



## Head's Corner - Spring 2015

The spring term has been a very busy one with a wide range of activities taking place including: the Enterprise Group in the regional final of the Coca-Cola Enterprises competition; RRR Internet Safety Conference; a successful Ski Trip; The Blue Fusion Competition, World Book day, The Jungle Book Dance Show; Hampshire Road Safety Roadshow to Years 7/8/9; the H Factor singing contest and of course the Eclipse Watch; also a full programme of boys and girls sporting fixtures including a Junior Boys Hockey tournament and the Leadership Academy running a range of junior school events.

### School Musical

The Musical 'Into the Woods' has just concluded, involving 100 of our students and has been a great success. It was very well attended and I would like to thank Mr Manson, Mr Sedgwick and Miss Walker, who put in an enormous amount of effort and time rehearsing, to make it all possible. I would also like to thank you, the parents, for your support. 'Into the Woods' is a modern twist on the beloved Brothers Grimm fairy tales in a musical format that follows the classic tales of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Rapunzel – all tied together by an original story involving a baker and his wife, their wish to begin a family and their interaction with the witch who has put a curse on them.

### Top 50 Most Improved School in England!

We were very pleased to have received the letter from David Laws MP, Minister of State for Schools, congratulating Harrow Way on our exam results improvement. We were identified as one of the top 50 most improved schools in England for our GCSE performance of 5+A\*- C in English and Maths. The school has certainly made very good progress in the last 3 years. All of our students, staff, and governors have worked very hard to achieve these results and should be deservedly proud. The school is determined to build on its successes and we continue to work to ensure that every student achieves their own successful outcomes from their time spent here.

According to a Government report published this month schools are still not doing enough to ensure the most able students fulfil their potential. I am pleased to report

that Harrow Way is bucking this trend, with news that 100% of our students who achieved a Level 5 or higher in their primary school Year 6 English SATS tests, went on to achieve expected or higher GCSE results. This places Harrow Way 1st in the league table for Hampshire and against similar schools nationally.

### Leadership and Learning Partner Visit

On the 24<sup>th</sup> 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. During the visit an extended discussion was held with me to discuss the school's internal data, a learning walk was carried out to view the school in session including a Year 11 assembly, and then further discussions took place with inclusion staff and Mrs Pearce (Deputy Head). Mrs Thorpe commented in her report: "The school has very robust and ongoing processes to ensure that whole-school evaluation takes place regularly and that all staff are clear about the ongoing priorities and areas of focus. The school's culture of seeking to self-improve and in being committed to regular cycles of review means that there is a clear sense of direction from the most senior leaders, which is underpinned by a clear articulation of the school's vision".

### Parent Survey

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 longer term. After Easter we will be asking parents to complete our annual questionnaire. As last year 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.

### Harrow Way designated as a Computing At School "Lead School" and Expert Centre for "Global Learning"

Harrow Way Community School is the first school in

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Andover to be designated a Lead School by CAS (Computing at School), a nationally recognised organisation for the management, delivery and support of Computing in the UK. The award reflects the expertise and commitment Harrow Way has to Computing and Computer Science. Harrow Way will take a lead for Computing and Computer Studies in the area, cascading good practice and experience.

Harrow Way has also been designated an Expert Centre for the [Global Learning Programme](#). Global Learning Programme (GLP) Expert Centres are schools that have a passion and expertise for global learning and whole-school development, together with strong CPD capability. As well as exemplifying global learning in their own school, the main role of an Expert Centre is to build a local network of like-minded schools, and work with these colleagues to drive global learning across the curriculum, share best practice and host half-termly twilight CPD sessions.

### **Year 10 and Year 11 Easter School Revision Camp**

Our Year 11 students will soon be taking their GCSE examinations, leaving Harrow Way and moving on to college, training or work. They have been an excellent year group and have made a huge contribution to our school. I hope they all work hard over the remaining few months and achieve their potential in the summer. Year 10 will also be sitting their English Literature.

This year we are also putting on an Easter School Revision Camp on Wednesday 15th, Thursday 16th and Friday 17th April 2015 from 9 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. each day. We hope as many students as possible will sign up to this excellent opportunity. During the camp we will offer a structured programme of revision sessions to support students of all abilities across several subjects.

