



**HEDINGHAM SCHOOL  
AND SIXTH FORM**  
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

August 2024

**Official Sensitive**

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you and your family are having an enjoyable and restful summer break.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all Year 11 and Year 13 students for the commitment and dedication that they have displayed during the last two years of their study. Throughout their school journey both year groups were disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. It was so pleasing to see so many 'happy' faces when they received their results. The Hedingham experience will stay with the students at all times and has provided them with a multitude of life skills which will prepare them for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I wish all those who are leaving us a very successful future.

I would also like to highlight the support that has been provided by all the staff at Hedingham School. They have shown a huge amount of commitment over the last year. As always, the work is fully supported by our hard-working Governors. I truly believe that a strong partnership with all members of the community will lead to continued success.

**Leaving Staff**

Kathy Crawley, Teacher of Art, who has been at the school since 2002, Susan Goodwin, SENDCo, who originally started at Hedingham as a Teacher of Maths in 2006, Rupert Sanders, Teacher of Science, Carl Rutter, D&T, Phil Stanley, Teacher of Maths and Kay Martin, Teacher of Computer Science.

I would like to thank them for their contribution to Hedingham School and wish them every success in the future.

**New Staff**

I am very pleased to welcome a number of new staff to Hedingham School.

The following staff will be joining or taking up a new role at Hedingham School in September and I wish them every success in their new positions:

- Chris Abrey, Deputy Headteacher
- Kimberly Harrison, Teacher of Geography
- Paul Hillman, Teacher of D&T
- Elizabeth Miles, Teacher of Dance
- Asha Ray, Teacher of Drama
- Karl Townsend, Teacher of Science
- Shaun Whiteley, Teacher of Science
- Richard Hayward, Voc Ed Instructor

**September Opening**

**Structure of the School Day:**

<b>Arrival/PD Session</b>	<b>08.40 - 09.10</b>
<b>Period 1</b>	<b>09.10 - 10.10</b>
<b>Period 2</b>	<b>10.10 - 11.10</b>
<b>Break</b>	<b>11.10 - 11.30</b>
<b>Period 3</b>	<b>11.30 - 12.30</b>
<b>Period 4</b>	<b>12.30 - 13.30</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>13.30 - 14.15</b>
<b>Period 5</b>	<b>14.15 - 15.15</b>

We will maintain our House System and continue to provide events and activities associated with this, for example, the Inter-House Arts festival and Sports Day.

### **Curriculum**

On our school website, you will be able to find the 'intent' and 'structure' for each subject's curriculum at Key Stage 3 and 4. There are also GCSE and A Level examination specifications available. This will help you understand what particular unit is being taught and when.

### **Uniform**

Uniform is a requirement at Hedingham because it confirms our commitment to setting high expectations of self-presentation throughout working life, as well as being an attainable standard appropriate for all students. Please ensure that you refer to the School Uniform Code for full details which is available in the Behaviour Policy on the school website. Two areas which need particular attention is the length of school skirts and school shoes. Skirts need to be of an appropriate style and length which is suitable for school activities and shoes should be formal black, flat school shoes.

One costly danger to avoid is allowing your child to persuade you to purchase inappropriate skirts or trainers which you will then need to replace. A school uniform worn smartly and with pride speaks volumes about a shared ethos of high expectations at Hedingham School where students are a credit to the school and their parents and guardians.

### **Mobile Phone Policy**

We updated our Mobile Phone Policy in light of new central guidance released by the Department for Education in February 2024. Although students may be in possession of a mobile phone, it is imperative that devices are **not seen or heard** at any time within the building. Phones must be stored away in bags or concealed pockets. Student response to this adjustment has been excellent in the Summer Term and we have valued the absence of devices around the school.

### **Attendance**

In March, the Department for Education issued new statutory guidance for schools regarding attendance. What is evidently clear is the strong link between high levels of attendance and academic success and positive personal development. We believe that regular attendance is a shared responsibility between the school, students and parents. We are committed to working with families to maximise attendance and providing an environment where every student can thrive.

### **Parents can access key information via our website under Parent Information, Year Group Information**

We recognise that some families may need support with uniform, notably with the increasing cost of living. Therefore, we will be providing an opportunity for parents to access second-hand school uniform between the hours of 2.00 – 3.30 pm on the 2 and 3 September. Parents should report to the School Office in the first instance.

If any parents have any items of school uniform they no longer require, then please bring them into the School Office in order for us to build our resources.

**The term will start for all students on Wednesday 4 September.** As always, the first day will focus on induction and a clarity about organisation and timetable.

### **Wednesday 4 September (first day back)**

Year 7 students: Please report to the Astro-turf on arrival at the school (there will be staff on hand to direct students). The students will then be escorted into the main hall where they will be organised into their form groups. Students will be supported during their first few weeks by our prefects. They will leave lessons slightly earlier to access lunch and the buses at the end of the day.

Years 8-11 students: To Form Rooms

Years 12/13 students: Meet in the Sixth Form area

During Day 1, students will be organised into their form groups and meet their tutors.

### Year Leaders:

- Year 7 Leader: Mr M Woodley
- Year 8 Leader: Miss M Dunne
- Year 9 Leader: Mr A Wright
- Year 10 Leader: Mrs V Webb
- Year 11 Leader: Mr J Lockley

A 'House System' will still operate alongside the Year structure.

### Parent/Community Governors

There are some vacancies on the Governing Body with effect from the Autumn Term. The application form can be found on the website. The closing date is the 1 October 2024. Governors play an important role in the school so I do hope you will give the election serious consideration.

Hedingham School converted to an Academy Trust (a charitable company limited by guarantee) in January 2013. Therefore, all Governors are registered as Directors of the Academy Trust with the Registrar of Companies and act within the powers of the Articles of Association.

### Conclusion

Hedingham has a strong 'culture' which is driven by key principles. Learning and applying knowledge is at the heart of this but we must also ensure that our students develop the personal qualities to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We want our students to acquire the skills necessary for their next step in their educational journey.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Harvison  
Headteacher

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