



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

20 August 2020

Official Sensitive

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you and your family are well and starting to return back to some 'normality' in your lives.

Education has continued to be a 'hot topic' for a variety of reasons. From my perspective, I would like to congratulate all Year 11 and Year 13 students for the commitment and dedication that they have displayed during their time with us. We are all aware of the 'stress' caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, no more so than for our examination students. However, our priority has been to support all students, regardless of the systems imposed on us, and ensure that they can move forward with their next steps. 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 21st century. I wish all those that are leaving us a very successful future.

As we focus our minds on re-opening, I would like to remind you of a few key points. 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 few months, and, I know, are eager to see all students in September. As always, the work is fully supported by our hard-working Governors. I truly believe that a strong partnership with parents will lead to continued success. I am looking forward to my first 'full' year of headship and meeting all members of the school community.

September Re-opening

As stated above, we are all excited about returning to school in September and continuing our educational 'journey' as a school community. Re-opening plans were released before the summer holidays and I am pleased to say that there has been no major change to our proposed model. Please refer to my letter and guidance document dated 17 July 2020 which may be found on our website to remind yourself about the structure and organisation of the day. All information is available on the school website. Our summer 'mail-out' is also available from 21 August and may be found under Key Information on our website. It provides an updated summary of all aspects of school life. The main priority is to ensure that we provide a safe environment for all members of the school community. There are key structural changes to support this and we will ensure that all students receive clear guidance during tutorial sessions in the first few days back. It is essential that we all 'role model' high expectations in relation to safety and behaviour. Year group bubbles will operate in the school and we must all work together to ensure that we abide by the rules and follow the instructions of every member of staff. Up to date transport guidelines will also be provided to all parents who are planning to use the school buses. The bus company will provide relevant information before the start of term. Please contact the school if you have any concerns or questions related to the September start.

New Staff

I am very pleased to welcome a number of new staff to Hedingham. It is very satisfying to report that we attract good quality teachers enabling us to be very happy with the appointments made.

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:

- Gareth Nolan, Deputy Head of Sixth Form
- Nicola Cook, Assistant Headteacher
- Robert Daniels, Assistant Headteacher
- Lisa Black, Sixth Form Learning Support
- Elspeth Ryder, Teacher of Art/Media
- Matthew Lord, Teach of Maths
- Ben Holman, Teacher of History
- Sophie Panayi, Teacher of English

- David North, Teacher of Maths
- Regine Binder, Teacher of MFL
- Aaron Reedman, Teacher of PE (maternity cover)
- Sandra Burmicz, Teacher of Physics (Temporary)
- David Marriott, Teacher of ICT
- Melissa Hewson, Teacher of RE

Curricular

We are working closely with our team of staff to implement a 'recovery' curriculum for September 2020. The curriculum has been based on three key principles:

Reconnect: Focus on building relationships, re-establishing normal routines, addressing student well-being and motivation

Recovery: Focus on curriculum delivery, addressing progress gaps, additional support through catch-up sessions, building confidence

Resilience: Focus on building resilience in learning, preparing for future challenges, developing independence in learning

To support learning and progress in the classroom, there will be a programme of catch-up support available. We are currently formulating a programme which will be distributed to all students in September. There will be a catch-up programme operating after school.

Extra-Curricular

We will not be running any after school clubs for the first half term. We are hoping to start providing extra-curricular opportunities in the second half of term. We will be offering catch-up support sessions for students to engage in. This will be initially addressed through Microsoft Teams.

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. The majority of our students wear their uniform well and I congratulate them for that. There have been issues, however, that we need to work together on and these are the length of skirts and the tendency of some students to wear skinny legged/drainpipe trousers and/or white socks. Please ensure that your daughter's skirts are of an appropriate style and length which is suitable for school activities and that trousers and socks are school regulation.

I would ask that you remind your children that we will be taking action against students who ignore the code of dress.

Please refer to the School Uniform Code for full details which is available in the Behaviour Policy on the school website. Photographs of appropriate school uniform are available on the school website. The school reserves the right to make decisions on unacceptable uniform standards.

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 carers.

One costly danger to avoid is allowing your child to persuade you to buy inappropriate trousers, skirts or shoes which you will then need to replace. Once again, thank you for your co-operation.

Parent Governor

There are some vacancies on the Governing Body with effect from October 2020. Nomination forms can be found on the website. The closing date is 25 September 2020. 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 2012. 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 21st century. We want our students to acquire the skills necessary for their next step in their educational journey.

I look forward to the new school year when we can, once again, join together as a school community.

Yours sincerely



Mr Andrew Harvison
Headteacher

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