

HPFS Whole School Bulletin

Friday 19th July 2019

Issue 39

Message from the Principal

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much”— Helen Keller.

I don't think any of us can quite believe that another academic year has finished and you hear students, staff and parents reflecting on where that year has gone. As individuals we often get to the end of a year with things we still want to do or achieve. These are the things that become our priorities for the following year. However, it is also a beneficial to reflect on what has been done and achieved. When staff and students are feeling down about something that has not gone as they wanted, I often get them to write a list with me of everything they have done and what they have successfully achieved. I then count the days they have had to show them how much they have achieved. Nearly everyone looks at their list at this point and realises that they have made their days count! But importantly for me you see them smile and their energy levels rise.

Our school is a community. It is the strength of that community that means we grow the depth and strength of our young school. At our school you can see what Helen Keller means in her quote that “together, we can do so much” Whether that's events such as the school fete, bonfire night, Prom, or year 6 graduation; resourcing and spaces such as nursery outside space, our tyre planting or the library; as well as learning experience from what goes on in the classroom to experiences through visits and partnerships such as those offered by Roborace to our sixth form. As a school community I think whilst we recognise different ones of us lead on something – it is the team around us that makes it happen.

Like any organisation, we make mistakes and have to address these. Like any strong community, we rely on the honesty and support of its members to address these. Organisations, like individuals, learn from success but they also learn from their mistakes. Success and mistakes do make us stronger as individuals and as an organisation and community.

This year we have grown at Heyford Park Free School not in numbers but in what we understand as “who we are”. Our theme for the year has been “making the implicit explicit” and we have held a lens over certain aspects of our school. We have simplified our expectations to Ready, Respectful, Safe and Kind; we have introduced routines; we have explained character, learned about Aristotle's Virtues and launched our character awards; we have changed our curriculum for next year, launched our sixth form, introduced new courses and introduced new events to our calendar such as Year 6 Graduation, our Parent Conferences and events to support mental health. Our Trust has worked on looking to the future, you have been involved with them reworking our vision and worked with us on revising the communication strategy and building a new website for September. We have developed new partnerships that are adding fantastic experiences for our staff and students.

Communities keep evolving and I know that Heyford Park will as well because of the strength of its community. Our whole really is stronger than its parts! And it is those parts that are strengthening it each year.

As a school staff we wish you all a wonderful holiday that is relaxing and full of times to make family memories.

On a personal note I want to thank everyone for their kindness and support to me over the last week. I knew this was a very special community and this week I have personally been the beneficiary of that. Thank-you is a small word but it means so much. So I “thank-you”

We return to school on **Tuesday 27th August for Summer School**. Arrangements are later in this newsletter.



HEYFORD PARK
FREE SCHOOL

BEIPIUM COMMUNE COMMUNITATIS

Dates for your diary
(Subject to change)

**Week Commencing 2nd
September 2019 is Week 1 on the
Secondary Timetable**

August

22.08.19 GCSE Results Day

27.08.19-29.08.19—Summer
School

September

03.09.19—Children return to
school

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

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

Penalty Warning Notices

From September 2019 we will be in a position to issue Penalty Warning Notices or request a Penalty Notice Fine for unauthorised holidays and/or unauthorised absences in term time.

A letter will be sent to all parents in September with further information.

Uniform

We expect students to wear school uniform to and from school, during the school day, and for most school activities, and to take a pride in their appearance, ensuring for example that ties are done up and shirts tucked in. All items must be labelled. Most uniform items, including name labels, can be obtained from Stevensons (www.stevensons.co.uk), our approved uniform supplier.

In cases of financial hardship, parents who find difficulty in providing uniform should contact the Principal to seek advice.

Students in primary or secondary not wearing full uniform will be able to borrow items for one day; persistent non-compliance will result in a sanction, following contact home.

As parents, we expect you to send your child to school in the correct school uniform – this should be clean and smartly turned out.

We advise that all belongings are labelled with your child's full name.

