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I am now approaching the end of my fifth year as Headteacher of Harrow Way. I have no idea where the time has gone, but it has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I would like to thank the staff, students, governors and parents for all their support throughout the year. I mentioned to the parents of our new intake that they have entrusted us with one of the most important and rewarding jobs in the world – that of the education and welfare of their children. At Harrow Way we take this responsibility very seriously and I thanked them for trusting us.

**Head's Corner** 

#### Head's Corner continued...



One of the highlights this year has been our Ofsted Inspection. This was a one-day inspection to check if

the school was still 'good'. Governors and staff were really pleased with the outcome which agrees that the school continues to be 'good' with the inspectors giving high praise in a number of areas. You can read the full article on page 4.

#### **Summer Term**

The summer term has been an enormously busy time for the school. As often happens during the summer months, we have many different trips and visits, including residentials. Over this year there have been 73 different trips!



We have had a wide range of activities taking place including sports competitions, Music, Dance and Drama productions. We've had House challenges such as the photography and writing competitions, national initiatives such as The UK Maths Challenge, and our own general election. The website and Twitter feed is testament to the variety of experiences we offer to our students.



#### September 2017

We will be welcoming 210 students to Harrow Way next term and currently have a waiting list for Years 7, 8 and 9!

I am delighted that Harrow Way continues to be the first choice for families in our area.

# Uniform and Conduct

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 summer 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. Skirts should be of a length conforming to decency and not made of Lycra or similar. Please remember that nail varnish is not permitted. Students are not permitted, for health and safety reasons, to wear jewellery other than one pair of small stud earrings.

# Harrow Way Guarantee Graduation

We have also held our first Year 8 Harrow Way Guarantee Graduation this term. This is offered to students early in Year 7 and over the following 18 months gives them an opportunity to develop into well-rounded citizens of the future

Year 7, 9 and 10 Presentation Evenings have also taken place giving us an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of students. The full article is on page 5 of this newsletter.

#### High Praise

I was particularly gratified recently to receive two commendations from members of the public who took time to let us know how much a credit to the school and themselves our children are. One called in after seeing how a group of boys gave up their seats on a crowded, hot and delayed train and a visitor to the school was very impressed by the courtesy extended to her by students during her visit.

#### **Work Experience**

A large group of our Year 10 students have undertaken a week of work experience in many different locations in and around Andover. School staff visited each workplace and talked to students and their employers. We have had great feedback from the placements and hope that the experience has helped our Year 10 students plan for their future employment.

Our thanks to Abbi Loader, Guest Editor for this issue, on Year 10 work experience.

#### Harrow Way 50th Anniversary



We have spent time celebrating our school's 50th Anniversary this term.
Years 7-9 have discovered what the 60's looked, sounded and tasted like during a day's activities. This was followed by a Summer Fete and a Coffee Morning open to former students, former staff and the general public. A special 50th Birthday newsletter has been produced and a FaceBook page set up for alumni contributions.

#### **Staffing**

I was particularly pleased Ofsted made reference to the high quality teaching and support staff at Harrow Way

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You have appointed highly experienced specialist teachers and support staff. Teachers feel valued, trusted and very well supported.



#### **Prefects**

Last term we appointed our new prefects and senior prefects. From a very competitive field we have appointed Paige Bradbury and Ollie Smith to the posts of Head Girl and Head Boy respectively with Abbi Loader and Ethan Ingley as their deputies.

#### A fond farewell

Mr Mark Warren, Deputy Headteacher will be retiring after 31 years' stunning service to the school. He started at Harrow Way in April 1986 and over the past 31 years has positively influenced many students, past and present as a Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages, Head of Department and Deputy Headteacher. Mr Warren also stepped in as Acting Headteacher for a year during Charlie Currie's secondment. Mr Warren's



undoubted experience and expertise has been a significant factor in Harrow Way's success and I could not ask for a more dedicated and committed Deputy Headteacher and colleague.

#### **Awards**

We were very proud to receive two awards this term. We are the first school in Hampshire to receive the Big Award by the Bullying Intervention Group (write up on page 5) and our Computing at School Award has recently been revalidated and both Mrs Robertson and Mr Peebles are accredited Master Teachers in the subject.

