

10 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Students have made a good start to the new half term both in lessons and in all the other school events that have taken place. During Year group assemblies last week, we reminded students about the new rewards system and encouraged them to work hard, demonstrate the school values and have good attendance to gain as many points as possible. We are really looking forward to many students being able to take part in the rewards trip that is taking place at the end of this half term.

I continue to take a firm line with regards to behaviour to ensure that all students feel safe and supported within the school. Students have been reminded during assemblies of the expectations we have around any persistent disruptive behaviour, physical and verbal abuse. Since the start of this academic year, we have used the full range of behaviour policy sanctions to address such behaviour including the use of permanent exclusion and will continue to do this to ensure a positive learning environment for all students.

### Parent Survey

If you haven't filled in our parent survey already, please follow this link to provide your feedback.

<https://edurio.com/poll/3UwieH>

It only takes 10 minutes and really helps us make decisions for the future. The survey will close on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### Year 11 Update

Year 11 students have made a fantastic start to their mock exams this week and we would like to congratulate them for their fantastic attitude and approach to the first week. The mock exam period is in place to provide all students with the experience of the exams ahead of the real examinations that they will sit in the summer term. Staff will be using the feedback from the mock papers to support student learning in each subject moving forward.

Winter Formal tickets are now available to purchase on Wisepay. If you have any questions please contact Mr Walby on [oliverwalby@hea.ac.uk](mailto:oliverwalby@hea.ac.uk)

### Parents' Evenings

We have a number of parents' evenings planned for this term for the following year groups;

- Year 7 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November
- Year 13 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December
- Year 11 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

The booking information for the Year 7 evening will be sent out by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

## Odd Socks Day- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November

During next week assemblies will focus on Anti-bullying week. To launch this week in school, the week will be kicked off with Odd Socks Day on Monday, where adults and children wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

## Sixth Form Update

We have recently purchased an Up Learn license which is currently available for students taking Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Economics and Psychology A Levels. Up Learn is a revolutionary online independent learning and revision platform for A-Level students. Student accounts are being activated over the next week and all students will receive support from their class teachers in how to use the platform effectively.

Up Learn can support students with:

- Video lessons to help them understand new topics, break down complex material and ensure students are coming to class ready to stretch their knowledge beyond the basics.
- Quizzes and Summary content to make sure they are memorising course content and have mastered more tricky topics
- Exam how-tos, mark scheme breakdowns and practice papers (created exclusively for Up Learn by official examiners)

Up Learn builds their courses using cutting-edge technology and robust research from the field of cognitive science to make sure students are learning as effectively as possible. The platform uses artificial intelligence to track students' progress and personalise their learning schedule for maximum results.

Students will be using Up Learn in their independent study periods, but it would also be hugely beneficial for them to use it during weekends and holidays to maximise their potential. It is recommended that a student spends 3 hours per week on an Up Learn course to fully utilise the platform's benefits. Your support in ensuring they make the most of the platform will be greatly beneficial in helping to encourage productive study habits.

## SparxReader – Years 7/8/9

To enrich students' knowledge, vocabulary and comprehension all classes at Key Stage Three will be using SparxReader as part of their homework package in addition to knowledge organisers. Your child will be using Sparx Reader to complete weekly homework.

Your child's Sparx homework will be set every Monday with their class teacher monitoring their progress and completion. Your child will be asked to read for a minimum of thirty minutes to complete this homework. The more they read, the more Sparx points your child receives, resulting in unlocking different books.

Sparx Reader helps every student to achieve regular independent reading, which is incredibly important for building vital literacy skills.

Students log in at <https://sparxreader.com/> using their Gmail address. Your child would have already logged in to complete their Sparx reading test in school.



**Respect  
Ambition  
Resilience**

**Headteacher:** Mrs Katie Boyes

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If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Baldwyn at [sharonbaldwyn@hea.ac.uk](mailto:sharonbaldwyn@hea.ac.uk)

### Flu Vaccinations

SAINT are due to visit Huish Academy on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 to deliver the flu vaccinations to all consented students in years 7-11.

Please complete the decision form (one for each child) using the link below and enter the unique code for Huish Episcopi Academy - SM136294.

[Immunisation Consent \(somersetsaint.co.uk\)](https://somersetsaint.co.uk)

The link will close at midday on 21<sup>st</sup> November. All forms will need to be submitted prior to this date. If you do not consent to your child having this vaccination, please follow the link on the letter to decline this also. This makes it much easier when SAINT are in school delivering these vaccines and not needing to contact home to gain consent/decline the vaccination.

If we are unable to make contact on the day, your child will not be able to receive the vaccination.

### Mental Health Support Team Parent Presentations

We have booked Mental Health Support Team (MHST) to come in and run two separate parent presentations; one on low mood and one on anxiety to help parents to support their children.

#### Parent Anxiety Workshop- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 4.00-5.00 pm

The MHST welcomes parents to a workshop on supporting your child with fears, worry, and anxiety. Presented by Education Mental Health Practitioners, we aim to contribute to the Whole School Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing by delivering bite-sized information evenings for parents to learn about Mental Health and know how to support their child. In this workshop we will cover the following:

- The teenage brain.
- What is anxiety?
- When and why does anxiety become a problem?
- How can I help my child?
- What Next?

The workshop will last 1 hour and while some small/wider group discussion may be encouraged, there is no pressure to speak, and we welcome those who would like to listen quietly as well as those who would like to discuss the topic.