If there is a specific reason why your child is not wearing an item of school uniform (for example they have an injury), we ask you to send your child to school with a note that explains the reason for this.

Skirts should be pleated, formal knee length (sitting no more than 5cm above the knee) and trousers should be worn around the waist. Shirts should be buttoned to the top and tucked into trousers/skirts. Ties should be firmly knotted or clip on.

We expect hair colour and hair style to be natural.

For children and students in primary, long hair should be secured away from the face using a simple hair tie or plain hair slides/pins.

Secondary students may wear their hair down, however hair should still be tied up for Science and Physical Education.

Nails can only be natural, and if a student is found wearing any other nail varnish we will ask them to remove it. No artificial nails.

Students should not wear make-up to school. Secondary students may wear subtle concealer or foundation but they will be requested to remove visible eye-liner, mascara, or lipstick.

Students may wear a plain wrist watch. No rings are allowed.

Earrings should be small and discreet studs. Any other form of facial piercing will **not be accepted**. Watches and earrings should be removed for P.E.

Secondary Phase

A plain white button up shirt, with either long or short sleeves and a starched collar.

A Unisex Heyford Park Free School Blazer, which can be purchased from Stevensons.

A plain black pleated skirt. For those girls who do not wish to wear a skirt, a plain pair of boot-cut black trousers. Leggings, dark jeans or skinny-fit trousers are NOT accepted.

A smart pair of plain black trousers that are regular fitting. Dark jeans or jogging bottoms are not accepted. During summer months, plain black tailored shorts may be worn.

In winter months, a plain black v-neck pullover that is free from logos and embellishments.

In winter months, a black or dark coloured overcoat that is waterproof. Any logos or embellishments must be small and discreet.

A sensible pair of black shoes/smart ankle boots that can be polished. If these have a heel, the heel should not be more than 1.5 inches. Canvas shoes or material pumps are NOT acceptable.

Plain black tights, not less than 40 denier. In summer months, these may be substituted for plain white or black socks. Trainer socks are NOT accepted.

House tie, (Red, Yellow or Blue depending on what house your child belongs to) to be purchased from Stevensons.

A black or dark coloured bag that is capable of holding A4 books and folders. Any logos or embellishment should be small and discreet.

Sports Kit

Unisex Heyford Park Free School Akoa hoody in black and white with badge.

Unisex games socks in black and green.

Unisex Heyford Park Free School Akoa polo shirt in black and white with badge.

Unisex Heyford Park Free School Akoa polo shirt in black and white with badge.

Heyford Park Free school Akoa skort (girls)/short (boys) in black with badge.

All Heyford items are available to purchase from Stevensons.

In winter months, a pair of black jogging bottoms. Any logos or embellishments must be small and discreet.

Gum shields and shin pads are advised for certain sports but not essential.

Indoor and Outdoor trainers are required.

Studded footwear is required for winter sports. (Hockey, Football & Rugby)

GCSE P.E. kit available from Trysports in Bicester.

Second Hand Uniform is available from The Friends of Heyford Park.

A message about year 10 reports from Mr Mackenzie

It has been brought to my attention that the year 10 reports for some students included obsolete data for computer science. This affects only those students that have switched from computer science to the BTEC in Digital Information Technology.

For students now studying the BTEC in Digital Information Technology, no information should have been included on reports for Computer Science GCSE; the mark book for this subject is no longer being updated for switch students, so any reported working at grades would be from old data, and no grades were entered for A2L or homework for this data snapshot.

I apologise for this mistake. If your child has switched subjects, please ignore any reported data for computer science, including "n/a" grades for attitude to learning and homework.

Kind regards,

Mr Mackenzie

Year 6 into 7 Transition Day

For the first time in the school's history we had our own year 6s coming through to join our secondary part of the school and this made it an extra special day. It was lovely to see how they worked well with the students coming from outside of Heyford Park and there are some photos below that give you an impression of the day they spent together.

