

Message from the Principal

“Individually we are one drop but together we are an ocean”

Schools are full of individuals whether that is individual students, individual members of staff, individual parents or even individuals from outside who work with us. As individuals we are the centre of our world with our own thoughts, beliefs and behaviours. Nearly all of us are part of a team whether this is our family, tutor group, friendship group or a staff team to name but a few. The challenge in a school is to bring us together so each of us as individuals can make the whole much greater than the parts. We aim to do this with your help with children who are learning how to behave in a community; to develop empathy and in secondary to contend with adolescence. None of us get it right all the time; as adults we know this and put our hands up and learn from it; as children we learn it is OK to learn from our mistakes.

Currently our PE department is facing a challenge, with some of our students' belongings being moved. We have now begun locking changing rooms and children are not allowed to return to the area once they have changed into their PE kit. We ask children not to leave their belongings and valuables in there after they have finished their lesson. We will be enforcing this going forward and property will be removed by a member of staff if it is left behind and put in lost property box in the front office at the specialisms. Every child can be wonderful but we all know they have their moments when they are not their best selves at times. As part of the support we offer, we would ask you to support students by telling us if someone does not behave to someone else with kindness. Persistent nastiness is bullying whether it is verbal or non verbal. As a school we will not condone bullying and whilst we do realise that the bully needs help, so does the victim. Our policy is available on our website for further reference.

Most of the time we are proud of our students and the support they give each other. We are not a naive school. We know children can act with great kindness but also can forget about this important character feature too. This unkindness can be through thoughtless comments; actions thought to be funny at the time, as well as failure to understand someone else's personal needs or challenges. None of us can say we have not made mistakes in this way. Some acts are not always intentional but sometimes they are. Social media has enabled all of us to communicate rapidly anytime, anywhere but this comes with responsibility. It is easy for us to write something in anger or because we think it is funny that is hurtful or misleads people about someone. As adults we guard ourselves (mostly) against this but this is something children have to learn to do. What is written on a social media platform cannot be taken back and is easily shared. We have introduced in our curriculum education about using social media safely and legally as we want the next generation to grow up socially responsible; to cope with the versatility that social media provides but avoid the negative aspect of this fantastic resource.

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Dates for your diary (Subject to change)

Week Commencing

**5th March is Week 2 on the
Secondary Timetable**

Week Commencing 5th March
**Year 11 Mock examinations
begin**

14th March—Parents Drop in
with Senior Staff and Friends—
2pm and 6pm

15th March—Second Sixth Form
Open Evening—5pm

16th March—Year 9
Immunisations

21st March—Year 8 Options
Evening 4.30pm

28th March—Secondary Rewards
Events

29th March—School finishes at
2pm for Easter Holidays

Easter Holidays—Dates to be
confirmed for Year 11 Revision
School.

10th May—Year 8 Girls HPV
immunisations

**Please continue to refer to the
School Website calendar for
regular updates.**

**Please direct any enquiries to
office@heyfordparkfreeschool.org**

Parking

Please check the information on our website.

The developers are strong supporters of the school so we appreciate all those parents who try hard to support the changes they have to make as they create Heyford-Park. Please park courteously and in designated areas. We are all trying to keep each other and our children safe. Please support residents by parking safely.

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There are positives, social media keeps families spread around the world in touch; it enables creative thinkers to work together across continents and allows our students to form study groups. However, it also can be misused. We have seen female politicians abused through social media; people bullied by “trolls” and “fake news” spread as “truth”. So, please be considerate and always try to allow the staff at the school to find solutions with your help; ultimately we want to work together to find viable solutions to make your children’s experience at school not only a fun, educational one but also a safe one.

Thank you to our Year 8 and Primary Parents who braved the cold and came to our parents evenings this week. We really appreciate the support Year 8 parents gave to the staff and their appreciation of the challenges for staff who teach all children. As I said last week we have only one teacher for Art, one for Geography and our Drama and Music teacher is the same person. This means they teach all the children. However, our staff will always respond to your contact and value this. We still have calendared Year 8 Options evening on the 21st March, Year 7 subject evening on 9th May and Year 9 subject evening on the 6th June.

Year 11 mocks are being held at the specialisms campus next week. Students will need to ensure they are ready for their examinations and have their equipment in a clear plastic pencil case or bag. Please ask them to read through the candidate handbook attached with this bulletin. For science and mathematics calculator papers, they will need a calculator. If they do not take the subject they must go to normal lessons.

Staffing update

We have said good-bye to Mr Bockett, he has been part of the Heyford family nearly from the beginning but has taken a promoted post at a local school. We will miss him but he deserves this success. Therefore, we are currently advertising for a pastoral / behaviour support worker who can work with our students both in class and in small groups to support them socially and emotionally.

Sadly, Mr Christopher, who was going to be with us the remainder of this year has had some very sad family news and is currently not able to be with us. We have explained this to our students. We know it is not ideal but we have a maths teacher starting with us within a week and students will be taught by Ms Conway.

You will be aware that Mr Nimmo has not been well. We are all wishing him a speedy recovery and hopefully he will be back in the next couple of weeks. Mr Mackenzie has been ordering exam books and work books for our GCSE students. For Year 11 we will organise intensive revision days to support them with a Computer Science teacher who has been advising us in the autumn term. For Year 7 and 8 Mr Mackenzie has been sorting out some projects. The national curriculum at Key Stage 3 covers ICT and digital media as well as coding and we want to ensure students get to experience the full breadth and can use ICT in their daily lives.

