raised. If students are working below their target grades, they will be monitored by the Sixth Form team and provided with extra support and intervention to improve performance.

	Target Grade	UCAS Tariff ( <u>based</u> on Target)													
Subject			Autumn Term	Term	Summer Term										
			1 ; 2	1 ; 2	1 : 2										
1															
2															
3															
4															
5															
Total UCAS	Score:														

#### UCAS Tariff Table (below)

This table can be used to calculate UCAS points which are used by universities to set entry requirements. Some universities will specify actual grades required for individual 'A' levels.

UCA	S Point	Score	BTEC L	evel 3
grade	as	a Level	Award	Points
A*	-	56	D*	56
Α	20	48	D	48
в	E	40	М	32
с	-	32	Ρ	16
D	-	24		
E	-	16		

#### University

**www.ucas.com** – online application to all UK HE institutions but also vital for course searches and advice on choosing a university.

www.sfengland.slc.co.uk - All the information you need about funding your education after Sixth Form.

**www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk** - Use this site to look at the university league tables as rated by student satisfaction (NSS), entry standards, RAE, graduate prospects (employability). You can also search by subject to find the best universities for your subject.

**www.russellgroup.ac.uk/our-universities.aspx** - This is the website for the top 20 HE institutions in the UK – they are not always the best for every subject, but they are considered top overall. Top national and international employers actively recruit graduates from Russell Group universities.

www.ukcoursefinder.com - a free online questionnaire providing links to university courses and websites.

**www.prospects.ac.uk** – looks at post-graduate (after university) careers www.opendays.com— Apprenticeships and work www.apprenticeships.org.uk/ - Information about apprenticeships nationally – including vacancies.

Please check the Sixth Form notice boards and the school careers office for updated apprenticeship, work, and training opportunities

#### General

**www.thestudentroom.co.uk/** - For up-to-date information on everything about student life including revision, applying to university and student finance – it is free to join.

www.getrevising.co.uk - For revision tips and help in creating revision resources.

Well-being/ Mental health	Apps	Gap Year/ Travel
kooth.com mind.org.uk Students against	Headspace My mood tracker Mindshift	statravel.co.uk campsinternational.con campamerica.co.uk
depression The Samaritans	Hellomind Stop, Breathe & Think	realgap.co.uk

#### **Useful Websites**

Careers and Apprenticeships:

www.studentladder.co.uk

<u>www.gov.uk</u>

www.futurelearn.com

#### **Term and Holiday Dates**

#### 2024 – 2025

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Monday 2 September 2024 - Enrolment Afternoon 1.00pm-2.30pm

Wednesday 4 September 2024 - Start of Term

#### Non-Pupil Days:

- Monday 2 September 2024
- Tuesday 3 September 2024
  - Friday II October 2024
- Thursday 28 November 2024

#### Friday 29 November 2024

## **APPENDIX I**



# HEDINGHAM SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

# E-SAFETY ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

A helpful guide with useful information for everyone using a computer at home and at school

#### What is e-Safety?

• E-Safety is concerned with safeguarding young people in the digital world.

• It is about learning to understand and use electronic devices and ICT systems in a safe and positive way.

• E-Safety is not about restricting children but educating them about the risks as well as the benefits so they can feel confident and happy through their use of technology and when operating online.

• It is about being educated to be able to support and help young people.

#### Some Key Areas to Consider:

- Chatrooms
- Instant Messengers e.g. SnapChat, WhatsApp
- Social Networking Sites e.g. Facebook, Instagram, TikTok
- Gaming/Online Gaming
- User Generated Content Sites
- Mobile Phones

• Online Content - Incitement Sites e.g. Pro-ana/Mia, Pro Self-Harm, Pro Suicide, Hate Against Race/Religion, Violence/Aggression, Gambling, Pornography etc.

• Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools/platforms

#### What is Cyberbullying?

• "Cyberbullying is the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) particularly mobile phones and the internet, to deliberately upset someone" (DCFS 2007).

• Cyberbullying can take place 24/7 and is not restricted by location.

• Can occur on a vast scale and in many forms, such on a mobile phone via email and texts. On social networking sites and in chatrooms and some websites. It can be very hard to control.

• Bullies attempt to be anonymous and can feel distanced from the incident, bystanders can easily become perpetrators.

• Cyberbullying can occur unintentionally.

• Cyberbullying does not exclusively occur just between children and can occur between adults to children, adults to adults or even children to adults. This can between people of different ages, genders, colours, religion, and other groups.

• Cyberbullying incidents can be used as evidence in a court of law.

