

# LADY HAWKINS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

KINGTON HEREFORDSHIRE HR5 3AR

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Our Ref: PD/PJ

7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

The first term of any academic year is a busy one and this year has been no exception. It is hard to believe that it is a whole term since our new Year 7 pupils were sitting excited and slightly apprehensive in the hall on their first day. They have had a busy term, as have we all, and will be ready for a break over Christmas. This has been a term of change, progress and good news. I would like to thank you all for your support this term, we are a team and need to work together to raise expectations and standards to make sure that our school delivers the best opportunities to our young people.

The most outward sign of the raised levels of expectation is in the way that our school uniform is worn. I have received a lot of very positive feedback from the community, following Foundress' day in particular, saying how smart the pupils look. This will be an on-going project as I believe that taking pride in yourself and your appearance is an important step in taking pride in your work. To that end, we have been considering the introduction of a school blazer to the uniform for the new intake and possibly for some current students and I would welcome your feedback on this idea.

When I wrote at the beginning of term we did not have verified GCSE results for last academic year. With the changes to English and Maths GCSEs last year it was difficult to make comparisons year on year and, as Head teachers, we were advised not to. We now have the data and it shows that we have made significant progress since 2016. The key measure is based on the progress which students make across 8 key subject areas and Lady Hawkins' School results for 2017 were above the national average and outperformed many of the other secondary schools in Herefordshire. This is excellent news and reflects the hard work of the staff and students involved. The drive to improve standards never stops and I hope that you have received the results for your child from our latest round of assessments which we will use to provide challenge and support next term.

We have been delighted at the response from the community to get more involved with school. The first Parents Forum was a really positive meeting with lots of ideas put forward as to how we can improve the school, the updated action points are available on the school website. Our "Show my Homework" evening was well attended and we were able to iron out a good number of teething problems. Finally, the response from you to our need for additional governors was even better than we hoped and Mr Grist, who was re-elected as Chair of Governors, was delighted to welcome 6 new parent governors at the AGM this week, along with the Head Girl who will represent the Student Council when appropriate.

I hope that you are finding that the improvements to the website have made it easier to navigate and that the parents' area is able to provide you with key information. We have been sharing lots of good news on the Facebook feed as well as the website and have celebrated success for the Equestrian Team, Rugby and Netball teams, our successful Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates, the Erasmus Project group, Year 7 Globe Theatre competition and many more. A few minutes spent looking at this shows just what a talented student body we have.

One area of school life which I would like to ask for your support with is attendance. Our school target for this year is 96% and, as I write it stands at 94.3%. There have been the usual winter illnesses which have had an impact on attendance this term and, as a parent myself, I understand that there are times when we cannot send our children to school. I have attached a letter which outlines the importance of attendance and strategies which we will be implementing in January. This approach gives structure to the support which we will be offering to those with poor attendance and I thank you in advance for your help with this vital matter.

## Events during the last week of term

### *Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December*

3:30-5:30pm Christmas Film Night for Years 7 & 8. Cost £1 with sweets and popcorn available to buy.

### *Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December*

1pm Christmas Lunch for students and staff (2 courses for £4.40)

Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available - please notify the school office.

2:30pm Christmas assembly at St Mary's Church, Kington.

6pm Community Christmas Event- Music and Word for Christmas at St Mary's Church, Kington.

Lady Hawkins' School is delighted to be returning to St Mary's after a break of many years with a celebration in words and music for the Christmas season.

We know that there are many talented musicians amongst our parents and the wider community and would welcome additional instrumentalists to augment the "LHS Elastic Band" (which will expand to meet all abilities and instruments) and to provide some vocal harmonies to make the carols even more festive! If you are interested in taking part, please contact the school or email [music@lhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:music@lhs.hereford.sch.uk) with details of what instrument you play or part you sing.

### *Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Non-uniform day*

9:20am Awards Assembly

12:00pm Lunch

2:20pm Christmas Entertainments provided by the Sixth Form.

Students are being encouraged to 'bring a tin to get it' instead of paying the usual £1 for non-uniform and donations to watch the Christmas Entertainments. Food will be donated to local charities and food banks.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas and I look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr P Jennings**  
Head teacher