

Harrow Way Newsletter

Community School

www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk



Head's Corner

The spring term has been a very busy one with a wide range of activities taking place including the wonderful BTEC dance production of Peter Pan, an inspirational Year 8 Tudor Day, residential trips to Osmington Bay, New York, and the skiing trip to La Plagne, as well as a full programme of boys' and girls' sporting fixtures, including our very first full contact girls' rugby game. Our Year 8 boys' football team has repeated last year's achievement by getting to the final of the County Cup. Fingers crossed!

As I write this article, our Performing Arts department are preparing for this year's whole school musical, the gangster comedy, Buggy Malone, starring 96 students from the school's Performing Arts Department and the School Drama Club.

We were delighted at the very good attendance at our new subject-based consultation evenings. Parents I spoke to and who completed the online survey on the iPads welcomed the engagement with staff and the advice they received from teachers.

I was very pleased to learn recently that we will be welcoming a full year group into Year 7 for September 2014. I am delighted that Harrow Way continues to be the first choice for the majority of families in our area. We are constantly seeking to improve our school further, and have recently received a very positive report from the Local Authority about our work.

On the 24th March we were visited by our LLP (Leadership and Learning Partner) from the Local Authority – Mrs Jean Thorpe. The purpose of the annual visit was to moderate and ratify the school's self-evaluation process. The programme for the day included: Learning Walks; Analysis of Data; Student Progress; Provision for Vulnerable Students and Interviews with staff and students. It was, as you can imagine, an information-intensive day but extremely worthwhile and it was pleasing to hear her positive comments about the school.

Our Year 11 students have been working extremely hard in preparation for their forthcoming examinations, and the Easter holiday is time for them to put the finishing touches to their revision

programmes as we enter the final run-in to the examinations, which begin in earnest on Thursday 8th May. On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to wish our Year 11 students all the very best.

The Year 9 and 10 girls from Harrow Way took on the might of Kings' School from Winchester earlier in the month in what was their first ever full contact rugby match! Having spent the past few months preparing for this, the girls approached the match itself with a great deal of optimism and positivity.

This term we have been privileged to have Lou Richie, education officer at the Hawk Conservancy Trust, come in and take our House assemblies. To each House Lou did a presentation on the bird of prey which represents their house name: Kestrels, Buzzards and Hawks. Unfortunately the Trust could not bring any of the House birds into school, but they were able to bring in a young male Barn Owl and a Tawny Owl named Troy.

At Harrow Way we take pride in our high values regarding student uniform in order to maintain good standards of dress and personal appearance which are sensible and appropriate for students at secondary school. Our school uniform policy is outlined in the student diary. This avoids inequalities of dress and extremes of fashion which are often quite unsuitable for work at school.

We believe it is important that students understand the importance of dressing suitably for school, which helps to establish a sense of community and encourage a positive working atmosphere. Students who do not follow uniform guidelines are given an opportunity to make the changes within a reasonable time frame.

Please take the opportunity, over the Easter holiday, to ensure that your son/ daughter's uniform meets the standards described in the uniform pages of the student diary. In particular, please note that the wearing of leggings, jeans-style or very tight-fitting trousers is not acceptable. Please remember that nail varnish is not permitted. Hooded tops and sweatshirts are not part of the uniform and will be confiscated for

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the day if worn in school. Students are not permitted, for health and safety reasons, to wear jewellery other than one pair of small stud earrings. We are currently putting a comprehensive guide to uniform together for parents which will be available before the end of the Summer Term.

Every year we undertake an evaluation of our performance, acknowledging our successes and also identifying the areas that we need to improve.

Parental input is essential if the process is going to be truly meaningful and the evidence we collect helps to determine the priorities for the year ahead and the longer term. The information we receive from the questionnaires will be fed back to you via the school newsletter and will be discussed at Staff Meetings and Governors Committee Meetings to form the basis of the next School Improvement Plan. The Questionnaire can be found by following this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/95QV29Q>.

The National Citizen Service (NCS), the government backed youth citizenship programme, has selected Harrow Way Community School to be one of their Champion Schools for 2014. As a Champion School, Harrow Way fully embraces the NCS into their ethos. Year 11 students can join the programme which has been designed to help young people build skills for work and life, take on new challenges and meet new friends.

As you will be aware from previous communications the Government has amended key legislation relating specifically to the authorisation of leave in term time. The amendments came into force on 1 September 2013. These changes are as a result of the Education Regulations 2013. This amendment makes significant changes to the existing regulations in place since 2006.

Schools were allowed to grant students a leave of absence of up to 10 days for a family holiday in "special circumstances" and for more than 10 school days in "exceptional circumstances" during term time. From 1 September, Headteachers in any school are not able to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are "exceptional circumstances" and this cannot be over 10 days. "Exceptional circumstances" might include such circumstances as the funeral or wedding of a close relative or representing school at county or national level. Taking students out of school for the purpose of holidays will no longer be acceptable and will not be authorised.

