

The Hemel Hempstead School

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Headteacher: Neil Hassell BEng (Hons) NPQH FCCT

Letter 1

7th September 2020

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 – Miss Akeroyd	12C – Mr Gregson
12F – Mrs Ogden-Bailey	12L – Mr Saunders
12N – Mr Ahmed	12P – Mr Sutton

As Head of Sixth Form, 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 Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Miss Dayton has oversight of the UCAS and next steps programme and will be supporting Mr Bryson in ensuring that our offer to our Sixth Formers is exemplary.

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.

Important Dates

At the time of writing our dates for Parent Focus evening and Parents Evening are yet to be confirmed. A letter will be sent out prior to these events. Please continue to check the school calendar on the website.

Attendance

Students will have a greater chance of achieving their potential by attending school on a regular basis. At The Hemel Hempstead School we are committed to promoting excellent levels of attendance and punctuality and it is our aim for students to achieve over 95% attendance. We would appreciate your support to ensure that all our students achieve this enabling them to access all of the opportunities available to them at school through their academic studies and extra-curricular activities.

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.

Please contact the Sixth Form Office on every day of absence and confirm the reason for their absence in writing on return. If your child has a prolonged absence from school due to illness (a week or more) or a hospital admission, it would be helpful if you were to provide the school with medical confirmation.

The school will follow up lateness, unexplained absences, unauthorised absences and low levels of attendance. A record of poor punctuality in the Sixth Form will lead to sanctions being imposed.

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 Request 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 and Instagram

We use Twitter and Instagram to keep students informed of any notices or opportunities which they need to know about. The address for Twitter is @HemelHSchool6th and HHS6thform for Instagram. If your son/daughter signs up to follow these accounts 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 Sixth Form