After a welcome and assembly in the Ballroom, students split into House groups for a session with their Head of House and they were able to enjoy a variety of taster lessons in their new halves of the year.

Lunch was spent outside at the Specialisms campus and the day was completed with some PE, with a competitive edge to it as Houses played each other.



Year 6 into 7 Transition Day



Calculators for Secondary Maths

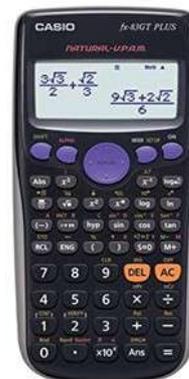
Please can parents and carers ensure that students have a suitable calculator ready for next academic year. Students will be disadvantaged if they do not have their own calculator – knowing how your calculator works saves lots of time and can gain you marks in exams.

Key Stage 3 and 4 – old model

The minimum-requirement calculator for maths is the Casio fx-83GTPlusX.

Many students have these already and they will be fine for Key Stage 3 and GCSE.

Casio have stopped making this model and have replaced it with the fx-83GTX and fx-85GTX.



Key Stage 3 and 4 – new model

If students need to buy a calculator we strongly recommend the **Casio fx-83GTX** (battery powered) or **fx-85GTX** (solar powered). This has some functions that will save time in exams and make some topics easier.

The cheapest I have found are on Amazon (£10.35) and at Ryman (£9.99).

If the model numbers are confusing, then look for one that says  at the top and it will be perfect.



A-level

Students must have a **Casio fx-991EX**. This has multiple functions (not available on the GCSE calculators) that exam questions expect students to understand and use. Students who do not have the fx-991EX will be at a significant disadvantage.

They are £19.99 on Amazon and at Ryman.



Summer School 2019—27th August—29th August 2019

As we rapidly approach the end of this academic year, and what a successful one it has been, we begin to plan for the next and look forward to the good times ahead. We do hope you will all take the summer holidays as a chance to have a break and enjoy some family time but also set some targets together for ensuring academic progress is continued next year too. With this in mind, we are writing to give details of the format of Summer School 2019.

Summer School is a compulsory part of the school academic year and therefore non-attendance will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Summer School will run from **9:00am – 3:00pm** and buses will run to support the summer school timings. Students will start each day at the Officers Mess site. The aim of summer school is to allow opportunities for students to develop their knowledge and understanding further in their core subjects: Maths, English, Science, as well as develop their knowledge and understanding of the historical features of the site and the unique heritage of the school.

The outline of the week (Maths, English, Science and History times may vary depending on student groups).

All students will begin at the OM everyday, students will finish the day at either the SC or OM, depending on their enrichment activity choice.

Day/Time	Session 1		Session 2		Enrichment
Tuesday	Maths		English		
Wednesday	Science		History		
Thursday	TRIP Year 11&13 Thorpe Park Year 8,9,10&12- Blenheim Palace	B R E A K	TRIP Year 7s in School	LUNC H	TRIP Year 7s in School

On **Thursday 29th August** we hope to take all students on an education visit. Students in **Year 11 and 13** will have the opportunity to go to Thorpe park to support their emotional wellbeing before a year of hard work and exams begin, the cost of this trip is **£35 per person**, which includes park entry and all of the rides. Students attending the Thorpe Park trip will need to be in school at 9:00 and will return at 6:30pm.

The rest of secondary will go to Blenheim Palace where they will have the opportunity to explore inside the palace with an audio guide. We ask for a **£12.50** voluntary contribution to support the cost of the visit. The canteen will be open as usual for students; however on Thursday they will need a packed lunch and/or some spending money to purchase snacks etc

Each afternoon students will take part in an enrichment session, which were selected over the last few weeks. There will be a range of enrichment activities offered from cooking, science experiments and gardening, to sport, drama and music.

