

23 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you all had a good and restful half-term break last week. It has been wonderful to welcome back students this week and we have been pleased with the increased levels of attendance across all year groups. Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that your children are in school and not missing out on valuable learning time.

Last half term, we received the results from the United Learning parent survey in the Autumn term. 318 parents completed the survey. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the survey. We value all parent feedback and have reviewed the survey results and comments provided.

The following were areas identified as requiring further improvement.

- Low level disruption and behaviour of students
- The school buildings
- SEN provision
- General communications

Since the survey the following improvements have been put into place around these key areas.

### **Low level disruption and behaviour of students**

The school behaviour policy has been updated to remove the 'move' part of the 'warn, move, remove' process to reduce disruption in lessons. Clear expectations have been provided to staff and students around the expected behaviour for learning, specifically around focus during teacher explanations and during the checking for understanding phase of the lesson.

We have introduced the student journal to ensure that students are clear on expectations, and this has also supported fewer toilet visits during lessons, again to reduce disruption to lessons.

### **The school buildings**

We have received a significant amount of funding from the Department for Education to complete building work within the school including replacing the roofs and heating systems. The tendering process for this has just been completed and it is hoped that work will commence after Easter. Once the structural work has been completed, we will begin the refurbishment of classrooms and communal areas.

As part of this project the dining facilities will also be improved including more seating areas for students

### **SEN provision**

We have put in place a new system for triaging communication and shared this with parent carers through a letter and parent information evenings. All staff have received SEN training, which is also an ongoing priority. There have been new SEN appointments which are supporting a robust intervention program with waves of support and a quality assurance process. We also have Higher-Level Teaching Assistant who is training as a Forest School

lead. In January, we hired a Literacy Intervention lead, who is working with a team of staff on a planned literacy intervention program. We have also held two parent carer coffee mornings this year which have involved several external providers in the community that offer support to parent carers and their young people with SEN.

Finally, we have been reviewed twice by UL SEN Advisor, one visit of which was in January 2024 and recorded that our provision was improving but we continue to work on developing this area.

### **General communications**

We have reviewed the communication systems within the school to ensure that calls to the main reception are answered swiftly and that colleagues within the school return calls within a timely manner.

We are also looking to introduce an SLT coffee morning each half term after the Easter break where parents can come into school and meet with members of the senior leadership team face to face.

Whilst we have implemented the changes listed above, we are continuing to work on these areas alongside a large number of other priority areas within school and will continue to liaise with you as parents and carers for your feedback.

### **Mobile Phone Usage**

All schools were provided with guidance on mobile phone usage this week. As a school we already have a robust policy in place which does not allow students to access their mobile phones during the school day. This is a policy which the overwhelming majority of students respect and follow.

We have been made aware that there are some groups on social media, including WhatsApp, TikTok and Snapchat which have been set up anonymously by Huish students to target other students. Bullying in school is one of our clear 'lines in the sand' and one which we take very seriously, and this extends to conduct online. We would encourage all parents and carers to regularly monitor their children's devices for inappropriate content. We will be adding resources for parents to our website soon but in the meantime if you need any specific advice, the pastoral or safeguarding team can be contacted for further support. Students have received online safety education through the IT curriculum, and we will continue to educate students through the PSHE curriculum.

### **Equipment Reminder**

We are aware that a number of students are still arriving in school each day without the necessary equipment required to learn, which is impacting on the ability of students to quickly engage in their learning.

Please can you check that your child has this and if you need support in providing this then contact your child's tutor.

- School bag
- Pencil case (ideally clear)
- Pens x 2 at least (blue or black ink)



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Ambition  
Resilience**

**Headteacher:** Mrs Katie Boyes

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- Green pen x 2
- Pencil sharpener
- Eraser
- 15cm ruler
- Calculator

Thank you in advance for your support with this.

## Attendance

As we return from the February half term break, students have returned with a renewed determination to be in school, which has been reflected in our highest attendance since the start of the academic year. As we approach the examination period for our year 11 and 13 students, every day in school contributes to the vital preparation with students' subject experts, as well as gaining important advice on revision strategies alongside the critical deadlines for coursework submission.

As always, if you want to discuss an attendance concern, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance. We are grateful for the ongoing support of parents and carers around attendance and hope that the positive start to the half term can continue.

## Year 11 key information- Mr Walby, Head of Year.

As mentioned in the GCSE information evening, the exams window opens on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2024, and goes through until the GCSE exam contingency day, which is June 26<sup>th</sup> 2024. Exam timetables will be issued once the national exam dates are finalised.

The Year 11 Prom will take place this year on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024, and will be held again at Haselbury Mill.

Year 11 will be having a whole year group photo professionally taken on March 11<sup>th</sup>, with the option to purchase this.

Finally, information will be coming out imminently for the 'Leavers Hoodies', including a consent form for your child's name to be used.

## Year 11 Revision sessions

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
GCSE Art – this session is by invitation. Please speak to your teacher if you wish to attend.	GCSE Art – this session is by invitation. Please speak to your teacher if you wish to attend.	GCSE Art – this session is by invitation. Please speak to your teacher if you wish to attend.
CNAT Sport – Mr Walby's group in IT1 Mr Akinpelu's group in IT2.	English – En3	Computer Science and Creative Media – IT2 and IT3
D & T – please ask your D & T teacher for more details.	French – ML5 (Week 1 only)	CNAT Sport – Mr Walby's group IT1



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Health and Social Care – SC5.		Drama – meet in the Main Hall (Week 1 only)
Music GCSE and BTEC – Mu 1 and Mu 2.		Food preparation and nutrition – DT7
Science drop-in session – Sc6		French ML5 (Week 2 only)
Science intervention class- Sc1		Geography - Gg4
GCSE Physics 11E1 and 11H1 – Sc4		German – ML7
Maths	Maths	Spanish – ML6
		Textiles – DT6

A reminder that Year 11 English revision sessions take place after school on Wednesdays, 3.30 - 4.30 pm. Many of the sessions are led by Miss Donnellan - GCSE English Literature Senior Examiner Team Leader and Reviewer, and Mrs Noyce English Language Paper 2 Examiner. The schedule is published on the English year group Google Classroom. Each question or text will be revisited once before the final exams.

