



HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL

Care and Excellence for All

SUMMER 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have been enjoying this recent warm weather. Winter seemed to last a long time this year so I think we all deserve this extended sunshine!

2017-18 has been another successful year for the school. We had a very pleasing Ofsted inspection, a great set of GCSE results and have continued to offer "Care and excellence for all". Whilst exam results are very important, I like to think that there is much more to education than qualifications and one of our great strengths is the all-round education we provide. 2017-18 has been a great year and we are working hard to make 2018-19 even better!

We have a number of new developments for next year, one of the most important of which will be a new focus on Oracy. Ruth Loxley, Claire Hardman and Matt Smith have some really exciting things planned to further develop the pupils speaking and persuasive abilities. We will let you know more about these in the autumn.

This is also the time of year when we have to say goodbye to our year 11s. It is always sad when pupils leave us but they have been a fantastic year group and we wish them the very best for their future.

Calendar Dates

The school year ends on Friday 13th July and we finish at 2pm instead of the usual 3pm. The last week of the school year is non-uniform. It is enrichment studies for years 7 to 9 and work experience for year 10.

Pupils return on Thursday 30th August. The new year 7 start at 8.45am whilst the rest of the school returns at 1pm after lunch.

Oracy

"Mankind's greatest achievements have come about by talking, and its greatest failures by not talking. It doesn't have to be like this." - Stephen Hawking.

This year we have introduced an oracy element to our Year 7 Personal Development Day. This gives youngsters the opportunity to develop their verbal and non-verbal reasoning skills, leading to a debate at the end of the day. The maturity and enthusiasm that Year 7 have demonstrated has been outstanding and inspiring to witness.

To build on this success, we are planning further oracy opportunities for our pupils next year including starting a debating club.

Annie

Pupils have been rehearsing our musical production of "Annie Jr." since February; it is the well-known story of a New York orphan who goes to live with Billionaire Oliver Warbucks.

Performances will take place on the evenings of July 4th and 5th at 7:30pm in the school hall. Tickets are now available on Parentmail priced £4 for adults and £3 for concessions.

We hope you will be able to support our show.

Mr Jordan

The Edge

It has been a busy year for all of our year 7 pupils who have been involved in the Edge Programme. The activities they have organised and taken part in have been wide ranging and along the way they have developed skills that will last a life time. Our Edge Ambassadors would like to take this opportunity to share with you a taster of their experiences so far;

The highlights of the programme so far have been all the opportunities that we have been given to develop our leadership skills. For example, we have planted trees with our pledges attached to them and delivered a pitch about a charity of our choice. I have seen how people in my form who are less confident have grown and have talked in front of our class! Others have enjoyed it because it is a change to our other lessons. The charity pitches definitely helped to boost everyone's confidence in public speaking.

It is an amazing experience being an Edge Ambassador as it has allowed us to do so many new things. For example, I have been able to teach my own class! It was wonderful being in charge and have the whole class listen and is something that we never thought we would be able to do. We also like having our own stamps so that we can reward those in our form who have done a great piece of work towards the Edge. I think that some people feel quite proud.

This programme will benefit Hastings pupils because it is developing our life skills which we will need not only to get a good job but to be successful in our normal lives.

Miss Bradley and the Edge Ambassadors

Congratulations!

Ella Graham (Year 10) has won a competition for an all-expenses paid a week-long trip to the Synchrotron Radiation Research Facility in Grenoble with 15 other National winners.

Students will gain experience of life as an international research scientist by working within the facility alongside a team of other scientists.

Ella had to write a two-page essay on Rosalind Franklin's contribution to X-Ray science to secure her place. The competition was organised by Warwick University. Even more impressive is that the competition was aimed primarily at Year 12 students studying A Level Chemistry.

Mr Bonser

Uganda – Ian Gallagher

Last year I visited Uganda during the summer to help out in one of their schools. This year the charity contacted me again and asked if I would be interested in going back as they felt that the training we provided to the Ugandan teachers last year was really beneficial. I will be spending a week visiting different schools in and around the capital (Kampala). The following week around 60 teachers from these schools will all come to a hotel on the edge of the capital where we will deliver training spread across 4 days.

The teachers in Uganda have no formal qualifications and are often doing the job simply because they enjoy helping children. However, most teachers are themselves the product of a bad education so many teachers are not secure in their subject knowledge themselves and are now passing this on to the next generation. After observing some badly taught fractions lessons I planned my training around this and taught the teachers a creative way to teach most aspects of fractions using a clock face. A nice quote from one of the teachers during the training was, "this is the first time in my life I have understood fractions". Her colleague joked, "it's only taken 32 years".

This year our year 9s held a summer fete and raised £439. I will be using this to spend on maths resources which I will take over, show teachers how to incorporate them into lessons and then leave them there.

Mr Gallagher

Junior Maths Challenge

On 26th April this year, 60 students from Years 7 and 8 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge and the results were excellent. An amazing 26 students gained either a Bronze, Silver or Gold Certificate, placing them in the top 40% in the country and putting Hastings above the national average. 3 of our students qualified for the next stage in the competition, an outstanding achievement reserved for just the top 2.5% of all participants nationally. Congratulations to all who took part!

Mr King

Parking

I would just like to remind parents, on behalf of local residents, of the importance of parking with courtesy particularly on St Catherine's and Sunnyhill.

There is a private road on Sunnyhill which should not be used and residents have asked us to pass this information onto you.

Staff Changes

This is the time of year when unfortunately, we have to say goodbye to staff leaving us. This year we have the following staff moving on as their contract ends or for promotion, relocation or retirement: Reena Sood, Louise Beagon, Amanda Randle, Aniqah Vorajee, Matthew Abercrombie, Nigel Parker, Yatin Solanki and Sam Osbourne.

We wish them well for their future and want to thank them for all their hard work at Hastings.

New Staff

Whilst it is always sad to see staff leave, as a successful school, we have been able to recruit very well for next year. The following staff will be joining us in August:

- Sally Elsworth (Business) – Sally will be taking over as Head of Business and has been highly successful in a similar position in her current school
- Jess Green (Geography) – Jess was Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) of the year in Nottinghamshire in 2015
- Emily Johnstone (Science) – Emily trained with us at the start of this year and did exceptionally well
- Jess Brophy (French). Jess also won an award as an NQT in 2016 and has taught very successfully at a similar school
- Jacob Kavanagh (Maths) – Jacob is a newly qualified teacher who did very well on his training placement
- Laura Lee (Science) – Laura is a very experienced teacher of science
- Isobel Baird (Learning Support) – Isobel is a qualified speech and language therapist
- Dr Peter Grzeszczyk (Science) – Peter is a very experienced teacher of physics who has worked with us before

We will also be welcoming back Kirsty Abercrombie as Head of French after her maternity leave.

Thank you!

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and have a great summer.

Nick Goforth

Head of Hastings