



9 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

With one week to go before the Christmas holidays, I thought it would be good to share some of the good news from school and also arrangements for the last week of this term and the start of the new term in January.

Firstly, I would like to confirm that the Governing Body have agreed to a second INSET Day on Wednesday 4th January. This means that students will start the new term on Thursday 5th January. We will be holding special assemblies in the morning to introduce our new programme for reading, 'Read to Succeed', where students will have frequent lessons of structured and guided reading. This programme has been put in place to ensure that we dedicate more of our curriculum time to reading, as advised by Ofsted. The second INSET day has been put in place so that we can train staff and enable them to gain the expertise needed to support our students with their reading so that all students are able to read with fluency and accuracy. Books have been chosen for students to read together that will help prepare them better for life in modern Britain by covering themes of inclusivity, tolerance and diversity.

I am delighted to promote a rather beautiful Christmas song that our Y13 students have been putting together to boost everyone's spirits at this time of year. As part of their Level 3 BTEC in Music Performance, the students have put together an original song called 'Waiting for Snow'.

Megan Logsdon and Tilly Leighton (Yr13) have setup a fundraiser to support Young Minds so would love to get this heard by as many people as possible. They have already raised £400 for the chosen charity. The funds go directly to Young Minds Somerset. If you feel able to support them to reach their goal of £1000, please click here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/tilly-leighton-1669381082634>

I met with the School Council and House Captains this week to talk to them about some of the issues raised by Ofsted inspectors and to ask them for their views on the school. The School Council were able to tell me that they feel the school offers good support for students' emotional wellbeing and that the school's Head of Houses are a key strength of the school. They enjoy the opportunities provided for 'school spirit' like sports days, quizzes and House challenges. They spoke very passionately about how the school's vertical tutor group system allows them to make friends across the different year group. In fact, because they spoke so convincingly, we have made sure that we have kept this aspect of tutoring in the new school day arrangements.

Safeguarding Update

As you are aware, we are working hard to ensure everyone feels safe in school. This week's assemblies by Mr Merrick-Wren have focused on students identifying a trusted adult and who that might be in school. Two new icons will shortly be appearing on the school website:

Huish Episcopi Academy

Wincanton Road, Langport, Somerset TA10 9SS

Tel: 01458 250501 Fax: 01458 250262

Email: office@hea.ac.uk Web: www.huishepiscopi.net

Principal: Mr C J Wade BSc Registered in England and Wales: 7341553 Registered Office as above.

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Clicking this image will enable students to report any safeguarding issues (such as bullying/child on child abuse, toilet concerns behaviour concerns). A member of the safeguarding team will respond.



This CEOP button will enable students to report any online safety concerns.

The assembly also educated students on what is considered to be child on child abuse, online safety and negative peer pressure. Mr Merrick-Wren will continue with other safeguarding themed assemblies in the New Year.

Last Week of Term

All staff have been asked to continue teaching up to the end of this term, where we will finish at the normal time on Friday. Christmas Lunch will take place on Tuesday, where staff will be busy helping to serve. I am looking forward to donning my Xmas hat!

There are invitation letters on their way home from Mr Wood to students who have been invited to Celebration afternoons being held this week. Students invited have amassed:

- Over 150 Achievement points
- 95% attendance
- Less than 10 negative points

Meanwhile, all students can look forward to their arrival to school Friday, where they will be met by staff singing Christmas Carols to them.

We have a lot of lost property in the House Base. This will be donated at the end of the term to the PE department to use as spare PE kit and to charities who can use the clothing for the homeless unless it is reclaimed. If your child is missing items, please ask them to visit the House Base at break/ lunch time.

Arrangements for the New Term

We have finalised arrangements with staff for the new school day, which will be launched in January. There is no change to the formal start and end of the school day. We have, however, restructured some timings of the school day so that we accommodate the Read to Succeed programme. We have also split lunchtime to make sure it is less busy and we are able to offer more students the opportunity to sit down and eat.

Timing will be similar to those below:

Start Time	End Time	Activity	Notes
8.50		Gates are opened and students go to Morning Registration	
08:55	09:15	Morning Registration and Form time	This will be in existing vertical tutor groups. House assemblies will take place during this session.
09:15	10:15	Lesson 1	
10:15	11:15	Lesson 2	

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11:15	11:35	Break	Break will remain in place for the whole school
11:35	12:35	Lesson 3	
12:35	13:05	Read to Succeed (KS3) / lunch (KS4 and KS5)	Years 7, 8 and 9 Read to Succeed. Each house will have two reading groups per year. A weekly year group assembly will take place during this session. Years 10, 11 and sixth form lunch.
13:05	13:35	Read to Succeed (KS4) /lunch (KS3)	Years 10 and 11 Read to Succeed. Each house will have two reading groups per year. A weekly year group assembly will take place during this session. Years 7 ,8 and 9 lunch.
13:35	14:35	Lesson 4	
14:35	15:30	Lesson 5	All classes will pack up on the bell (and not before).

We want all of our students to have a start to the new year looking smart and taking pride in their school uniform. Thus, we are undertaking an audit of our students' uniform during the last week of term. We will then let you know if your son or daughter is currently non-compliant with our expectations. For example, a number of students are currently wearing leggings/jeans/track suit bottoms instead of trousers. We have purchased a large supply of spare uniform to help those families who are suffering financial hardship. Please contact your child's tutor if you would like assistance from the school in this matter. If your child is in receipt of the Pupil Premium, please contact Mrs Rose (Year 10 and Year 11) or Mr Barratt (Year 7 – Year 9) to make a request for a use of these funds to support uniform.

In the meantime, if you do have the correct school trousers at home, please ensure that your son or daughter is not coming to school wearing jeans, tracksuit bottoms or leggings – this would be very helpful to us in re-establishing the uniform rules.

Ofsted Report

Unfortunately, I have still not received a publication date so I cannot update you on its release.

Please join me in saying good bye and best wishes to Mrs Hills, SENCO, who is leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Hills has ensured that all scheduled EHCP reviews have taken place. Mr Vaughan will contact all the parents who have children with additional needs to go through the change in SENCO as many of you have worked with Mrs Hills for a number of years. We will welcome our new SENCO, Mrs Horsford, in the new term.

Thank you for taking time to read my weekly update.

Best wishes
Emma Yates
Interim executive Headteacher

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