## COMPUTING AT SCHOOL EDUCATE · ENGAGE · ENCOURAGE

# We would like to wish every success to staff moving to pastures new:

Mrs Callie Essop is leaving her post of Head of Humanities to move with her family to Malaysia. We would like to thank her for her commitment to the school, both in the classroom and in the many extra-curricular activities she has organised, including the Year 11 Prom.

Miss Vicky Herbert, Teacher of Film & Media and English is moving to a promoted post. Mr Matthew Smyth, Teacher of Mathematics is also moving to a promoted post.

Mlle Majdeline Bousarghin, Teacher of MFL is moving to Malaysia to take up a teaching post. Miss Lily Bull, Teacher of Art is taking up a promoted post and Mr Thomas Woods, Teacher of Geography is leaving to work in the Environmental Agency. We would also like to thank David Aves, Teacher of MFL for his work covering maternity absence.

We are also wishing Mrs Kathy Barnes, our Careers Advisor, a happy retirement. She has given careers advice over the last 20 years to our students via the Local Authority Careers Services, Connexions and latterly working directly for us.

Mrs Val Lush is also retiring after 9 years as a Teaching Assistant. She has worked mainly with our Year 7 groups and will be greatly missed.

#### A warm welcome

We have increased staffing due to numbers on roll and have been fortunate to make some wonderful appointments for September. We look forward to welcoming to Harrow Way:

Miss Tasmin Fowler, Teacher of Art; Miss Nadine Bolt, Teacher of English; Miss Chloe Smith, Teacher of English; Mrs Sarah Swanton, Teacher of History; Mrs Katie Shaw, Teacher of Geography; Mr James Massiah, Teacher of Maths; Mrs Elizabeth Humphrey, Teacher of History; Mrs Helen Bain, Teacher of English; Mrs Julia Phillips, Acting Curriculum Leader & Teacher of MFL; Mrs Julia Hill, Teacher of MFL; Ms Carol Allen, Careers Advisor; Mr David Marrs who will be continuing with us next year as Teacher of ICT, Maths and Science and Mrs Katy Woods will be returning to us as Assistant Headteacher.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable summer break

Mr Serridge, Headteacher



Once again we wowed the Ofsted inspectors following a short inspection in March with the official findings published in May. The inspectors provided Harrow Way with a glowing report declaring us a 'good' school with a number of areas receiving high praise.

Commenting on the report Mr Serridge said: "We are very proud to receive this recognition from Ofsted who last inspected the school in 2013. The report is full of very positive comments about the leadership team, teaching, safeguarding and the general culture here at Harrow Way. The inspectors recognised the hard work and commitment of the entire team which ensures we continue to provide our students with a first class secondary education".

#### Strong Leadership

The report praised Mr Serridge, our teachers and staff saying: "The Headteacher is determined to improve standards in the school and has created and shared plans to do so. Teachers feel valued, trusted and very well supported and these committed and hardworking staff are recognised by parents as 'always going the extra mile and beyond' for pupils".

#### Praise from parents

The inspectors noted that our school was calm and purposeful with both teachers and students proud to be part of the school community with parents reporting that their children were happy and appreciated the ease of communication with staff. Parents

also acknowledge how they work in partnership with the school and that problems are solved quickly and effectively. One parent echoed the views of others describing a:

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dedicated group of staff
led by an exceptional
Headteacher.

#### Safe Culture

With safeguarding a top priority we were delighted that the inspectors praised the school for developing a culture of safeguarding which is recognised by staff, parents and most students. Importantly students know that poor behaviour will not be tolerated with the majority confident that, should it occur, bullying will be dealt with effectively.

#### **Great Teachers**

Finally our teachers were put under the spotlight and of course shone with Ofsted saying "teachers know their pupils individually and use a wide range of specific strategies to extend their learning, Teachers have high expectations of pupils to work hard and achieve the best they can and pupils appreciate that teachers make lessons enjoyable and plan work to challenge all in the class".



So we come to the end of a long and warm term. Year 9 have once again impressed me as they continue to grow in maturity to face their educational challenges.

