

24 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We are very proud of our Year 11 students who have now completed their first mock exam period. It was wonderful to be able to congratulate them for their efforts in our afternoon tea event last Friday.

Some of our fantastic musicians visited Castle School this week where they spent the morning rehearsing two pieces with His Majesty's Royal Marines Band from the Commando Training Centre, in Lympstone. This was then followed by an afternoon concert featuring the Corps of Drums, the Marines band and the joint venture between the secondary schools, congratulations to all of the students who were involved.

Attendance

As we mentioned at all of our Parent Information Evenings at the start of the year, attendance is a whole-school priority. Ensuring all students can access their minimum 25 hours of learning each week is something we place high value on, and we have a dedicated pastoral team who work tirelessly to support our students to be in school each day. The link between attendance and academic achievement is very clear and we have a moral duty to give all of our students the best possible opportunities to get the best possible outcomes at the end of years 11 and 13.

Some of you may already have received letters outlining our expectations around attendance; whilst we recognise sometimes illness or medical appointments are unavoidable, we are striving for each student to be on at least 96% by the end of the academic year. Where there are challenges around attendance, your son/daughter's Head of Year will be in touch to arrange attendance support meetings to discuss how we can work together so we can see an improving picture.

If you do need to report an absence, please can you make sure this is reported to the Attendance Team on 01458 254434 or via the email address: HuishAttendance@hea.ac.uk

We do want to recognise both students and staff where attendance is high and this week, we want to celebrate students in **9JH, 9CD, 8GB, 7TM, 7CT and 7HR** who collectively have an attendance of over 95%, which is a fantastic achievement.

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 1st December 2023.

Parents' Evenings

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

- Year 13 Tuesday 5th December
- Year 11 Tuesday 12th December

Booking information for both events will be sent out soon.

Medical Room

As outlined in a previous letter, our policy on supporting students with medical needs was reviewed at the start of this half term and this has just been approved by our governing body.

The new policy makes clear that our first aid trained staff in the medical room are unable to dispense medication without a completed consent form which outlines when and what dosage the student should take, and the medication must be provided by parents or carers. Medication provided to the school must be in its original packaging and with a clearly visible expiry date on the packaging.

The medical room staff are dedicated to supporting students with medical conditions to remain in school and we appreciate your support in the implementation of the new policy.

Equipment

During each of the parent information evenings this half term we outlined the equipment that all students should have with them each day to allow them to engage fully with the learning in each lesson. Please check that your child has this and if you need support, contact your child's tutor.

- School bag
- Pencil case (ideally clear)
- Pens x 2 at least (blue or black ink)
- Green pen x 2
- Pencil sharpener
- Eraser
- 15cm ruler
- Calculator

Christmas Jumper Day

The school will be taking part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 7th December (uniform + Christmas jumper). Please click on the link below to donate or cash donations will be collected in the morning by form tutors. On the day students can wear a christmas jumper in place of their school blazer but must attend in the rest of their usual school uniform.

<https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/CJD230025764>

Christmas Concert

We would like to welcome all parents to join us for our Christmas Concert that is being held on Wednesday 13th 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 are available on Wisepay.

Rewards Trips

As part of the Academy's rewards programme, we are going to be running rewards trips for those students achieving in all areas of the school. This will mean that students who have excellent attendance (medical reasons for absence will be considered) and positive behaviour points will have the opportunity to experience a reward for their efforts.

The plan at present is for the following to take place:

- Autumn term: Ice skating trip, 14th and 15th December
- Spring term: 10 Pin Bowling
- Summer term: To be confirmed (likely to be a theme park)

In most instances, the school will be paying for the tickets for each of these events, but we will be asking parents/guardians for a contribution towards the travel costs. This will be communicated to the selected students closer to the time.

Due to the timing of the event, there will be a tight turn around due to the selection of students a week before the trip runs.

The first trip will take place on the 14th December for students from years 7, 8 and 9, and on the 15th December for years 10 and 11. Students will be selected on the 6th December and parents will be informed by the end of that week.

Year 11 Winter Formal

Winter Formal tickets are now available to purchase on Wisepay. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Walby on oliverwalby@hea.ac.uk



School Transport

We have been aware that there have been some delays with buses, particularly in the morning. This has been caused by road closures. Mr Madge is in contact with the bus companies and the county transport team to ensure that these are managed. Please do let us know of any concerns via the school email office@hea.ac.uk so that he can address them.

