

The Hemel Hempstead School

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Letter 2

5th September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to Year 12

We are delighted that your son/daughter has chosen to come to The Hemel Hempstead School for one of the most exciting and important periods of their education. A Levels undeniably present a significant step-up from GCSE but we very much hope the students will find the lessons interesting and rewarding. Many will have already begun to think of their next step such as university; whatever their plans, success will be dependent not only on their commitment but the support of both the school and the student's homes.

Tutors

The member of staff with primary responsibility for a student's welfare is the personal tutor who deals with all day-to-day matters. Please contact them in the first instance:

12A – Ms Gilmore	12C – Mrs Ozier
12F – Mrs Russell	12L – Ms Albuquerque
12N – Mr Heward	12P – Miss Konarzynska

As Head of Year, Mr Bryson is responsible for promoting the overall achievement and welfare of students in the year. He will be monitoring your son/daughter's progress and contacting you should any concerns arise. As Head of KS5, Assistant Headteacher Mr Saunders has oversight of the Sixth Form as a whole and will be supporting Mr Bryson in ensuring that our offer to our Sixth Formers is exemplary. Another priority will be the work ethic displayed by those students.

Private Study

As we explained to the students at their first assembly this week, much of their success will depend on how much work they put in independently. Students have been told they should undertake one hour of private study for every hour they spend in lessons as a minimum. We find that those who set themselves clear targets and goals will go beyond this and read around their subjects in addition to their set home learning. Many will want to undertake paid employment too but it is important that it is kept within reasonable limits – research suggests that if they do more than eight hours paid work per week, their grades at the end of the course will drop by 1.5 grades. We would ask for your support in helping your son/daughter to reach their potential by keeping a strict eye on how many hours they work.

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Important Dates

You might like to note the following dates in your diary:

Year 12 Parent's Focus Evening – Thursday 26th September, 6.30pm-7.30pm in the hall.
Open Day – Saturday 5th October, 8.30am (all Year 12s students in school)
Year 12 Parent Consultation Evening – Thursday 5th March, 4.30pm – 7pm.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be closely monitored as it plays such a significant role in student success. Mrs Cooper will oversee this work. There are two ways of reporting Sixth Form absence. Firstly our dedicated Sixth Form attendance line – 01442 251732. Please telephone to explain all absences and follow through with notes from home as with lower down the school. Secondly, our Sixth Form absence email address - 6thformabsence@hemelschool.com.

When a student knows in advance that he/she will miss lessons, they should approach their teachers for work and complete a Leave of Absence form. Double and triple periods are common in sixth form so a significant amount of work can be missed even on just one day. Medical and dental appointments, driving lessons and any paid work should all be arranged outside school hours. Students are expected to remain in school all day (with the exception of morning break and lunch), including their study periods. All form registrations and assemblies continue to be compulsory.

Dress Code

A copy of the Sixth Form dress code can be found on the school website. It is important that students check this when purchasing clothing for Sixth Form use. If you are unsure whether an item of clothing is suitable please contact us.

Twitter

We use Twitter to keep students informed of any notices or opportunities which they need to know about. The address is @HemelHSchool6th. If your son/daughter signs up to follow this account they will receive regular news from the Sixth Form office.

Finally, we are looking forward very much to supporting your son/daughter in reaching their potential this year. Experience shows that if they are diligent and committed throughout their courses they will achieve results to be proud of next summer. Many of our students look back on Sixth Form as the best time of their school lives and we hope very much this proves to be the case.

If you have any questions or issues you need to raise, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Bryson

Head of Year 12