

**26 September, 2025**

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

**Open Evening**

I was extremely proud to host a large number of visitors last Thursday at our Open Evening. I received a lot of very positive feedback from parents particularly how helpful the student guides were. If you have a child who will be moving to secondary school in September 2026, we still have two open mornings where you can come into school. We held one on Wednesday this week and the parents were very impressed with the behaviour of our students in lessons.

- Tuesday 30th September 9:30am
- Thursday 9th October 9:30am

Click [here](#) to book one of the dates above.

**Sixth Form Biology Talk**

On Thursday 25th September, all Year 12 and 13 Biologists took part in a seminar where one of our former students, Molly Dorricott presented her summer research project called iGem. Molly is in her second year, studying Natural Sciences at Cambridge University. She and her team are working to make cheap, accessible diagnostic tests to detect plant nutrient stresses. Molly presented her work with her colleague Amitan who is an engineer on the project. This seminar was a great opportunity for our students to see how the Biology curriculum they are studying at Haydon School sixth form is directly linked to research in the industry. Along with sharing their work and findings, both Molly and Amitan answered questions pertaining to the application process for Oxbridge and their journey to Cambridge University.

**Flying Start Evening - Year 12**

On Wednesday the Year 12 Flying Start Evening took place. A Levels are challenging and we want to support our students to achieve the best results and future pathways. The evening gave parents support and guidance about the Year 12 programme of study and how they can support their son/daughter with their A levels. If you were unable to attend the event you can find all the key information from the presentation on the attachment. [Year 12 Parent Handout - Flying Start Evening.pdf](#)

### **Attendance**

As we transition into the winter season, we're aware that seasonal changes can lead to the occasional cough or snuffle. However, we would like to remind families that minor symptoms such as a runny nose or a light cold are not reasons to keep children at home. Regular attendance remains crucial to every child's learning, development, and sense of routine. Unless a child is genuinely unwell, such as experiencing a high temperature, vomiting, or a contagious illness, they should be attending school.

We're pleased to share that Year 7 attendance has been excellent this term. Their commitment to punctuality and consistent attendance sets a fantastic example for the rest of the school. As such we want to ensure that we celebrate students who make every effort to maintain high standards of attendance and punctuality, so we have introduced our new HERO Awards—which simply means Here Everyday, Ready On time. These awards aim to celebrate pupils who show outstanding attendance and punctuality, reinforcing the message that being present and prepared is key to success. This award will be issued on a monthly basis to students who are outstanding in this regard.

We thank all parents and carers for their continued support in promoting good attendance and look forward to celebrating HEROes across all year groups in the coming weeks. Please continue to inform the school via the [absence report form](#) on the school's website if your child is absent, and don't hesitate to get in touch with any queries regarding the attendance and punctuality of your child.

### **My Child At School App**

Following our recent transition to Bromcom, all communication home has been changed to our new app, My Child at School. The app will allow you to view your child's attendance, lunch balance, any homework set and any behaviour logs. You can also pay for trips or top up your child's lunch account from the app. So far, we have had great feedback from parents regarding the new dashboard and would encourage all parents to download the app if you haven't done so already.

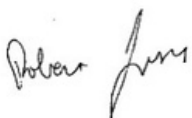
### **Speak Out Challenge**

This week, we were proud to host the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, a nationally recognised programme designed to help young people develop their public speaking skills, build confidence, and find their voice on the issues that matter most to them. Over two days, a dynamic facilitator from the Jack Petchey team worked with 60 Year 10 students in two engaging workshops that encouraged them to speak with clarity, passion, and purpose. Throughout the sessions, students explored a wide range of topical themes—from mental health and social justice to climate change and personal growth. The workshops provided a safe and supportive environment where pupils could share their views, listen to others, and learn how to structure compelling speeches. The transformation in confidence and self-belief

was clear to see, with many students stepping up to the challenge and delivering interesting, thought-provoking messages. At the end of the two days, six finalists were selected to share their speeches with the wider Year 10 cohort in assembly. From these six, the remaining Year 10 students will select one student who will go on to proudly represent our school at the regional final on December 10th, which will be held at The Douay Martyrs School. We wish them the very best as they prepare for the next stage of the competition and know they will represent the school with pride, confidence, and authenticity. We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part and grateful to the Jack Petchey Foundation for providing such an inspiring opportunity. A special thank you also goes to the staff who supported the workshops and helped make the event such a success. We look forward to continuing to celebrate student voices across the school.

### Haydon's House System

Haydon's House System has been established to provide opportunities for students to work together, develop creativity, and build a strong sense of belonging. For the first House activity of the year, pupils took part in a crest design competition. The enthusiasm and creativity shown by the children was impressive, and we are delighted to announce that five winning designs have been selected. These crests will now be used to represent the Houses, which will shortly be displayed on the school's website. House activities will continue to take place each Friday afternoon, with a variety of events planned to encourage teamwork and participation. The next activity will be a quiz, where students will be challenged to guess the baby photographs of staff members—a fun opportunity to strengthen relationships across the school community. In addition, we will celebrate Black History month in October, with a series of competitions aimed at promoting diversity, understanding and appreciation of significant events that have helped to shape the world we live in. Looking ahead, students can look forward to a range of activities including sports competitions, quizzes, and upcycling events, all designed to promote collaboration, creativity, and healthy competition between Houses. Stay tuned for lots more on our House competitions, as we will be getting in touch to ensure parents have the opportunity to participate and support their children in gaining top points for their children's houses.



**Robert Jones**  
Headteacher

#### Important dates for Term 1 2025

- Tuesday 30th September- Open Morning
- Thursday 9th October - Open Morning
- Monday 27th October - Friday 7th November Half Term

Headteacher: Mr R Jones BSc(Econ) MBA NPQH

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