

Headteacher: Patrick Cozier BSc (Hons), MA, NPQH

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you and your families have had an enjoyable half-term break. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all back to the final half-term of the academic year! As we embark on this last stretch, I would like to extend my best wishes to our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they continue their public examinations. Their dedication and hard work are commendable, and we are confident that they will achieve the success they deserve over the coming weeks. Also, best of luck to our Year 10 and Year 12 students who will be sitting their Pre-Public (PPEs) later this term.

### Uniform Changes This Half Term

**No more blazers** - As is the case every year at this time, in anticipation of warmer weather, blazers are no longer compulsory for the remainder of the academic year. However, please note that no other non-uniform replacements (e.g. hoodies, non-uniform jumpers, tracksuit tops, etc.) will be acceptable. The purpose of the concession is to allow weather appropriate dress rather than to invite non-uniform items.

**Plain black trainers are now allowed** – You will be aware from previous communication that we have decided that plain black trainers will be allowed from September. However, we have decided to begin the transition to plain black trainers as acceptable footwear from tomorrow, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. There are two reasons for this:

1. To avoid unnecessary expense for parents and carers in replacing shoes that have become damaged or too small.
2. To allow for a transition phase this summer to make sure that we have a clear understanding in time for September

It is important to stress the importance of the trainers being plain black. No other coloured trim, logos, laces or stitching will be allowed. We do intend to enforce this strictly with students being out of circulation if they do not cooperate.

**Uniform more generally** – Just an additional reminder that we do expect students to wear the remaining uniform items in the correct way – e.g. shirts tucked in, tie knots to the top, etc. unless otherwise advised by staff (e.g. in extreme heat).

### Attendance & Early Holiday Requests

Attendance remains a crucial aspect of your child's education. As shared with you previously, at HWS we/you have done really well in reaching high levels of attendance in this post-pandemic period when schools nationally are really struggling. I cannot stress enough the importance of maintaining regular attendance for the rest of the academic year too.

It is also the time of year when we start to get requests for students to be granted authorised absences for holidays. While I understand that early holiday requests may arise, these are generally not granted unless there are exceptional circumstances, and should be made in writing to the school. Failure to do so could result in a fixed penalty fine.



### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Over the past term, our EDI (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) Team has undertaken significant initiatives to address discrimination within our school community. These efforts have included assemblies focusing on Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, and an upcoming session on Anti-Black racism. We have also created engaging presentations on Easter and Ramadan, and are planning a presentation and competition for Pride Month (which started on the 1<sup>st</sup> June). I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Ms Coley and Mr Varrone who have led this work and the wonderful Staff Diversity Group and the volunteer students whose support and insights have made this work meaningful and impactful.

### MADfest – Date Change – Now on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

It's that time of year again – MADFest is just around the corner! However, the date has now changed and the event will be taking place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July (and not 5<sup>th</sup> July as originally planned). Tickets will go on sale shortly.

Also, the PSA is a small team, and they cannot make this event happen without the help of volunteers. If you are available and able to assist with the preparation, stalls, or the clear-up on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> July, please fill out the short form available on the link below, and the PSA will be in touch shortly to provide further details.



[forms.gle](#)

### Mobile Phones – A reminder of the rule

Unlike some schools, HWS does not have a ban on mobile phones, despite increasing pressure from the government and others to introduce such a rule. We recognise the importance of mobile phones for some families who are keen to be able to maintain contact with their children on the way to and from school, and we respect this.

However, we do have a clear policy on their presence in school. We expect phones to be switched off and put away. This applies irrespective of the time of day and is in effect from the moment students step inside the entrance gate in the morning until they leave the site at the end of the day.

If mobile phones are seen or heard in school they will be confiscated for a week. Sometimes we can end up having a battle over the enforcement of this rule with a small number of students and parents/carers. However, this rule is enforced strictly and consistently for the benefit of all students and cooperation with it is the reason that we are not currently entertaining the idea of an outright ban. I thank all parents and carers in advance for your support in upholding this expectation.



### Missed Assessments

We have had a few situations recently where students have missed important assessments in subjects that have setted groups based on levels of attainment. The outcomes of these assessments help us to ensure that students are working at the appropriate level and allows us to ensure personalised intervention for students who need it.

This issue has predominantly affected maths in recent times and has led to a not insignificant number of e-mails from parents and carers expressing concerns as to why students have been moved groups. It is important that if a student misses an assessment that they take responsibility for attending any rearranged time agreed with their teacher to complete the assessment. Your support with is hugely appreciated in this matter.

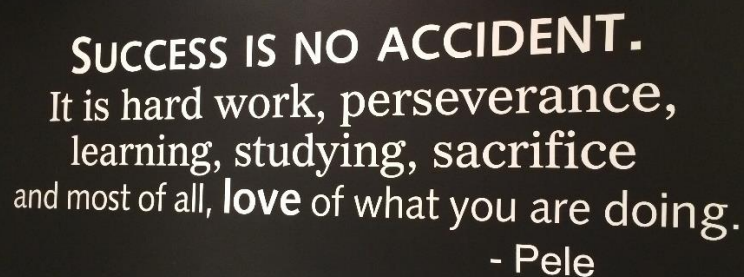
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### A few dates for your diary...

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| • Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2024     | <b>GCSE Art Exhibition (6pm to 8pm)</b>                                 |
| • Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024    | <b>Year 10 Progress Meetings (for identified Students) (5pm to 7pm)</b> |
| • Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024    | <b>A Level Art Exhibition (6pm to 8pm)</b>                              |
| • Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | <b>Global Majority Parents' Forum (5pm to 7pm)</b>                      |
| • Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 | <b>Year 13 Celebration Evening</b>                                      |
| • Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024    | <b>Year 11 Celebration Evening</b>                                      |
| • Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2024    | <b>INSET Day – School Closed for Students</b>                           |
| • Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2024    | <b>Sports Day for KS3 Students</b>                                      |
| • Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2024   | <b>SEND Parents' Forum (5pm to 7pm)</b>                                 |
| • Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024    | <b>MADfest from 6pm</b>   |
| • Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 | <b>Last Day of Term – 12.25pm finish for students</b>                   |

### ... And Finally

As ever, I will end with a quote.



**SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT.**  
It is hard work, perseverance,  
learning, studying, sacrifice  
and most of all, **love** of what you are doing.  
- Pele

This has been a favourite quote of mine for a long time. What makes it even more meaningful is the fact that it comes from Pele who is regarded as being one of the most gifted sporting athletes of all time – yet he espouses the values of working hard for what you want. This is why I am so confident about how well our year 11s and year 13s will do!

I will write to you again soon. Thank you for your continued support!

Regards



Patrick Cozier  
**Headteacher**