



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

24 October 2024

Official Sensitive

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we approach the end of a long, but successful half-term, I wanted to share with you some events that have occurred over recent weeks.

Overall, I have been really pleased with the positive approach of the vast majority of our students. A strong culture in the school is dependent on maintaining high expectations for our students and we will continue to strive for high standards in behaviour, progress and attendance. These messages will be reiterated in assemblies after half-term.

I have thoroughly enjoyed celebration assemblies this week and especially seeing so many receive rewards for conduct, effort and progress in lessons. Tokens have been distributed by teachers for those that have displayed the focused characteristic of this half-term which is “hard work”.

Year 7 Induction:

Our Year 7 students have made a wonderful start to their time at Hedingham School, quickly adjusting to our culture.

The ‘Meet the Tutor’ evening in October was a valuable opportunity for parents to put a face to a name. The year group seemed to enjoy their day trip to the Zoo in which they learned about animal conservation and the protection of key habitats.

Open Evening/Open Morning Tours:

We received some incredibly positive feedback from people within the community who attended our Open Evening and school tours. Much of the feedback focused on how fantastic our students were either in the role of guides or subject ambassadors. It is hugely rewarding for me when those from beyond the walls of our school recognise the impressive nature of our students. I was very proud of all those involved; staff and students.

Student Headship Interviews:

I had the privilege of interviewing 11 candidates from Year 12 for the student Headship Team. A comprehensive process of written application, speeches to the student body and formal interview culminated in a vote by students in Key Stage 4 and 5 as well as staff. I congratulate Bethany, Will, Emily and Holly for their appointment into the Headship Team and look forward to working with them and the wider school councils in driving school improvement projects.

Club Marketplace:

All students in Key Stage 3 were offered an insight the many extra-curricular clubs that are available before school, lunchtimes and after school through a “marketplace” of enrichment opportunity in our school Learning Centre. Students were provided with information by club ambassadors and encouraged to sign up. I strongly believe that students can gain a great deal by being involved in more than just attending lessons in school and would actively encourage their involvement in some of the rich offer available. An overview of enrichment clubs is available on the school website.

In addition, there are academic revision sessions that are available for Year 11 and 13 students which provide crucial support in the important lead up to internal and external assessments. These are also available via our website.

Fundraising/Community:

Our Eco Council has started the rota of students involved in community litter picks during morning Personal Development time. In addition, our MacMillan Coffee Morning raised in excess of £330 and brought a smile to the faces of an army of staff who rushed to purchase some of the cakes on offer. Mrs Wallis has orchestrated the Shoebox Appeal which has engaged positively by our form groups. The initiative looks to provide Christmas gifts to vulnerable children and families. To date, we have raised £694.

Year 11 Parents' Evening:

The first Parents' Evening of the year, a particularly vital one for students who are approaching their GCSE exams. The evening was well attended and a crucial opportunity for parents, staff and students to engage in discussion about key academic reflections and targets to make progress moving forwards.

Year 11 English 'Box Clever' Event:

The English Department organised a theatre company to perform "A Christmas Carol" to our GCSE English groups. The performance helped to cement students' understanding of the Charles Dickens novel, a key text in the English Literature examination. Student attention and participation (including the Macarena!) was superb and seemed to be valued by all.

Good to Great:

The Good-To-Great group have worked hard this half-term by delivering speeches and campaigns to take on the leadership positions within the group. We continue to stretch and challenge them academically with a super curriculum to complete, as well as a project based on Media.

Next Half-Term:

Thank you to parents for your ongoing support with monitoring Arbor and ensuring your child is properly equipped and presented for school. Please support us with ensuring that appropriate uniform is worn at all times and that students do not attend with excessive jewellery. We will be running checks with equipment and uniform in Personal Development time next half-term.

The big push is on for Year 11 and 13 towards their Mock examinations which commence on the 5 December. These are absolutely vital mid-year assessments that provide a tangible insight into the demands of the Summer series of examinations. We have reiterated to students the need for comprehensive revision and preparation for these examinations at home and students should be now starting a routine of self-study at this stage.

Key Dates:

- 7 November - Sixth Form Open Evening 6.00-8.00pm
- 21 November - Year 10 Parents' Evening 4.00-7.00 pm
- 28/29 November - Non-pupil days
- 5 December - Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations commence

Finally, I wish you an enjoyable half-term and hope that you have the opportunity to catch a breath before students return on Monday 4 November.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Finch
Headteacher

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