#### Parent Low Mood Workshop- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 4.00-5.00 pm

The MHST welcomes parents to a workshop on supporting your child with low mood, sadness, and feeling "down". Presented by Education Mental Health Practitioners, we aim to contribute to the Whole School Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing by delivering bite-sized information evenings for parents to learn about Mental Health and know how to support their child. In this workshop we will cover the following:

- The teenage brain.



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- What is low mood?
- When and why does low mood become a problem?
- How can I help my child?
- What Next?

The workshop will last 1 hour and while some small/wider group discussion may be encouraged, there is no pressure to speak, and we welcome those who would like to listen quietly as well as those who would like to discuss the topic.

To sign up to these workshops please use the JotForm below-  
<https://form.jotform.com/232832436680054>

### **Christmas Concert**

We would like to welcome all parents to join us for our Christmas Concert that is being held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm in the Main Hall. There will be a varied selection of Christmas music from students in all year groups. Tickets will be available on Wisepay nearer the time.

### **Lifestyle parking bays**

Please can we remind parents visiting the school or collecting students not to park in the allocated leisure centre parking spaces during the school day.

### **Transport**

We have some capacity on a sixth form coach service, which leaves Yeovil each morning just after 8am, stopping at Ilchester and Somerton before arriving at the academy in time for the school day. Afternoon departures are at 3.40pm (approx.) or 4.30pm depending on students attending an extra afternoon lesson (an academy room, supervised by staff, is available for students waiting for the later bus departure). If this chargeable service is of interest, please email [huishaccounts@hea.ac.uk](mailto:huishaccounts@hea.ac.uk) for an application form and further information.

### **Overdue Library Books**

If you are aware that your child has an overdue library book, could they please return it to the academy library as soon as possible.

### **Vacancies**

For vacancies available at the academy, please click on the link below-  
[Huish Episcopi Academy- Vacancies](#)



If you have any questions or concerns linked to your child, then please do not hesitate to contact their tutor in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs Boyes**  
**Principal**

KEY DATES FOR THIS HALF TERM	
20 October	INSET DAY
23 – 27 October	Half Term
2-3 November	Year 11 Geography Fieldwork
9 November	Year 12 Theatre visit to see Machinal
22-23 November	Flu Vaccinations for year 7-11
22 November	Year 7 Parents' Evening
5 December	Year 13 Parents' Evening
12 December	Year 11 Parents' Evening
15 December	Last day of term
18 December – 1 January	School Holiday
2 January	INSET DAY
3 January	Start of term

### Sporting Achievements this week:

On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023, our own Jessie Cowling entered an 80 cm clear round competition at Kings Sedgemoor equestrian in the 11 Schools 80 cm League Class. Jessie pitched a furious and fast route around this complicated course. Her position and management of her horse Dexter was brilliant. A clean start, into the first second and third left her in clear line for first place. Fourth completed and a tight turn to follow. Sadly, her horse faltered a little at the fifth and she had a refusal earning her 4 faults and moving her for clear contender to 4<sup>th</sup> place. She turned and presented her horse again to the same jump and over Dexter popped perfectly and she continued her course with no more faults, holding on to her 4<sup>th</sup> final place.

Well done, Jessie!



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## Young Sports Leaders shine in organising and officiating Primary School Indoor Athletics Event

The Primary School Indoor Athletics event held on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November was a remarkable display of leadership, teamwork, and organisational skills as young sports leaders took charge of planning, running, and officiating the entire event. The event not only showcased the potential of young leaders but also provided an inspiring platform for primary school athletes to participate in a well-organised and student-led sports event.

Throughout, they demonstrated impressive officiating skills during the various track and field competitions. They managed the start and finish lines, measured jumps and throws, and ensured that all events adhered to the rules and regulations. The commitment to fairness and accuracy in officiating contributed to the overall success of the athletics meet.

These young leaders played a pivotal role in fostering a positive and encouraging atmosphere. They motivated participants, offered words of encouragement, and ensured that the spirit of sportsmanship prevailed throughout the event. Their enthusiasm resonated with both athletes and spectators.

Feedback from participants highlighted the positive impact of having young sports leaders in charge. Many students expressed admiration for the relatability and approachability of the leaders, making the event more enjoyable and less intimidating for the primary school athletes.

The Primary School Indoor Athletics event organised and officiated by young sports leaders not only provided an excellent platform for athletic competition but also showcased the potential and capabilities of emerging leaders in the sports community. This student-led event not only demonstrated the importance of empowering young individuals but also highlighted the positive influence they can have on the sports culture within a school setting. The success



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of this event stands as a testament to the leadership skills and dedication of the young sports leaders who made it all possible.

### **Year 10 Huish Rugby Team Battles Back Despite Slow Start, Falls Short in 33-24 Loss Against Westfield Academy**

The year 10 Huish rugby team faced a challenging start, finding themselves down 19-0 within the first 10 minutes, possibly due to a slow start and a lingering mental transition from the journey. Despite a commendable effort to recover, Huish ultimately fell short, concluding the match with a final score of 33-24.

To the team's credit, they exhibited determination and character by mounting a comeback after the slow start. The players rallied, demonstrating their skills and resolve to narrow the gap. The resilience shown during the remainder of the match showcased the team's ability to overcome adversity and compete at a high level.

While the match ended with a 33-24 loss, the team can use this experience as motivation to refine their strategies and enhance their mental preparation. The lessons learned from overcoming a slow start will contribute to the team's resilience and preparedness in future encounters.



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