### **New Intake**

I was very pleased to learn recently that we will be welcoming a full year group into Year 7 for September 2015. I am delighted that Harrow Way continues to be the first choice for families in our area. We currently have a waiting list of 22!

### **Attendance**

In response to the changes in school attendance law Hampshire County Council has reviewed its 'Code of Conduct'. This code sets out for all schools what actions must be taken for any child with 10 or more sessions (**5 days**) of unauthorised absence from September 2015. They are very clear in the code of conduct that, where a child or family requires support to achieve attendance rates above 90%, this is the

first priority for schools. They are also clear that where parent/carers choose to ignore the law and are complicit in their child's absence then all schools in the Local Authority must take legal action through a penalty notice fine or prosecution in court

### **Uniform**

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.

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 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.

### **Staffing**

#### New Staff

After Easter we are welcoming David Cade as Curriculum Leader for D&T and Chloe Vandebussche as Teacher in English for the Summer Term. Our new Librarian, Hayley Myers took up her post after the Spring half-term break.

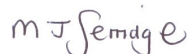
#### Change of Role

We are pleased to congratulate Euan Manson on being appointed Head of Kestrel House and Lyndsey Walker on her appointment as Year Leader for Year 8. Kerry Holton is now Curriculum Leader for PSHE and Health & Social Care. Following Miss Walker's appointment, Jen Campbell-Wilson will be the new Tutor for 7LW and David Cade will take on Mr Twigg's Tutor Group 9DT.

#### Leavers

Fay Fisher and Jane Amos left us at the beginning of the Spring Term, and we are saying goodbye to Rachel Walvin, David Twigg and Gary Holman at the end of this term. We wish them well in their future roles.

Finally, I hope your child has enjoyed this term and, on behalf of all the school staff, I hope that you and your families enjoy a pleasant Easter break with perhaps just a little bit of sunshine!



Michael Serridge  
Headteacher - April 2015

# CALENDAR DATES

## April to September 2015

Thu 2 Apr	House Fancy Dress Disco	Wed 24 Jun	Last timetabled GCSE exam <b>INSET DAY 5</b>
Fri 3 Apr	Good Friday - School Closed	Fri 26 Jun	Years 7 and 10 Reports home
15/16/17 Apr	Easter Revision Camp - Years 10 & 11	Fri 26 Jun	Year 11 Leavers' Buffet/Dance
Friday 3 April to Friday 17 April <b>Easter Holiday</b> inclusive		Tue 30 Jun	Induction Day and Induction Evening
w/c 20 Apr	Year 10 Exams (week 2)	Wed 1 Jul	Careers Fair/Enterprise Day (Yr 10) TBC
Mon 27 Apr	Year 8 Curriculum Evening 6.30-8.40pm	Wed 1 Jul	Performing Arts Festival 7 pm
29/30 Apr	Year 8 Parent/Senior Management appointments for Curriculum Choices	2-5 Jul	Year 10 trip to Krakow
Thu 30 Apr	UK Maths Challenge for 7x1, 7y1, 8x1, 8y1	Fri 3 Jul	Sports Day (Reserve date 17 July)
Fri 1 May	Year 8 girls HPV 2	w/c 6 Jul	Maths Assessment Week
Mon 4 May	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	Mon 6 Jul	Years 7 & 8 Presentation Evening
Tue 5 May	Year 11 GCSEs commence - finishing 24/06/15	Tue 7 Jul	Year 5 Activity Day 1
Thu 7 May	Jack the Ripper London visit (50 x Yr 10 History students)	Tue 7 Jul	Year 9 Drama and Dance Show
Mon 11 May	Year 7 Parents' Evening	Tue 7 Jul	Year 10 Andover College Taster Day
w/c 18 May	Maths Assessment Week	Wed 8 Jul	Year 5 Activity Day 2
<b>HALF TERM MONDAY</b> 25 MAY - FRIDAY 29 MAY 2015 inclusive		Thu 9 Jul	Year 10 Drama and Dance Showcase
Wed 3 Jun	All day - Bath University (15 x Y10 PE students)	Mon 13 Jul	Years 9 and 10 Presentation Evening
w/c 8 Jun	Year 8 Exam week	Wed 15 Jul	Music - Summer Concert
Tue 9 Jun	District Athletics Year 9/10 (40 x students, all day)	Mon 20 Jul	Activity Day 1 - All years
w/c 15 Jun	Year 8 Calshot trip	Tue 21 Jul	Activity Day 2 - All years
Tue 16 Jun	AEGON Tennis trip	Tue 21 Jul	Year 8 Maths Day (Magic Show)
Fri 19 Jun	Years 8 and 9 Summer Progress Review home	Wed 22 Jul	Last Day of Summer Term - <b>School closes 1.30pm</b>
w/c 22 Jun	Year 10 GCSE Catering Practicals this week	<b>SUMMER HOLIDAY</b> 24 July - 1 September 2015 inclusive	
		20 Aug 2015	GCSE Exam Results 10am>Midday Years 10&11 in Auditorium
		26 Oct 2015	Football Tour, Spain
		11 Nov 2015	Ypres Visit
		30 Jan 2016	Ski Trip

