

# Hawkeye Hall High School

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Headteacher: Mr M. Klinck



'The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding'. (Ofsted)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

The current academic year has again been very challenging for all members of the school community. However, we have been able to restore many things and develop new approaches to improve our provision. I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the year and look forward to the next.

## **The continuing impact of the pandemic**

At the beginning of the year, though many restrictions were lifted, students and staff were still expected to wear masks. This continued until the spring. Staff and students were superb in being compliant with this. In addition, the school also enhanced cleaning, ventilation and purchased CO<sub>2</sub> monitors for every work area. Despite this, the school was not immune to the impact of the pandemic locally. In the current academic year, 34% (almost 400 of the whole cohort) of students had the virus and over 50% of staff were also affected. This has obviously had an impact on the consistency of the provision we have been able to provide and impacts directly on attendance. In school testing and the need for a staggered start meant that our new Year 7 did not have the full induction in September and each of the half terms up to Easter were disrupted by testing and by onsite vaccinations. This also caused upheaval by impacting on the availability of some of our learning spaces.

## **Restoring the broad and balanced curriculum**

Nonetheless, staff and students were relieved to be back in year bases and were no longer required to be 'bubbled' from September. This year also resulted in many of the subject specific Covid guidance being withdrawn. This meant that staff were able to plan activities off site as well as restoring classroom activities that involved greater movement and further student interaction, including practical subjects. Our KS3 curriculum has been significantly modified, assessment criteria and schemes of work reviewed. Adaptations have been made to the engagement period that supports the beginning of every school day. During this time students work with their form tutor on various themes including Careers, PSHE, Literacy and Numeracy. At KS4 we have increased the amount of time students have to study English and Maths in light of the time missed. Our use of tutoring and online learning platforms has also increased, enhancing support for students off site.

This year the government also restored the full exam programme. In response we have ensured that all year 11 students had the opportunity to attempt two sets of mocks, in November and March that helped them significantly in preparing for the final series. The final season was extended to six weeks to allow students to have more time to prepare. All subjects endeavored to enhance further their revision offer.

## **Enrichment**

This year students have returned to having opportunities beyond the classroom. Students have been on various trips to the theatre, sports events including the Wigan Town Sports, college taster days, competitions such as the recent Robotics Challenge, museums, and subject enhancement events. Student groups have worked at Leigh Sports Village and Wigan Warriors. It has been fantastic to hear of the achievements of our young people as well as being complemented on their attitude and behaviour. This year we were also able to reinstate work experience for year 10 students and the Prom for Year 11 students that took place at Haydock Park. Again, in both contexts I saw for myself the maturity and positive attitude of our young people. I hope that the latest Hawkeye reflects the broad range of achievements made

by our students.

### **Working with community partners to increase cultural capital**

After very little face to face support from agencies in the last academic year and the restrictions on off-site enrichment and learning, this year we have restored numerous partnerships and built new ones with organisations across a number of sectors. Colleagues have helped us deliver materials on numerous themes, led sessions with students in school and provided experiences outside the classroom, whether that be higher education institutions, charities, museums, professional sports teams, theatres, and specialist service providers. We have also engaged with local councilors, Police and Youth group, all of whom have visited the school. We will continue to expand this further in the next academic year. As we have highlighted during the year, we have also implemented even more opportunities to discuss core issues that affect student's lives. This has often been after dialogue with students themselves in Student Voice groups within school and with parents in the Parent Forum.

### **Celebrating achievement**

Over the last week many students have been rewarded for their efforts across the year in different ways. This has included trips, waffles, prizes and recognition through subject awards for endeavor and achievement. Students yesterday also attended the Inclusion Celebration Event. Today, we had a whole school achievement assembly to bring the year to an end.

### **New Year 7 Intake**

We were also delighted in recent weeks to welcome our new starters. Again, Year 7 is full in the next academic year. The students were fantastic when they came to our Induction days. They tried different activities and got to meet their form tutors. Many said how much they are looking forward to September and starting school.

### **Staff leaving and joining**

Some of our colleagues are leaving us this year. I just wanted to thank them all for their efforts in school and for being part of the Hawkley family, whether that be for a short time or for many years. In September I will write to you with a full overview of staffing changes. In relation to new roles, we are delighted to add further capacity to our pastoral support team through the additions of Senior Pastoral leaders, Evolve Centre Higher Level Teaching Assistants, and office support. We have also expanded our HR, Site and Admin teams to further improve the provision for students.

### **September start**

Hopefully, in September there will be no restrictions and for the first time in 3 years we will be able to start the year with no disruptions such as testing or vaccines. Whilst there will be a slightly staggered start on Tuesday 6th of September all students will start school during the course of that morning. Induction relating to our expectations, curriculum and routines will be longer this year and students will be receiving a planner to support their organisation. As usual, can I reiterate our expectations regarding uniform and school equipment. I will write to you again during August to remind all families of our expectations, direct you to any changes in policies and the staggered start times for the first day.

### **Uniform**

I know that many families are facing many challenges caused by the cost-of-living crisis. Over recent years we have received huge numbers of donations of good quality uniform from families. Throughout summer on Monday's and Tuesday's we are offering the opportunity for families who may wish to do so to come into school to view our available secondhand uniform. If you would like to do so, can you please email Mrs Lord, [s.lord@hhhs.net](mailto:s.lord@hhhs.net) . Please contact us if you have any difficulties sourcing or purchasing uniform. We may be able to help.

## Attendance

Whilst our attendance this year has been above the national average that has been significantly impacted by Covid, it is crucial that we all make a commitment to achieving the target of 100% attendance in the next academic year. Attendance is a key indicator of academic progress. Students need to be punctual and present to access the curriculum. I hope you will support the school in ensuring your child aspires to and understands the importance of full attendance.

## Cyclists departure from school

Our recent experiment regarding bikes leaving the site has been a big success. It has reduced the intensity at the close of school and has helped ensure a higher level of safety for pedestrians and cyclists alike. We will refine this slightly for September, but we will continue to delay cyclists' departure from school.

## Open Evening 2022 – Thursday 29th of September

After being one of the first schools to hold an 'in person' open evening last year, our evening this year will take place on Thursday 29th of September. Many students from school support the event and alongside staff make it a fantastic experience for potential new starters. Please encourage your children to get involved when the time comes.

Finally, I want to thank all of our staff, parents and students for all of their efforts this year. It is an incredible community of people, and it is a great honour to serve it. I hope that you will continue to support our efforts to make Hawkey Hall the best school it can be in the next academic year.

Have a wonderful summer, however you intend to spend it.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Klinck



Hawkey Hall High School (Public Group)

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