

23rd July 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

I cannot believe that we have come to the end of another academic year and one in which we saw Hurstmere School celebrate its 75th Jubilee. I hope you enjoy reading all about it in our final Newsletter of the academic year.

I am delighted to welcome our new Year 7 parents to our school community and after a very successful couple of transition days earlier this term, am looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7s and watching their progress as they begin their journey to become 'the best that they can be'.

The Howard Academy Trust

The final stages of the due diligence process are underway and we remain on track for a 1st September 2024 transfer to The Howard Academy Trust or as it is known, T HAT. This is an exciting time for Hurstmere, and my colleagues and I are looking forward to the many opportunities that being part of a strong family of schools brings along with the benefits to our boys. Early in the new academic year there will be an opportunity for you to meet the CEO, Owen McColgan, and I will write further when details have been confirmed.

From September, we will be introducing a new Management Information System, Arbor. Please look out for an email during the summer break for you to set up your account which will provide you with all the information you currently receive through the SIMS parent app. You will also be able to ensure that your son's account is topped up in readiness. All existing funds from WisePay will be transferred over to the new system automatically.

Start of Term Arrangements

The autumn term commences on Thursday 5th September 2024, for Year 7 pupils at 8.25 a.m. and for pupils in Years 8 to 11 at 9.20 a.m.; we will return on a Week A. Year 7 pupils should arrive by 8.20 a.m. via the Main Gate where they will be met by the Year 7 Raising Standards Leader and their Form Tutors. Pupils in Years 8 to 11 should arrive at school for 9.20 a.m. (via the footpath off of Hurst Road) and proceed straight to the playground where they will be met by their Form Tutor for registration. Year 7 pupils will leave school at 2.40 p.m. for the first day only and all other pupils at 2.55 p.m.

Please note that on Thursday 5th September 2024 pupils **should not** ride their bikes into school.



**Hurstmere
School**

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Principal: Lynn Bennett BSc(Hons) MA

Email: info@hurstmere.org.uk

Website: www.hurstmere.org.uk

School Timings

We will be adopting a new format to our school day in September as detailed below.

Monday to Thursday	
Line up	08:25 – 08:30
Tutor Time and PD	08:30 – 09:00
Period 1	09:00 – 09:55
Period 2 including break	09:55 – 11:10
Period 3	11:10 – 12:05
Period 4	12:05 – 13:00
Lunch and PD	13:00 – 14:00
Period 5	14:00 – 14:55
Intervention/Enrichment	14:55pm

Friday	
Line up	08:25 – 08:30
Period 1	08:30 – 09:30
Period 2 including break	09:30 – 10:50
Period 3	10:50 – 11:50
Period 4	11:50 – 12:50
Lunch and Dismissal	12:50 – 13:20*

* For parents who are concerned about their son's supervision on a Friday afternoon due to work commitments, we are happy to accommodate a supervised personal study session by prior arrangement for the forthcoming transition year. Please email info@hurstmere.org.uk if you require this provision for your son no later than Tuesday 3rd September 2024.

Parent Information Evenings

To ensure that you, as parents are informed as to what the year ahead looks like for your son, we will be sharing Parental Information Presentations via our school website and these will go live on Wednesday 18th September 2024 for all year groups.

Parents Evenings

To ensure that you are fully aware of your son's progress, you will receive 3 data reports across the academic year. In addition, we encourage you to attend a parents evening where you can meet your son's teachers. Please note the following dates:

Year 7 Parents Welcome Evening	Thursday 3 rd October 2024
Year 7 Parents Evening	Thursday 24 th April 2025
Year 8 Parents Evening	Thursday 27 th March 2025
Year 9 Parents Evening	Thursday 30 th January 2025
Year 10 Parents Evening	Thursday 7 th November 2024
Year 11 Parents Evening	Thursday 9 th January 2025

Expectations

As we start a new academic year, we wish to make our expectations very clear. Please do take the time to read our comprehensive [Behaviour Expectations](#) document. This outlines all of our expectations to ensure that all of our boys can be the best that they can be in all aspects of their schooling.

Uniform

Please pay particular attention to our uniform expectations including acceptable footwear. Our position has always been very clear in that we are a uniform school and expect all pupils to wear their uniform in full and with pride. Sadly, over the past term we have found it increasingly difficult to uphold these standards due to a lack of parental support. Uniform in schools is far more than about appearance but instrumental in maintaining the ethos of the school. It instils a sense of unity and pride and as parents, your support in assisting us uphold the uniform policy

contributes to the overall discipline and professionalism within the school. Therefore, please be mindful that uniform including footwear is ordered in time for the start of the academic year.

Where there are issues regarding uniform, we do hold a large stock of pre-loved uniform including shoes and new donations are always welcome. Further details can be obtained by contacting the school office.

For clarity, school ties for the coming academic year are as follows: Year 7 Green, Year 8 Black, Year 9 Purple, Year 10 Silver and Year 11 Gold. Pupils who have been awarded their Sports, Science and Music ties are very welcome to wear them.

Staffing Update

As you will be aware there continues to be a recruitment issue across the UK, therefore I am delighted to inform you that despite the challenges in teaching recruitment, we are fully staffed for September.

We will sadly be saying goodbye to, Mme Notton, Mr Brown, Miss Geyevu, Mrs Bussey, Mr Mangal, Mrs Harbery, Mr Hadley-Piggin, Mr Williams and Miss Netherwood and we wish them all the very best for the future as they take on new challenges.

We also say goodbye to Mr Blower, Mr Joyce and Mrs Bakewell who are retiring, and we wish them health and happiness for their new adventure.

We will however be welcoming Dr Goodwin, Ms Woodbine, Ms Green, Ms Groucher, Ms Ramsay, Ms Bent, Ms Ramosova, Mr Winters, Ms Nedelcu, Ms Okri, Ms Munden and Ms Hughes and hope that their time with us at Hurstmere is a fulfilling and rewarding one.

Mr Sturch and Miss Turner have been with us during this academic year and I am delighted that they have taken up permanent positions with us from September and wish them continued success.

As we look forward to the new era ahead of Hurstmere School as we join The Howard Academy Trust in September, I would like to thank all the staff for their continuing hard work and dedication through the year and, on behalf of all the staff, to thank you for your continued support of Hurstmere School.

With my very best wishes for a happy and healthy summer break,



Lynn Bennett
Principal