PENALTY NOTICES for lack of attendance

Parents are expected to contact school at an early stage and to work with staff in resolving any attendance problems together. This is nearly always successful. If difficulties cannot be sorted out in this way, the school may refer the child to the County Attendance Team at the Local Authority. At the school's request, they may issue a Penalty Notice per parent/carer, per child (currently £60 rising to £120 if unpaid after 21 days). This will escalate to a Court summons if still unpaid.

Parents that have previously been issued with Penalty Notices for their children's unauthorised absences may receive summonses to Court in the event of further unauthorised absences.

If any child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, his/her parent is guilty of an offence.

Penalty notices may begin to be issued any time after a student has not attended 6 sessions (3 days) with a 15 school day period of time.

For any holidays taken during term time, you may expect a penalty notice for this course of action.

NHS GUIDELINES : 'Is my child too ill for school?'

There are useful and important guidelines on the NHS website www.nhs.uk that you can refer to when considering whether your child should be kept at home on a school day.

This can be found under the website section 'Is my child too ill for school?' Healthy Body, and the sub-headings are Body, Head, Seasonal Health, Self-help tips.

Government guidelines in this section for schools and nurseries say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

ATTENDANCE DATA:

Based on the most recent data available for the county, for the academic year 2017-18, Heyford Park Free School had above average attendance for Secondary (marginally better than average.) but lower in Primary. The school has also had better attendance in terms of Persistent Absence across the Primary and Secondary:

Oxfordshire Attendance average in Primary schools 2017-18 – 96.5%	Heyford Park Free School – 95.94%
Oxfordshire Attendance average in Secondary schools 2017-18 – 94.6%	Heyford Park Free School – 95.01%

Oxfordshire Persistent Absence (below 90% attendance students) for Primary 8.0%,	HPFS – 4.85%
For Secondary 14%	HPFS – 8.09%

The National attendance figures for schools for this year read:

Average attendance: 95.1%

Persistent absence: 12.7%

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENTS for attendance:

We are wanting to reward excellent attendance and do so in the following ways:

'R3' emails home if student gets 100% attendance in a school week.

Reward Trips once a term, with excellent attendance as a key criteria to meet for this.

Challenge Week – Enterprise

Monday saw Year 8 working in groups to plan every aspect of opening a restaurant in Bicester. There were some imaginative ideas for themes and the quality of presentations was terrific. Keeley Wickson-Foster shone as a group leader, steering her team (McGuire) to an easy win.

Tuesday morning, before the Race for Life, Year 7 had an inter-house communication skills competition. This involved games such as sorting mixed packs of chopped up cards and having to negotiate with other teams for pieces needed, listening skills for a count 20 game (it's harder than it sounds), and back-to-back drawing game. Bader won by a landslide.

Wednesday was the turn of Year 9, working in teams on a planning task and then an inter-house competition based on teamwork. Activities including making a structure from balloons, straws and paper that would protect an egg, with the winning contraption able to protect the egg from a 25-foot drop. In the tower building competition (using spaghetti, marshmallows and lollipop sticks) many students demonstrated a real engineering aptitude, but some towers suggest a different career path should be followed by some....

Friday saw Year 7 designing a school from scratch, with an emphasis on being able to justify their decisions regarding curriculum subjects, finance and values. There were some fantastic ideas for specialist schools and some radical ideas for changes to a standard school day. Many of the presentations were fantastic - Kian Duggan presented with such confidence and style we can see him as the CEO of a major corporation in future. The 3-D model made by Angel Allsworth and Abigail Ward was stunning.

It was a fun week and staff really enjoyed seeing students being prepared to step out of their comfort zone and try new things.

Awards Evening 2019

We would like to congratulate all the awards winners for their excellent attitude to learning and enthusiasm they have shown this year. Their 'CAN DO' attitude and resilience has meant that they have made fantastic progress and have been great role models for all students in the school.

It was wonderful to see students from nursery all the way to 6th form proudly accepting their awards and being congratulated by staff that have had the pleasure of teaching them in front of family and friends- it really felt like a very special community event!