We have now started to advertise as we will need additional staff in September as we continue to grow. We will update you as we appoint. However, we have already appointed Mrs Sarah Heywood as our Director Of Sixth Form who teaches psychology and health and social currently as well as Ms Conway in Maths and Business and Mrs Cochrane who will join us at the end of June for Spanish.

Sixth Form News

Applications are now open for Heyford Park Free School Sixth Form. Round 3 applications have been received and interviews have been held this week.

Round 4 applications deadline is 14th March for the attention of Mrs Bolduc and Ms Healey.

All our timeframes for applications and interviews are on our website but key deadlines are:

Round 4: 14th March

Round 5: 26th April

As you know last year we purposely recruited staff with A level experience or relevant post 16 experience to meet the needs of our students.

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Sixth Form News Continued

You will be aware that nationally A-Level courses have been revised and as a school we are taking part in training alongside other schools, in relation to the new A-level specifications, over this year. As a school we feel we are now well placed to support post 16 courses with a team of experienced teachers who know our students well. Last week we appointed our new Director of Sixth Form, Mrs Heywood who is currently a deputy head of Sixth Form with 15 years of Sixth Form experience.

Our next Open Evening is 15th March at 5pm where you can meet the new Director of Sixth Form

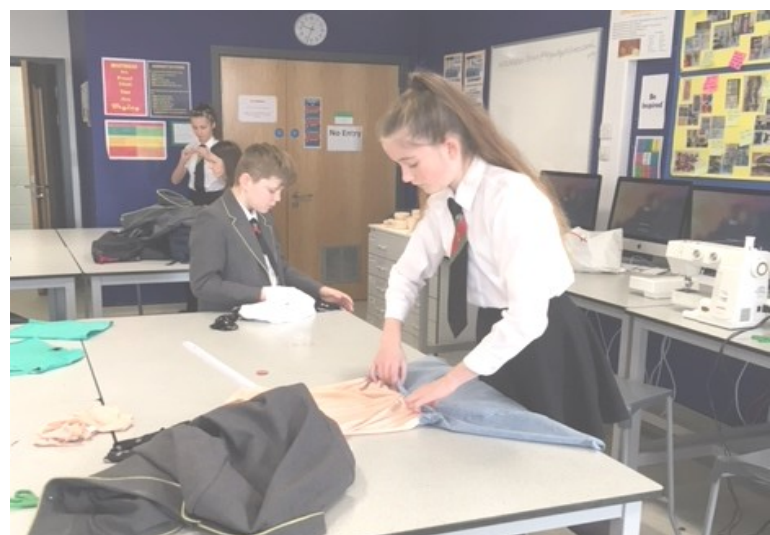
We are going to let our Year 11's focus on their exams but after these in June we will be running taster days and experience days. Our new year will start with an induction at the same time our students in Primary and Secondary are experiencing summer school. Like Summer School this will not be an option but an expectation.

News from the Art department

A group of Year 8 and Year 9 students are involved in a joint Cherwell and South Northants District Council event, called Refashion. They are learning about the consequences of Fast Fashion and how we can reuse and upcycle clothing to reduce waste. They are enjoying learning new textile skills and are being creative with their designs. Students will show off their designs later in March in Banbury. Please watch the following video clips to learn a little about the complex problems of fast fashion.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXTIfczSnE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPM9lhackHw>



Examination Invigilators Vacancies

We are seeking to appoint committed and understanding invigilators to join our team. If you are looking for an interesting and challenging role in the school environment and can work flexible days/hours throughout the year, as well as being able to commit to the 6 weeks of summer exams, then we would love to hear from you! Full training will be provided for those with or without experience.

Further details can be found on our website.

NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF HEYFORD PARK FREE SCHOOL

Our next fundraising event is the **Pamper & Shopping Evening** on **Friday 16th March from 6pm**. Please join us for a treatment, or enjoy a refreshment whilst browsing all the beauty and craft stalls.

Bicester Bridal will be joining us for the evening offering a lovely selection of **Prom dresses**

Tickets will be available via **ParentPay** shortly and on the door

Please see the attached flyer for more information

See you there!

EQUESTRIAN TEAM

If you would like to join the team, please express your interest by handing Mr Brown/Mrs Wallington/Mr Hobbs your name and parent email address on a piece of paper addressed to Issy Dunn so they can hand it to her as she is head rider or alternatively email one of the teachers with your name and email so they can forward details to her. You will need access to transportation to get you to venues. The team is open to anybody who has a pony they can compete on. There are benefits to being in the team such as mentions in the newsletter, on the website and in assemblies. There are dressage and jumping competitions and an entry fee of £8 to cover the cost of a NSEA badge. If you have any questions please email one of the named teachers so they can pass on your queries to Issy.



During the run up to our GCSEs the Year 11 students will be holding several fundraising events in aid of our 2018 School Prom.

In order to help us raise funds, we would like to kindly ask all parents and teachers to help us by donating towards



'Pennies for Prom'

Pennies for Prom' - How You Can Help

We would like all parents and teachers to kindly donate the pennies from their net salary payment each month for a period of either 1 or 3 months.

The donation will be between 1p and 99p each month, so your small change each month will definitely make a BIG change to our prom.

Please speak to one of the Year 11 students or the office staff for further information and a

'Pennies for Prom' form.

Thank you in advance for your help and support.

The Year 11 Students

