



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

17 January 2025

Official Sensitive

Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been nice to welcome back our students after what has hopefully been a restful but enjoyable Christmas break.

Standards Assemblies

I have been delivering assemblies last week with Mr Abrey, Deputy Headteacher, on standards and expectations. It is important at the start of a new term to revisit key expectations to ensure we continue to foster a culture in which children can flourish. New Year is always a time of self-reflection, and I have encouraged our students to consider how they can make small changes to help us collectively work towards creating an environment which is one for us all to be proud to be a part of.

We are exploring ways in which to raise the profile of our rewards and recognition events, to complement House Points, subject starts and character tokens. Essentially, we want to seek additional ways of recognising the vast majority of our students that consistently do the right things day by day. Mr Abrey contributed to the assembly discussing the importance of resilience; our character trait of focus this half-term. The PowerPoint slides used in the assembly are available on our website under the Parent Information tab - News.

Confirmed School Academic Calendar 2025-2026

The school academic calendar for 2025-26 is now available on the school website. Thank you to those families who responded to our consultation regarding proposed changes to October half-term and the timings of the school day. The vast majority of returns were in support of the proposed changes although some responses did express concerns around various factors. The returns from the consultation were presented to all Trustees in full and they have made the decision to confirm proposed changes outlined in the letter circulated to the school community on the 6 December 2024. This results in a change to the October half-term 2025 as well as timings of the school day as of September 2025.

Year 13/Year 11

We enter an incredibly important term for these two-year groups as they rapidly stride towards formal terminal external examinations at the start of the Summer term. The Spring term is the last "teaching term" prior to examinations as teaching time is heavily disrupted by intermittent examinations after Easter. With fresh progress data following Mock exams pre-Christmas, we hope to really develop momentum behind the attainment agenda in order for students in Years 13 and 11 to be in the best place possible to sit their examinations. We have some events designed to help communicate next steps to parents, in the form of a Year 11 face-to-face Parents' Information Evening on the 13 February and Year 13 Parents' Virtual Information Evening on the 30 January. These follow on from events held last term for parents and primarily focus on how best to support student's revision at home. Our in-school revision programme overviews are available to view on our website under the Parent Information tab, Teaching and Learning – Revision.

I actively encourage all students to utilise these sessions to support their progress towards exams. It is essential that they start to build consistent habits in learning the vast amount of information required within the exam series.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

On Friday 10 January, Year 11 students took part in a Mock results assembly. Students received presentations from a number of members of staff with topics ranging from revision hints and tips, how GCSE grades are decided, to Sixth Form at Hedingham. The students then received their 'results envelopes' as they would on results day in August, with staff on hand to provide advice and guidance. Students and staff commented

extremely positively on the event, and it is hoped that the experience will help fuel their desire to continue their hard work and application in order to achieve their potential this summer.

Other Information

We have a succession of events and trips timetabled for this term to help support the delivery of our wider curriculum. Many of these events link closely to careers but also includes some subject specific opportunities.

A list of key events and dates are included below:

'An Inspector Calls' Trip	22 January
Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge	24 January
Careers in the Curriculum Week	w/b 27 January
Year 10 Enterprise Events	28 January
Year 10 CV & Letter writing mornings	30 and 31 January
Year 8 Face to Face with Careers event	30 January
Year 13 Virtual Parents' Information Evening	30 January
GCSE Science Live Trip	3 February
Year 8 Face to Face with Careers event	5 February
Year 11 Targeted Parents' Evening	6 February
Year 11 Poetry Live Trip	6 February
Year 10 Apprenticeship Fair	7 February (to be confirmed)
Year 11 face-to-face Information Evening	13 February
<i>Half-Term</i>	<i>17-21 February</i>
Year 9 Guided Choice commences	24 February
Year 11/13 group photos	27 February
Year 9 Options Evening	27 February
Year 13 Targeted Parents' Evening	6 March
Year 10 World of Work-Day	6 March
Year 12 Mid-Year Exams	10-12 March
Year 10 Interviews	13 March
Key Stage 3 Science Live	14 March
School Musical Production	17, 18 and 19 March
Year 9 Parents' Evening	20 March
Year 7 Parents' Evening	3 April (to be confirmed)
New York City Trip	7 April
<i>Easter Holidays</i>	<i>7-21 April</i>
Students return for the Summer Term	22 April

I wish you all a Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support.

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



Approved
Centre