Over the last two weeks, the Year 9s have faced exams in every one of their chosen subjects. In many ways their program of assessment was more intense than the GCSEs sat by Year 11 as it was condensed into less than two weeks. I have been very proud of the attitude shown, both in terms of revision completed and how students comported themselves for the exams.

We have also had plenty of other events going on and I was pleased to see how many Year 9 pupils represented the school brilliantly at our District Athletics competition. I was lucky enough to see a selection of our musical talent at the brilliant H-Factor competition as well and I really look forward to seeing more of Year 9s brilliance in the Performing Arts showcase events.

We are all set for Year 10, with all options chosen and looking forward to welcoming a very familiar face joining the year team from September!

I am looking forward to seeing how this amazing group of young adults finishes their school journey.

Mr Reed, Head of Year 9



Following the launch of the Harrow Way Guarantee 18 months ago we now have our first ever Guarantee graduates! Year 8 students were joined by proud parents to celebrate their achievements and recognise the hard work they have all put in to be better citizens and more rounded individuals.

A highlight of the Guarantee has been the partnership with Icknield School. Each term we have collectively held a big event from the Christmas Fair in December, a sponsored obstacle race during the spring term and a joint cake sale in June. Students have also regularly attended Icknield, and vice versa, for numerous activities such as art classes, assemblies, the production

of a news magazine and drama and dance shows.

Deputy Headteacher Mr Warren, who introduced the scheme in October 2016, said: "The Guarantee has been designed to make better citizens of our students and to encourage them to broaden their horizons. I am delighted with the success of these first Guarantee graduates who have exceeded my expectations in their commitment to the scheme".

On the evening 84 students were awarded a Pass, 31 a Merit and 24 graduated with Honours. They all received a certificate and a badge to wear on their blazer.

#### Harrow Way is first school in Hampshire to receive the BIG anti-bullying Award

The school's excellence in challenging bullying has been recognised and endorsed by the national anti-bullying group, BIG (Bullying Intervention Group) and we're the first in Hampshire to pick up the much coveted 'Big Award' for exemplary work in bullying intervention.

Commenting on how Harrow Way has a community approach to anti-bullying Headteacher Mr Serridge said: "This goes way beyond having an anti-bullying policy in place. We have successfully demonstrated to the team at BIG that we have a collaborative approach which embraces our entire school and local community.

We have monthly focus groups with representation from our parents and carers, the school's senior leadership team and the student body. We are also very committed to ensuring that there is regular staff training in anti-bullying, equality and diversity and we maintain a supervised peer support scheme.

# Big

It is vital that every child at this school is enabled to fulfil their true educational potential and enjoy their community activities, without fear of being bullied and happy children are successful students.

#### Year 7 push the boundaries of excellence

As we come to the end of another school year it is with great pride that I hand over Year 7 to Mr Carter to take them through the rest of their school career. I know they will continue to thrive under his great leadership.

It's been a busy term for the Year 7s who have engaged enthusiastically in the life of the school in clubs, trips and in the classroom. A particular highlight for me was the sponsored obstacle race which raised £1500 for Icknield School. A number of students also visited the school and were able to join in activities with their students which they felt was a valuable experience and expressed the desire to return again.

We're very proud of the Year 7s who took part in the National Maths Challenge this year with Charlie Holloway and Tommy Ladd achieving the Silver award and Darian Simpson Tarik Kirgin, Edward Davies, Callum Brown, Shaun Scratchley, Charles Nock, and Oliver Romero Taylor all achieving Bronze. Well done to all of them.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Year 7 tutor team for their hard work and dedication in making the year such a success. I am always proud of our students' achievements but this cohort has pushed the boundaries of excellence.

Finally on behalf of Year 7 and myself I would like to wish Mr Warren a happy retirement. He has been key to making Year 7 a successful time for the students and we will all miss him.

Miss Escritt. Head of Year 7



After five memorable years here at Harrow Way we always like to give our Year 11s a good send off. An occasion to celebrate how far they've all come and send them on their way to what we hope is a bright and successful future.

The Leavers' assembly is always an emotional affair and this year didn't

As is now a firm tradition the celebrations were topped off with a balloon launch (please be assured that all materials used can fully biodegrade in the same time as it takes an oak leaf to biodegrade!). At the moment London is the furthest a balloon has reached but we are hoping for further.

