



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL  
AND SIXTH FORM  
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

September 2024

**Official Sensitive**

Dear Parent/Guardian

It is with great enthusiasm and privilege that I write to you as I officially start my tenure as the Headteacher of Hedingham School and Sixth Form.

After 16 enjoyable years of working within the school, and close contact with the local community, I look forward to continuing to drive forward a school that has been central in my own career.

My journey to date has afforded me a strong understanding of the traditional roots of the school and its importance in the local community. I believe that protecting this whilst sympathetically evolving within a modernised educational agenda is the greatest way to provide the very best educational experiences for your children.

I have high ambitions for Hedingham School and look to work with all staff to continue the excellent efforts of the departing Andrew Harvison. I look forward to your continued support as parents in forging a path forward, prioritising an agenda that puts students' best interests at the heart of school development planning.

The competitive streak that remains from the (aging!) PE Teacher in me serves as a driver to continue to evolve Hedingham School into a school that secures the very best outcomes for children and supports their growth into young adults of which we are all proud.

Within this letter, I frame some initial detail from the start of term but look forward to future correspondence in which I hope there will be much to share and celebrate from within these walls.

**Start of Term:**

I have been impressed by the positive start that the vast majority of our students have made this term. It has been a pleasure to meet our new Year 7 students who have settled in superbly into Hedingham School life. I have emphasised to all students the importance of maintaining consistently high standards in order to generate a culture that is conducive to learning, success and progress.

Tutors will be a key person in monitoring and maintaining our high standards and will communicate concerns around uniform and lateness. They will work with students and yourselves to address any concerns quickly.

The presentation delivered in our 'Welcome Back' assemblies was used to reinforce our expectations and 'set the scene'. This presentation can be viewed on our website under News and Events.

### Rewards and Recognition:

We are committed to recognising the excellent efforts of our students through a variety of strategies. House points will be allocated for students who deserve recognition, which builds towards House Group competitions and celebration events. Students are regularly selected to receive subject stars and we have systems to recognise key character traits that we want to consistently associate with a 'Hedingham School student' (hard work, perseverance, resilience, accountability, kindness and ambition).

### Uniform:

Our school uniform sets a standard that supports our expectations of work and behaviour. Thank you to all parents who have worked with us to ensure that their children are in the right uniform.

However, it is clear that significant numbers of students are not wearing school shoes in accordance with our school policy.

Can I please emphasise that trainers in any form (including black, polishable trainers) are **not** permitted as an acceptable replacement for a formal shoe. When purchasing replacement shoes in the future, please support us with ensuring that they fit our policy around footwear.

### Enrichment Market Place:

We will soon be promoting our comprehensive offer of clubs and enrichment opportunities with a market-place event for students (17 – 19 September). I am hopeful that students will embrace some of the many opportunities offered so to benefit from a rich and full involvement in school life.

### Key Dates:

Thursday 12 September	-	Year 12 Parents' Information Evening (Virtual)
Wednesday 18 September	-	Year 11 Parents' Information Evening (Virtual)
Thursday 19 September	-	Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening
Thursday 26 September	-	Year 13 Parents' Information Evening (Virtual)
Thursday 10 October	-	School Open Evening for Years 5 and 6 parents (School closed from 1.30 pm)
Friday 11 October	-	Teacher Training Day (school closed)
Thursday 17 October	-	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 24 October	-	Year 13 Parents' Evening
28 October – 1 November	-	Half-term
Thursday 7 November	-	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening
Thursday 21 November	-	Year 10 Parents' Evening
28 and 29 November	-	Teacher Training Days (school closed)
Friday 20 December	-	Last day of term

I shall send details of the organisation of these events nearer the time.

I wish you an enjoyable weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mr P Finch  
Headteacher

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