#### **Key Advice for Young People**

• Always respect others, think about what you say online and what images you send/post.

• Remember that anything you publish online can be made public very quickly and you will never be sure who may see it.

• Once something is posted you lose control. Work to the motto. "Once you post online, it likely exists online forever".

• Treat your password like a toothbrush, never share it with anyone and change it at least every 6 months.

• Only give your personal information, like mobile phone number or email address to trusted friends face to face.

• Learn how to block or report online bullies or anyone behaving inappropriately. Don't retaliate or reply! Save the evidence, text messages, online conversation, pictures etc.

- Always make sure you tell someone i.e.
- An adult you trust or contact someone like Childline
- The service provider e.g. website, mobile phone company etc.
- The school or the police.
- If you see Cyberbullying going on, support the victim and REPORT the bullying straight away.
- Don't trust everything you read online. With the advent of Artificial Intelligence Chatbots e.g. ChatGPT, it is becoming easier and easier to create fake content which is then uploaded straight to the web.

#### Young People: Be SMART!

**SAFE** - Staying safe means being careful and not giving out your name, address, photos, mobile phone no., school name or password to people online. Use a nickname, set social networking sites to private and never post your own or your friends/family's information without their permission.

**MEETING** - Meeting up with someone you have contacted online can be dangerous as you never know if they are who they say they are. Let an adult know if someone has asked you to do this.

**ACCEPTING** - e-mails or opening files from people you don't really know, or trust can get you into trouble - they may contain viruses or nasty messages. The best thing to do is ignore them or show them to an adult you trust.

**RELIABLE** - Some people online maybe lying about who they really are, and some information you find on the Internet may not always be reliable and true.

**TELL** an adult you trust if someone or something you see online makes you feel uncomfortable or worried. In school talk to your form tutor or go to the SSC. You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk.

Don't do anything online you wouldn't do in real-life! If you wouldn't be happy with your parents/teacher/police seeing it, don't post it online!

It's never too late to tell someone if something or someone makes you feel uncomfortable if it feels wrong it most probably is. Learn how to block someone online and report a problem.

#### **Key Advice for Parents/Carers**

• Be alert to your child being upset after using the internet/phones, they may be secretive, change relationships with friends.

• Talk to your child and understand how they are using the internet and their phone.

• Use safety tools and parental controls if you are not sure how contact your Internet or Mobile service provider, they may be able to apply web-filtering to restrict access to harmful content. Please note tools are not always 100% effective.

- Remind your child not to retaliate.
- Work with the school to resolve the issue if other pupils are involved.

• Keep any evidence of Cyberbullying emails, Online Conversations, texts, screen prints of sites/chat messages, try and include time/date etc.

- Report the Cyberbullying:
- Contact the school so they could act if it involves other pupils.
- Contact the service provider to report the user and remove content.

- If the Cyberbullying is serious and a potential criminal offence has been committed then consider contacting the police.

#### **Ground Rules**

• Establish how technology and the internet will be used in your home.

• Discuss what should be kept private online (information, credit card details, photos etc) and decide rules for meeting online friends.

- Know what your child is doing online just as you would offline.
- Use a child friendly search engine.

#### **Online Safety**

- Install antivirus software, filtering, firewalls and secure your internet connections.
- Remember that tools are not always 100% effective and sometimes things can get past them!

• Use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones, and games consoles. If you're not sure how, then contact the manufacturer or service provider.

#### Location

• Ideally locate the computer/laptop in a family room and don't allow webcams to be used unless with your consent and always in a family room under supervision.

• Consider other devices in your home that allow internet access such as Mobile Phones and Games Consoles.

#### Dialogue

• Talk to your child - share the experience with them and ask them to show you how they use technology.

- Be open and encourage them to talk to you.
- If your child reports a problem make sure you support them, report it or seek advice.

#### Children and inappropriate content online

• 90% of UK children have accidentally viewed online pornography. The average age for first exposure to pornography is 11.

• Two thirds of UK teens have viewed Pornography and 1/3 say they learn about sex from pornography.

• The average teen watches 90 minutes of pornography or inappropriate content per week. This is readily available on YouTube and other similar sites.

#### Protect your children - 8 Stage Action Plan

I) Encourage your child not to hesitate about coming to you about anything they see online which upsets or disturbs them. Answer questions truthfully and in a language they understand.

2) Make an effort to get computer literate. If you want to support and understand your children; you need to have a reasonable understanding of their world.

3) Demand information from retailers on adult-content filters whenever you buy a new computer for family use.