I hope all parents and carers will understand the limitations placed on the school in granting leave in term time. If parents and carers choose to take their children out of school without permission the new legislation may result in the potential issuing of fines under a penalty notice.

Staffing

Mrs Gemma Clark, one of our LSAs has left us recently, and this week we are also saying farewell to Louise Caulfield, our Librarian, who is moving to start a new life and business in Somerset. We are also saying goodbye to Kate Pырzynska in Science and I would like to thank her for her commitment to the school over the last two terms.

Mrs Emma Brown is currently on maternity leave, and her SENCO role is being undertaken by Mrs Pat Dale. This week we have welcomed back Mrs Karen Winnett from maternity leave.

After the Easter break we will be welcoming Sara Beynon-Thomas as a Teacher of Science. We have also interviewed for Curriculum Leaders for Art, Dance and PE and have appointed Mrs Chrissy Collins, Miss Lyndsey Walker and Mr Richard Peters respectively.

Role of the Senior Leadership Team

At the start of the academic year I looked at the roles and responsibilities of the Senior Leadership Team, and I would like to share with you their strategic responsibilities:

Mark Warren – Deputy Headteacher – Quality of Provision and School Effectiveness

Tony Parsons – Deputy Headteacher – Systems and Operations

Graeme Fluellen – Assistant Headteacher – Data, Tracking and Intervention

Caroline Lowing – Assistant Headteacher – Teaching & Learning and Professional Development

Katy Woods – Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion

We are looking forward to the summer term with lots more exciting opportunities and successes for our students and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. It now remains for me to wish you all a restful and peaceful Easter break.



M J Serridge
Headteacher - April 2014

CALENDAR DATES

APRIL to SEPTEMBER '14

Thu 3 April	Bugsy Malone Public Performance Blood Brothers trip 12 noon >7.30pm, Watford
Fri 4 April	Last day of spring term Bugsy Malone Public Performance
EASTER HOLIDAY - MON 7 APRIL - MON 21 APRIL 2014 inclusive	
Tues 22 April	First day of summer term
Tue 22 Apr	Year 10 Exams - Week 1
Wed 23 Apr	Year 8 Hawk Conservancy trip - Science 1
Mon 28 Apr	Year 10 Exams - Week 2 Year 10 Photography exam/Winton Day 1
Tue 29 Apr	Year 10 BTEC & GCSE Art exam all day Year 10 Photography exam/Winton Day 2
Tue 29 Apr	Year 8 Curriculum Evening - 6.30 > 8.40 pm
30/04 & 01/05	Year 8 students and parents' appointments with senior managers for curriculum choices (10 minute scheduled appointments)
Thurs 1 May	UK Maths Challenge 7x1, 7y1, 8x1, 8y2
Mon 5 May	May Bank Holiday
Tue 6 May	INSET DAY 5
Tue 6 May	10>11.30 am Year 2 Tri Golf Festival 1.15>2.55 pm Years 3 & 4 Tri Golf Festival
Wed 7 May	Year 8 Girls' HPV 3
Thurs 8 May	GCSEs begin
Mon 12 May	Year 10 CiDA (IT) exam 9am - 11.30
Wed 14 May	Parent Forum
Thurs 15 May	Year 11 BTEC Drama Controlled Assessment
w/c 19 May	Maths Assessment Week all years during lessons
Tue 20 May	Year 10 GCSE English Literature Paper 1 - a.m.
Thurs 22 May	Year 10 GCSE English Literature Paper 2 - p.m.
Thurs 22 May	European Elections - S8 in use all day
HALF TERM MONDAY 26 MAY - FRIDAY 30 MAY 2014 inclusive	
Mon 9 June	Geography Year 8 trip - Kew Gardens
Tues 10 June	AEGON Tennis Yr9- KLW
Wed 11 June	12.45pm BCoT Fashion Show x 15 students
16 > 20 June	Year 8 trip to Calshot