### GCSE RESULTS

GCSE results will be available from the school on **Thurs 20 August 2015 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 Exams 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 Mrs Cook.

**A copy of the main timetable Examinations timetable can be viewed on the website/VLE via the Letters Home link.**

## Important Information for Year 8 Parents

Please be aware that you will be invited to the Year 8 Curriculum Evening on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30 pm** where you will be given information about the three-year Key Stage 4 curriculum structure. Your child will begin Key Stage 4 as he/she enters Year 9 in September 2015.

You will also be given an appointment with a senior member of staff for either **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>** or **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April to discuss your child's subject choices** so it is important that you make every effort to attend your appointment with your child.

## 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 9.00 am and 3.45 pm 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 30th June 2015  
(Induction Day):**

we will be open between **2.30 pm – 7.30 pm**

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

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

## SCHOOL'S EMAIL ALERT SYSTEM

If you have not received email alerts or notifications from us, this means that we do not have your email address on record.

### **Please send an email to**

**adminoffice@harrowway.hants.sch.uk**

with your child's name in the subject line and we will add you to our mailing list.

## **CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES**

It is most important that any change of mobile or landline number, or home address is reported to the school. Please ensure you notify the School Office as soon as possible of any changes to your contact details, particularly daytime telephone numbers, so that we are able to get in touch if the need arises.

## **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.

## Are you aware that you may use credit or debit cards, via our on-line payments system, at no additional cost?



### The online payments system enables parents to:

- Add funds to 'Cashless Catering' accounts, which can then be spent at the school canteen
- Check the current balance of their children's 'Cashless Catering' account and view a history of their purchases
- Pay for school trips
- Order and pay for miscellaneous items available through the school, such as uniform, text books and revision guides

There is the added security that cash does not get lost or spent elsewhere and you don't have to hunt around for that elusive cheque book.

We would appreciate your support in reducing the amount of cash that students bring to school and ask that if you haven't already done so you sign up for on-line payments: <http://www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk/parents/payments>

The Finance Office staff are available to answer questions and can help guide you through the set up procedure.

## THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL



If mobile phones are brought in to school they are the responsibility of the student. **They must remain out of sight and switched off during school hours, including break and lunch time.**

Communication between parents and students must be via the student receptionist.

If a student is found using their mobile phone for any reason other than a legitimate educational one (e.g. ICT) the phone will be handed to the member of staff teaching the lesson. That member of staff will then lock it away in a safe place in the classroom until such a time that the phone can be handed to Mrs Burton. A sticky label will then be issued to the student to place in their student diary informing parent/s that the phone has been confiscated that day.

At that point, the phone will be placed in an envelope with the student's name and tutor group written on the front, and locked away. The parent is then responsible for collecting the phone at the end of the school day. Parents should not be invited to collect the phone until 3:00pm.

Repeated misuse of a mobile phone will be reported to a senior manager and a range of suitable sanctions will be enforced, including a ban on bringing a mobile phone in to school (and a letter will be sent to the parents from the Headteacher).