4) Ask your internet service provider how to switch on the adult-content filters that they already provide.

5) Use family search engines or apply safe-search filtering to search engines that your family regularly uses.

6) Set up different user accounts on home PCs/laptops for every member of the family and activate parental controls on your child's accounts.

7) Shop around for software and content that provides extra adult-content filtering.

8) Keep an eye on your child's browsing history, not to censor or spy on them, but to keep them safe online.

#### **Mobile Phones:**

- Know how your child's phone works.
- Save any abusive messages or inappropriate images for evidence purposes.

• Decide together what acceptable bills are. Pay as you go rather than running up a hefty bill! You can limit the amount your child spends on their phone.

- Encourage balanced use, switching off at mealtimes and bedtime.
- Be aware of how to report nuisance calls or texts.
- Contact the Mobile Phone service provider to ask them to block adult content.

Essex Police have launched an online safety campaign to support parents. 'Sort Your Settings' aims to help parents check and make the settings for their children's online devices as safe as possible. It includes simple things you can do to make your child's online devices safer. Further information can be found through the following link:

Sort your settings | Essex Police

#### We are not just here for your children; we are here for you too! The school's website contains links to websites that can give you further advice and guidance (www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk).

Any concerns or questions please call the E-Safety Officer at Hedingham School, Mr R Daniels



Hedingham School • Yeldham Road • Sible Hedingham • Essex CO9 3QH

Tel: 01787 460470 • Email: enquiries@hedingham.essex.sch.uk

# **APPENDIX 2**



### Code of Conduct

At Hedingham, we are fully committed to treating the students as young adults and expect them to act and behave accordingly. We require high levels of attendance, a positive approach to learning and full commitment to academic progress. We expect our Sixth Form students' general conduct to reflect their position as role models for the rest of the school. To reflect this, we have devised a number of professional standards that we expect students to maintain at all times:

- 1. Sixth Form students should support, lead and take ownership of our inclusive environment, and should always be respectful and courteous to each other and staff
  - Talk with other students and staff in a respectful and courteous manner.
  - Adhere to the school dress code.
  - Act as a role model for younger students.
  - Respect the views/beliefs and cultures of other individuals within the school community.
- 2. Students are expected to consistently follow all rules regarding the maintenance of a safe environment
  - Always wear a visible Sixth Form lanyard with student ID when on site.
  - Do not invite external visitors onto the school site.
  - Always behave in accordance with safety procedures including fire evacuation procedures.
  - Never carry, use or intend to supply alcohol or drugs.
- 3. Students must maintain a minimum attendance of 95% to school and lessons throughout their Sixth Form programme
  - Students are responsible for making sure their individual attendance and punctuality is maintained to the highest level in line with the Hedingham School Sixth Form Attendance Policy.
  - Failure to maintain expected levels of attendance will result in students being subject to our attendance improvement procedures.
  - Ultimately, poor attendance may jeopardise a student's place in our Sixth Form.
  - Attendance at all lessons is <u>compulsory</u>.
- 4. Students must respect the school environment and always treat school property and facilities with respect
  - Actively help to keep the study room clean and free from litter.
  - Eating and drinking is strictly prohibited in the T Block.
  - Do not misuse school equipment.
  - Mobile phones/AirPods must not be used in classrooms or around main building. They must not be seen or heard in lessons unless directed by the Teacher. They can be used in designated Sixth Form areas.

5. Students must complete all tasks set by teachers on time and to a high standard and ensure that all coursework deadlines are met

- Use all supervised study periods productively.
- Identify a subject focus for all allocated study periods and stick closely to this.
- Use independent study strategies as directed by Sixth Form staff.
- Fully prepare for all assessments, completing revision diligently.
- Complete all independent tasks set outside of lessons promptly and to a high standard.

#### 6. Students must take responsibility for their own learning and progress

- Maintain high levels of commitment and work ethic both in and out of lessons.
- Prioritise and engage with the Sixth Form personal development programme.
- Maintain all files and folders to a high standard and comply with staff monitoring of this.
- Use independent study strategies as directed by Sixth Form staff.
- Be equipped for learning.
- Engage in academic progress meeting with teaching staff and tutors.
- Actively seek to engage with staff feedback.
- Complete all exam reflections and use these to improve personal approach and standards moving forward.

I agree to adhere to and meet these professional standards at all times and understand that persistent failure to do so will jeopardise my place at Hedingham Sixth Form.

Students Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by:

Head of Sixth Form

Student

Parent/Guardian

Please return the signed form to the Sixth Form



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