"It's a very poignant and symbolic way to mark the end of Year 11s time here at Harrow Way – we are so proud and want to thank them all for their hard work this year" concluded Mr Carter.





Year 11 celebrated their time at Harrow Way in style in beautiful evening dresses and sharp suits for the annual prom. As has become a firm tradition, a flotilla of vehicles including vintage sports cars, Rolls Royce, camper van and even a horse drawn carriage ferried students to the school for their photocall and walk down the red carpet.

The Auditorium was unrecognisable having been transformed by Mrs Essop and Ash May to an enchanted forest, glittering with fairy lights, fresh flowers and woodland themed decorations.

Mrs Essop explains:
"Throughout the year
I worked closely with the
Prom Committee who initially
made a number of suggestions

for the evening's theme and content. We put this to the Year 11 vote and although the Committee and the students were aware of some of what we planned, we like to keep a little of the detail back so they are surprised and indeed 'wowed' on the evening!"

Against a musical backdrop provided by professional singer Chris Bernsten,

students enjoyed a mocktail bar, hog roast, chocolate fountain and sweet cart. While singer Chris was taking a break, Ash and Giles hit the disco decks and former student Sophie Roberts provided a photobooth.

Mrs Essop concludes: "It was a wonderful evening and a very special conclusion to their time here at Harrow Way. It was the perfect way to mark the end of exams and hard work they've all put in this year. We wish them all the very best".





# Students cast their vote in the General Election



As the country hit the polling stations last month, we also gave students the opportunity to cast their vote on which

political party they would like to see in power. It was the policies of the Labour party which won the student body over winning our election with a large majority.

This is the third time the students have been invited to put their 'x' in the box having previously voted in the 2015 General Election and last year's EU referendum.

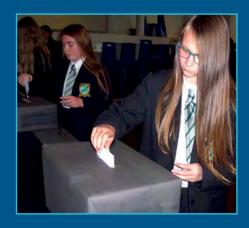
In the build-up to polling day there were special assemblies to introduce the various political parties, their leaders and what they stand for. Students were challenged to think about the issues which

matter to them and to discuss with friends, families and teachers. During tutor time and special assemblies students were encouraged to think for themselves.

Assistant Headteacher Mrs Lowing, who organised the school election explains the importance of engaging the students in politics: "Young voters (aged 18 - 25) are the least likely to vote, with around a third of young people not even registered to vote.

At Harrow Way we passionately believe in political literacy and feel that it is our duty to enable students to be great citizens.

"The school is buzzing with talk of the election and the students are really keen to learn more about politics.



"More importantly they have been really enthusiastic about having their own say and I hope that when they all reach the voting age they continue to take part in the democratic process".



# Emotional letters prove motivational for Year 11



We did something new this year to give our Year 11s that final bit of encouragement and motivation to get them over the GCSE finishing line. We invited parents to write their child a very special letter explaining how proud of them they are and some of our students received similar letters from members of staff.

Mr Carter, Head of Year 11 explains further:

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It was a magical moment when the Year 11s opened their letters during a special assembly held before the first exams

"It was also a very important moment as we wanted the students to realise how supported they are by both parents and teachers but equally how proud everyone is of all their hard work and commitment to their studies. It was wonderful to mark the occasion in such a personal way, and although some students claimed it was a bit 'cringe' we know they really appreciated their letters!"

Needless to say it was a very emotional assembly with tears, homemade cards and lots of embarrassing pictures! We would like to thank all the parents who took part; we truly appreciate your support.





Year 8 students were given a taste of Higher Education following a trip to the University of Winchester this term. The day of lecturers, tours and meeting undergraduates was designed to inspire the students to start considering their future and the role university could play in helping them achieve their ambitions.

Head of Year 8 Miss Atherton commenting on the value of introducing the students to the idea of going to university, said: "Although university is a number of years away for these students it is important that they start to think about their future now. They all thoroughly enjoyed the visit and can now visualise what 'being at university' looks and feels like. We want students to aim high and achieve the best they can and the planning for that starts here, at Harrow Way. They have seen what could await them if they work hard and continue with their studies".