Fri 20 June	Years 8 & 9 Progress Reviews home
Fri 20 June	Year 7 History trip to Old Wardour Castle
Tues 24 June	Last day of GCSEs
24, 25, 26 June	Year 11 Ballroom Dancing
Fri 27 June	Years 7 & 10 - Reports home
Fri 27 June	Peer Educators at EXC ² ITE Conference 2014
Fri 27 June	Year 11 Leavers' Buffet/Dance
Mon 30 June	Ghana trip Years 10 & 11 (returns 9/7/14)
Tues 1 July	Induction Day/Induction Evening/Uniform Sales to new intake until 7.30 pm
Wed 2 July	Sports Day
Thurs 3 July	Year 10 Krakow trip departs (returns 5/7/14)
Mon 7 July	Years 7 & 8 Presentation Evening
7 > 11 July	Maths Assessment Week - all years
Tues 8 July	Year 5 Activity Day 1 Year 9 BTEC Drama Show Year 10 Andover College Taster Day
Wed 9 July	Year 10 Enterprise Day 1 Year 5 Activity Day 2 Year 5 Activity Evening
Thurs 10 July	Enigmas Machine & Workshop - Maths x 15 students
Thurs 10 July	1.15 > 2.50 pm Year 2/3 Skills4Life Festival
Fri 11 July	Year 10 Enterprise Day 2
Mon 14 July	Years 9 & 10 Presentation Evening
Tues 15 July	Year 10 BTEC Drama Show
Weds 16 July	Year 9 Enterprise Day 1 1.15.> 2.50 pm Year 1 Skills4Life Festival
Thurs 17 July	Year 9 G&T Science trip - Marwell
Thurs 17 July	Year 10 Travel & Tourism controlled assessment trip
Fri 18 July	Year 9 Enterprise Day 2 Performing Arts Event in the evening - Auditorium
Wed 23 July	Year 7 Big Literacy Quiz a.m.
Wed 23 July	School closes at 1.30 pm for students
SUMMER HOLIDAY 24 July - 2 September 2014 inclusive	

☰ GCSE RESULTS ☰

GCSE results will be available from the school on **Thurs 21 August 2014 between 10 am and 12 midday**. If you do not intend to come to school that day to pick up your result slips, a stamped, addressed envelope should be left with Mrs Cook in the uniform office.

All remaining result slips will be held at the school for collection at the beginning of the September term.

These result slips are often requested by admissions officers for Further Education courses.

YEARS 10 & 11 GCSE TIMETABLES

All Year 10 & 11 students have received a final personalised copy of their GCSE timetable.

If you require further information about forthcoming GCSE exam dates, please see Mr Parsons or Mrs Cook.

A copy of the main timetable and the Year 10 Mock Examinations timetable can be viewed on the website/VLE via the Letters Home link.



WANTED – PARENT GOVERNORS

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. This is an exciting opportunity to make a real contribution to our very successful and rapidly growing school community.

We are seeking someone who fits the following description:

- Currently has a child or children in our School
- Has an open and enquiring mind
- Shows a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- Is able to work well with others
- Is interested in education generally and our School in particular
- Has a desire to play a part in improving our School
- Is willing to give about 10 - 20 hours per term to attend meetings and training (both usually in the evenings)

If you match the above description, you could be the very person to become a Parent Governor. Everyone has something to offer and we want people from as many backgrounds and interests as possible.

REWARD

In return we can offer:

- An insight into the wider perspective of the School through long-term planning
- A chance to develop skills in strategic management
- The opportunity to work with the team of Governors and staff in improving our School
- Training to develop an understanding of specific school management issues
- The support and assistance of local and county staff
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our School
- The pleasure of seeing children learning

The governing body of our School is responsible for:

- Ensuring that students receive high quality education and that the conduct of the School reflects this aim
- Working with the Headteacher on the strategic planning and management of the School
- Considering and agreeing the aims and policies of the School
- Discussing and approving the targets for improvement
- Appointing the staff
- Setting and monitoring the budget
- Monitoring the performance of the School
- Reporting to the Parents and Community on how we have accomplished our tasks

IF YOU WISH TO PUT YOURSELF FORWARD, PLEASE SEND YOUR NOMINATION IN WRITING BY WEDNESDAY, 7th APRIL 2014 TO:

MISS JULIA FITZPATRICK,
CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS,
C/O HARROW WAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
(or email: julia.fitzpatrick@harrowway.hants.sch.uk)

Thank you.

www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk

Don't forget to visit the website for all the performing arts news, sports and trip reports, recent events, letters home, exam information and much more.

If you can't find what you're looking for, please do not hesitate to contact the school, who will put you in touch with someone who can help provide the relevant information.

Important Information for Year 8 Parents

On Thursday 24th April your child will be bringing his/her copy of the Curriculum Booklet home. Please go through this important document with your child before coming to our Year 8 Curriculum Evening on **Tuesday 29th April at 6.30 pm**. You will also be given an appointment with a senior member of staff for **Wednesday 30th April** or **Thursday 1st May to discuss your child's subject choices**.

Please do make every effort to attend your appointment with your child. However, if you cannot be there, please ensure that your child still meets the member of staff at the appointed time for further guidance.

UNIFORM SALES (including to new intake)

School jackets, ties, sports tops & shorts, scarves, cooking aprons and other sundries can be purchased from the school between 9.00am and 3.45pm term time only.

Please pick up an order form from the office or visit the website/School Information/Uniform to download a copy.

New Intake Uniform Shop

Tuesday 1st July 2014 (Induction Day):

we will be open between 2.30 pm – 7.30 pm

The above sales event will take place in the school library.

The correct school uniform should be worn at all times, including on the way to and from school.