We very much look forward to continuing to work with all our students in the next academic year and hope these awards will motivate all to work even harder next year. All winners received a book token which they can use to buy their summer reads and I cannot wait to hear all their reviews in September!

I must say a special THANK YOU to our sponsors who have made last night so special- the evening refreshments, badges and prizes were all made possible due to their generosity and kindness- we are very lucky to have such wonderful supporters of the school.



We wish you all a wonderful summer break!

Miss Marin

GCSE History Berlin Residential – 25th -27th August 2020

The History Department is aiming to run the Berlin Residential again for GCSE History students during the 2020 summer school. The trip is open to the current Year 9 History students and the current Year 8 students who have chosen History as one of their GCSE options. A letter has been emailed to parents this week. There is a 35 place limit on this trip and spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Any questions about this trip, please email Mrs Rhymes at rhymes@heyfordparkfreeschool.org.

Attendance

Whole School Attendance = 95.55%

Primary Attendance = 96.44%

Secondary Attendance = 94.65%

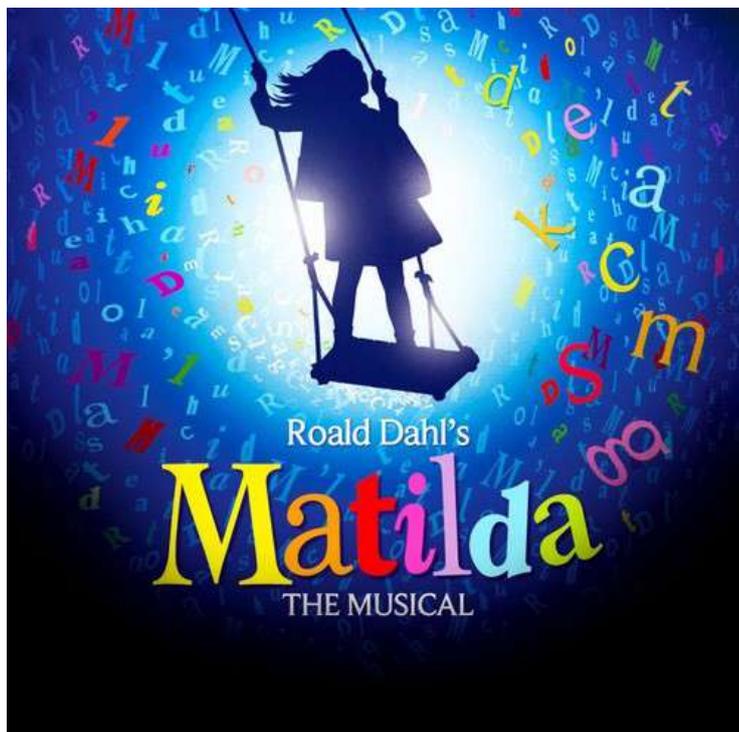
MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT!

Message from Finance Dept.

Could all parents please make sure your children/s ParentPay accounts are all up-to-date before we break for the Summer holiday. Please contact the Finance Team if you wish to discuss your child's account.

Thank you

Finance Team



Gentle Reminder

All students that have been invited to the West End 'Artist in Residence' workshop during summer school need to familiarise themselves with the musical 'Matilda'. Revolting Children report to me at the SC at 08:45 on Tuesday 27 Aug., wearing PE kit or comfortable 'move about in' clothes.

Please bring packed lunches and plenty of water for both days.

Love & Hugs The Amazing Mrs Beckett

Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE



BODY POLITIC

KINGSMERE STREET DANCE



WITH BODYPOLITIC

AGES 9-14

AUGUST 13TH-16TH

10AM - 3PM

£40

BURSARY PLACES AVAILABLE
KINGSMERE COMMUNITY CENTRE



EMAIL ADMIN@OYAP.ORG.UK TO BOOK OR FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Race for Life Update



Just to let you know that we raised **£1,703.00** for Race for Life

Another amazing achievement, with money still coming in.

Thank you to all who participated and raised money for Cancer Research