While at the University students took part in a number of sample lectures in Creative Writing, Criminology and Sports Science. Hosted by undergraduates they were given a tour of the University including student accommodation and common areas while also given an insight into the cost of life as a degree student such as rent and course fees.



# **Anniversary** coffee morning

Our 50th archive took centre stage for a special coffee morning held as part

of our anniversary celebrations. Again it was wonderful to see former students and teachers keen to join us to share their memories of Harrow Way. Catherine Upfold, who is currently studying chemistry at the University of Bath, was intrigued to see what had changed since she had left and former PE teacher of 25 years Muriel Holland looked back on how great it was to make a difference to students, with the freedom to educate the whole person.

Commenting at the event Mr Serridge said: "In September 2016 we looked at what we could do to mark our 50th anniversary, coming up with a number of exciting ideas such as this coffee morning, the fete, and the 1960s day alongside a commemorative newsletter and wall graphic. Everyone within the school is enjoying the celebrations and it has been great to meet and hear from past teachers and students".

# Year 8 ready for Year 9 and beyond

It's been a really busy summer term for Year 8 who have enjoyed various trips including the Hawk Conservancy with the Science department, Studland Bay with the Geography department and Winchester University to explore their Higher Education options. They've also managed to fit in an exciting week at Calshot, taking part in a huge range of activities from kayaking to rock climbing, mountain biking to team building.

We held an important Tutor standstill recently which focused on study skills. These top revision techniques proved really useful as they were put into practice with the Year 8 end of year exams. Well done to everyone for all their hard work and commitment to the exams.

We celebrated the end of this term with the Harrow Way Guarantee Graduation (you can read all about this on page 5), recognising the many successes and achievements of the students over the last 18 months. But it was very much with an eye on the future when we held the Year 8 Options **Evening. Students were joined** by their parents and members of the Senior Leadership Team to make their GCSE choices for Year 9 and beyond.

Miss Atherton, Head of Year 8









We rounded off our 50th anniversary year in style with a hugely successful fete where hundreds of former students, teachers, headteachers and members of the local community joined us for a wonderful afternoon of reminiscing and a trip or two down memory lane.

Louise Hoskins, who left Harrow Way in 1998, brought along a whole stash of pictures to share with visitors in the 50th exhibition marquee. Louise, whose mother was one of the very first to join the school in 1967 said: "I had a lovely nostalgic tour of the school and although it's been modernised it still felt very much the same. It was lovely to see Mr Warren, who was my form tutor, and catch up with friends from my year. There were a number of teachers at Harrow Way who were really inspirational and motivational so I look back on my time here very fondly".

There was much to keep visitors busy and entertained with numerous stalls and activities from Squiggles and

Wriggles mobile petting zoo, giant inflatables, fire engine and face painting all set against a wonderful musical backdrop of the Harrow Way choir, the Allstars Band and solo artists Jane Deer, Maddison Douch and Meggie Hurts.

Mrs Essop who pulled the entire event together said:

It was a privilege to be part of the Harrow Way 50 celebrations. It was a really successful day and wonderful to see past, present and even future students coming together for this landmark occasion.







Images by: Stacey Saunders



#### Sports Day

House honours were strongly fought for as students battled on the athletics track, in the field and in rounders, tennis, softball, climbing and the tug of war for the annual sports day.

Competition was close and tough with some excellent performances. Numerous track records tumbled with James McDermott breaking the Year 10 100m's record, Cameron Walker the 200m record and Tash Henry the girls' 200m record. The atmosphere was fantastic throughout the day with the students putting in maximum effort at all





times. Top of the podium was Hawks with Buzzards second and Kestrels third

# Annual District Athletics Competition

Year 9 and 10s did us all proud at the annual District Athletic competition coming a very impressive second. Every student performed their best and we even had some selected for the county competitions. A special mention to the brilliant individual performances made by Dan Fowler and Cameron Walker (Year 10) and Michael Summerfield (Year 9).

#### Sporting highlights



Aquatic talents were put to the test as a squad of Year 7-10 students took part in Andover Schools' Swimming Gala, held at Rookwood's outdoor pool.