Flu Vaccine

Following on from Somerset SAINT (School Aged Immunisations Nursing Team) visiting the Academy to administer the flu vaccinations this week, please find attached a list of their upcoming community sessions. All of the sessions are walk ins, so no appointment is required.

[FLU - Community Walk in Clinics 2023](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Somerset SAINT (LP) on 0300 323 0032.

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 30th November 4.00-5.00 pm

The MHST welcomes parents to a workshop on supporting their 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 want to listen quietly and those who want to discuss the topic.

Parent Low Mood Workshop- Wednesday 31st 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.
- 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 want to listen quietly and those who want to discuss the topic.

To sign up to these workshops please use the JotForm below-

<https://form.jotform.com/232832436680054>

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 |
| 7 December | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day |
| 12 December | Year 11 Parents' Evening |



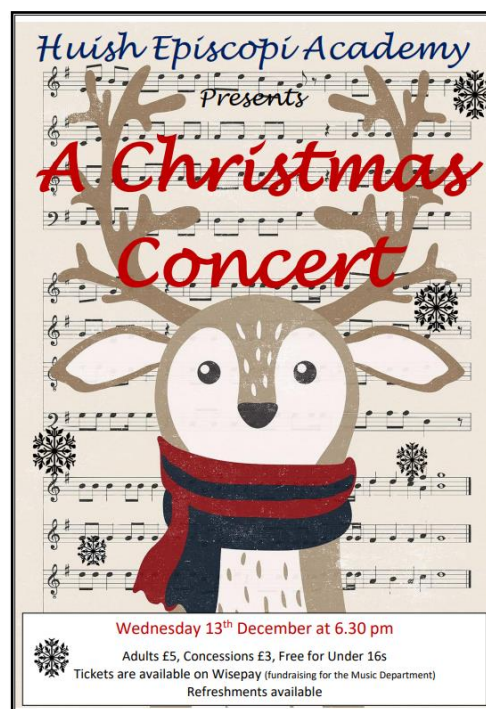
**Respect
Ambition
Resilience**

Headteacher: Mrs Katie Boyes

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|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 13 December | Christmas Concert |
| 15 December | Last day of term |
| 18 December – 1 January | School Holiday |
| 2 January | INSET DAY |
| 3 January | Start of term |



Sporting Achievements-

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.



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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.

Basketball - Huish 23 - 13 Trafalgar School

In a commanding performance, the year 8 basketball team secured a resounding 23-13 victory over Trafalgar School in a thrilling Jr NBA League matchup. The standout player of the game was Berkeley, whose tenacity and relentless energy resembled that of a young Dennis Rodman on the court.

Berkeley showcased remarkable determination by fiercely battling for possession of every loose ball. His defensive prowess was exceptional, intercepting passes and disrupting the opponent's plays.

Their next game is on Monday the 27th of November against local rivals Heathfield. If they come away with a win, they will go into the winter break joint top of the tree.

Year 7 Rugby Team Flourishes at Gryphon and Bucklers Mead Festivals

The Year 7 rugby team recently participated in exhilarating festivals hosted by Gryphon and Bucklers Mead, providing a platform for skill development, enhancing game intelligence, and fostering team camaraderie. These festivals proved instrumental in nurturing the young players' enthusiasm for the sport while also strengthening their bond as a cohesive unit.

Gryphon Rugby Festival

At the Gryphon festival, the Year 7 team engaged in a series of matches, showcasing their burgeoning talents and gaining valuable on-field experience. The festival served as an excellent opportunity for the players to test their skills, learn new strategies, and adapt to different game scenarios. Each match played at Gryphon contributed significantly to the team's understanding of the sport and encouraged them to collaborate effectively on the field.

Bucklers Mead Rugby Festival

Similarly, the Bucklers Mead festival offered another enriching experience for the Year 7 rugby team. The festival not only provided a platform for friendly competition but also allowed the players to further refine their rugby IQ. Engaging in matches against different opponents enabled the team to adapt their gameplay, implement tactics learned in training, and develop a deeper understanding of the sport's nuances.

Beyond the competitive aspect, the festivals provided an avenue for the team to bond and unite. Collaborating in high-energy, competitive environments at Gryphon and Bucklers Mead allowed the players to forge stronger connections, build trust, and develop a sense of unity, essential for a successful team dynamic. The participation of the Year 7 rugby team in the

Gryphon and Bucklers Mead festivals was a testament to their commitment, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn and grow in the sport. These events not only honed their rugby skills and game IQ but also reinforced the importance of teamwork and camaraderie. The experiences gained from these festivals will undoubtedly serve as a solid foundation for the team's future successes in rugby and beyond.



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