

Update from the Principal

Friday 24 September 2021

Introduction

The first three weeks have inevitably been busy as pupils have returned to school, completed the lateral flow tests and got to grips with their new timetables. Overall, it has been very smooth and I have been most impressed by how welcoming our older pupils have been to the new Year 7 intake.

Events

We had a very successful and busy open evening for the lower school on Thursday 16th September, with lots of pupils on site to help out and help promote the school. They all did such a great job, so thanks to all those involved. This week has seen some very busy open mornings too, and it has been great to show parents and future pupils the school on a normal day. The sixth form open evening is on the 21st October, so if you are a Year 10 or 11 pupil or parent / carer please put this in your diary as it will be a great opportunity to see how the sixth form operates and how students thrive.

We agreed this week that there will be a whole school production in second half of the spring term this year - Oliver. Look out for further details, but I am sure it will be as successful as all previous shows.

I am really pleased that clubs and sports events are starting again after the covid hiatus. In fact, we have quite a few fixtures coming up in the next few weeks, so look out for the results on the PE twitter feed (accessed via our website); good luck to those taking part. It is so important that pupils get involved in some sort of extra-curricular activity, so please have a look at the offers and encourage your child(ren) to get involved: <https://www.huishepiscopi.net/page/?title=Extra%2DCurricular&pid=27>

The House Championship has started well, with a few competitions booked in for the coming weeks. There is a good natured rivalry between the Heads of House and they are all keen to gain top spot at the end of the year. Current points are: Bailbrook = 4184, Chelston = 4787, Lambrook = 4296, Merchant = 3888, Pennard = 3973; so very close and all to play for at this early stage of the year.

There are two fundraisers coming up next week, **Friday 1 October**, to raise funds towards Mr Bagnara's London Marathon for Mencap:

Mufti Day, Friday 1 October, Cost £1.

The Great Huish International Bake Off, Friday 1 October.

As part of the celebration of the European Day of Languages the MFL department are having an international bake-off. Pupils are invited to bake something at home with an international theme and bring to the languages building before 9am. Cakes will be displayed and sold at break time.

Updates

As you will know the government have announced the vaccine roll out for 12-15 year olds, we have not had any further information about this, but please be assured that we will keep you fully updated of any developments. In terms of our current measures for limiting the impact of

Covid in our school community, please continue to carry out the lateral flow tests at home twice a week. The home test kits are being distributed to pupils via tutors. We are working closely with Public Health to ensure we maintain as safe an environment as we can. Please continue to report your home lateral flow tests results to the academy using the following jot form: <https://form.jotform.com/210733666222350>

In the event of any positive cases please also telephone the academy directly on 01458 250501.

We have carried out the first fire drill of the year, so all pupils are now aware of where they should meet if there is an alarm; a lockdown drill is being planned for two weeks' time, so pupils will be made aware of the expectations when this happens.

Directors / Governors

The school board of directors (governors) meet on a regular basis to discuss academy issues and to provide challenge to the school leadership. We had our first board meeting of the year this week where we discussed exam results, pupil premium spending, the budget, the academy improvement plan, behaviour and school admissions. Rest assured that I was robustly challenged!

If you would like to get involved in the governance of the school, please look at our website (<https://www.huishepiscopi.net/page/?title=Academy+Board+of+Directors&pid=87>). If you would like more information please contact [Miss Leach](#) (Clerk to the Board of Directors).

Important information

Uniform has on the whole been excellent as pupils have returned. Where problems have arisen, we are working to support individuals. One thing we do need help with is nose piercings. As from Monday we will have a stock of clear plastic retainers in the House Base. Please support us when we ask pupils to remove existing nose piercings and to use these retainers whilst in school.

Pupil Absence. Can I please remind you to report your son/daughter's absence to our Attendance Officer, Miss Powell, directly. Please do not use the main school telephone number but the following means of contact: Direct telephone: 01458 254434. Mobile: 07827 289504. email: HuishAttendance@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Vacancies

Huish is a great place to work, so if you are interested in any of the vacancies below, or would like further information please see the [vacancies](#) page of our website or contact the academy for further information: huishrecruitment@educ.somerset.gov.uk :

General Kitchen Assistant. 5 days per week 9am-2.30pm

Governance Professional (Clerk) – term time only. Part time.

Site Maintenance Operative 37 hours per week all year round.

Site Maintenance Apprentice 37 hours per week all year round.

With best wishes.

Mr Chris Wade
Principal