A huge well done to the Year 9 tennis superstars who were placed 2nd in the District tennis tournament.



Congratulations to our lower school cricket team for coming 2nd in the District Cricket competition. County player Joshua Banks-Williams captained the team with all performing to a high standard.

# Year 10 step up to the challenges ahead

During the summer term,
Year 10 have been busy preparing
for mock exams, organising their
work experience and becoming
the role models of the school.
The prefect team have stepped
up to the challenge of their duties
with efficiency, supporting
members of the lower school
with peer issues, and
volunteering at whole school
events, demonstrating
professionalism and
commitment throughout.

The year group have watched the Year 11s work through their GCSEs and have realised that in no time at all, it will be them sitting their exams. To this end, they have participated in revision strategies workshops, have started creating revision cards in preparation for next year, and have treated their recent mocks with maturity and dedication beyond their years.

Now that the mock exams are finished, they are starting to consider life after school by visiting Andover College for a day and attending a careers event. In addition to this they all enjoyed a week of work experience, which they successfully secured themselves, in a wide variety of settings; cupcake baking, British Airways, dog grooming and journalism.

### Well done Year 10 - here's to a great final year!

Miss Walker - Head of Year 10

# **Calendar 2017/18**

17/07/2017	Year 9 & 10 Presentation Evening	
19-20 /07/2017	Open Morning Years 4 & 5 (9.30–10.15am)	
19-20 07/2017	Year 10 Performing Arts Showcase 7:00–9:00pm	
20/07/2017	Ardeche/Mimosa trip departs, Years 8, 9, 10, returning 28/07/2017	
21/07/2017	Year 8 Maths Magic Show – in school	
24/07/2017	Year 9 trip to Marwell Zoo	
25/07/2017	Last day of the summer term – school closes at 12.45 pm	
Summer Holida Wednesday 26th	y – 1 July – Friday 1 September 2017 inc.	
04/09/2017	INSET Day 1	
05-6/09/2017	Autumn Term begins New Intake Year 7 students start plus Year 11 Prefects	
07/09/2017	All students return to school	
14/09/2017	Yr 8 Girls HPV 1 Vaccinations	
20/09/2017	School photographer 9am – Years 7 and 10 portraits	
26/09/2017	6.30pm Open Evening	
27-28/09/2017	Open Mornings 9.15–10.30am	
02/10/2017	Year 7 settling in meeting	
Autumn Half Tei	rm – 23–27 October 2017	
23/10/2017	Football tour departs, Barcelona Years 9 & 10	
27/10/2017	Football tour returns	
13/11/2017	Key Stage 4 Presentation Evening for Year 11 leavers Year 11 mocks for English and Maths all week	
14/11/2017	INSET Day 2	
20/11/2017	Autumn Progress Reviews home (Years 7, 8, 9, 10)	
27/11/2017	Year 11 Reports home Year 10 Parents' Evening	
21/12/2017	Last day of the autumn term – school closes at 12.45pm	
Christmas Holiday – Friday 22 December – Wednesday 3 January 2018 inc.		
04/01/2018	Spring term begins	
08/01/2018	Year 11 Parents' Evening	

22/01/2018	Year 9 Parents' Evening	
w/c 29/01/2018	Year 11 mock exams – week 1	
w/c 05/02/2018	Year 11 mock exams – week 2	
Spring Half Term 12–16 February 2018		
12/03/2018	Spring Progress Reviews home (Years 7, 10 & 11) Year 9 Reports home	
14/03/2018	INSET Day 3	
19/03/2018	Year 8 Reports home Year 9 Curriculum Evening	
21-22/03/2018	Year 9 SLT/Parent appointments re. curriculum choices	
29/03/2018	Last day of spring term – school closes at 3.00pm	
Easter Holiday -	- Friday 30 March – Friday 13 April 2018 inc.	
w/c 16/04/2018	Year 10 English exams	
30/04/2018	Year 8 Curriculum Evening	
2-3/05/2018	Year 8 SLT/Parent appointments re. curriculum choices	
07/05/2018	May Day Bank Holiday	
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14/05/2018	GCSEs begin – ending 22/06/18	
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