Maths revision has been organised based on the topics that come up in the exams most frequently.

We are running sessions on both Tuesday and Wednesday but it is the **same session for both days**.

You only need to attend on one of the days. The reason for this is to allow you flexibility if you want to attend revision sessions in other subjects.

Please make sure you go to the correct tier session for the exam you are taking. Higher tier need to go to Room 44 and Foundation Tier to Room 36. Details of the topics each week are available on Google Classroom.

### Year 7 Camp July 2024

We are delighted that so many students have now signed up for the year 7 camp 9-12<sup>th</sup> July 2024. There are still some places available (1 female place and 6 male places) which will now be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Please see the separate message from Mr Beech to year 7 parents for details.

### Sixth Form

We are enjoying interviewing our fantastic year 11 students and discussing their aspirations for their education post GCSEs and future careers.

The Extended Project Qualification will be launched with Year 12 students next week and will include a presentation by Exeter University on Tuesday afternoon about the benefits of the EPQ. An EPQ is a highly valued qualification that helps enhance university applications through helping students to develop a number of skills that are vital for university. An EPQ also carries UCAS points and is valued at 50% of a full A Level in the UCAs tariff.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the Sixth Form offer or if you want to arrange a tour before applying. Applications can be made on the Sixth Form page on our website.

[Click here to apply](#)

### Arbor Parent Portal and App

Logins have now been issued to parents and carers to access the parent portal. If you have any issues logging in, please contact the main office. As we are still in the process of updating Arbor please be mindful that not all information is currently available.

### Parent Pay

The Academy will be moving its parental payment systems from Wisepay to ParentPay in the near future. Further information will be provided in due course.

### School transport

Please note for any school bus/ travel queries you will need to contact school transport directly using the following number 0300 123 2224.

### 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	
19 <sup>th</sup> February – 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 11 Mocks
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 12 UCAS fair
29 <sup>th</sup> March – 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring holiday
15 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET day
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 10 Parents Evening



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29 <sup>th</sup> April – 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Lord of the Flies production
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 8 Parents Evening
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half Term

## **Sporting Achievements this week:**

### **Football**

On Wednesday, the Year 7 football team managed to successfully earn their first win together in a 3-2 come back against Bucklers Mead.

The game started quite cagey with both teams trying to get the better of each other and dominate possession. Bucklers Mead took an early goal from a lovely long-range striker which was a setback for our year 7's. However, our resilient year 7's dug deep to battle throughout the game and managed to equalise just before half time to make the score line 1-1.

The second half, Huish had a lot more of the ball and were finding more success in playing forward passes to cause a threat in the final third. However, against the run of play, Bucklers Mead scored an identical goal to their first one, with another long-range strike to take the lead yet again. Huish did come firing straight back however and continued to put pressure on the opposition and were able make one of their through balls count, going from goalkeeper all the way to the striker to poke home an equaliser to make it 2-2. Huish continued to capitalise on the pressure that was put on the opposition with some individual brilliance in the midfield and attack and were able to score a long-range strike of our own which took a deflection and went in to seal the 3-2 win!

### **Huish Pistons Basketball Matches - February 20th**

On Tuesday, February 20th, the Huish Pistons embarked on a basketball journey to Salisbury, encountering formidable opponents in the Chicago Bulls and the Milwaukee Bucks.

#### **Match 1: Huish Pistons vs. Chicago Bulls**

In their inaugural match of the day, the Huish Pistons exhibited remarkable resilience against the league-leading Chicago Bulls. Despite facing tough opposition, the Pistons demonstrated an impressive performance, showcasing their determination and tenacity. However, despite their spirited effort, they succumbed to a 47-9 defeat against the formidable Bulls.

#### **Match 2: Huish Pistons vs. Milwaukee Bucks**

The subsequent match against the Milwaukee Bucks presented a crucial opportunity for the Huish Pistones to keep their aspirations of finishing second in the group alive. The game commenced with a relatively quiet first quarter, with both teams vying for control. As the match progressed, the Huish Pistones gained momentum, establishing a 10-point lead. With strong performances in the second and third quarters, the Pistons asserted their dominance, ultimately emerging victorious with a commanding scoreline of 36-5.

## **Upcoming Fixture: Double Header against Indiana Pacers**



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Looking ahead, the Huish Pistons are poised for a pivotal doubleheader against the Indiana Pacers in round 6 of the competition. This upcoming fixture holds significant importance as it will determine the standings in the group, with both teams currently occupying second and third place respectively. The Pistons will have the advantage of playing on home turf, presenting an opportunity to further solidify their position in the competition.

In conclusion, despite facing setbacks in the opening match, the Huish Pistons demonstrated resilience and determination, securing a crucial victory in the subsequent game. With their sights set on the upcoming double-header against the Indiana Pacers, the Pistons remain focused and determined to continue their pursuit of success in the competition.

