

The logo for 'Highsted Flyers' features the text 'HIGHsted FLYERS...' in a stylized font. 'HIGH' is in a bold, sans-serif font, 'sted' is in a smaller, lowercase font, and 'FLYERS...' is in a larger, bold, sans-serif font. The text is set against a dark blue, gradient background that is tilted upwards from left to right. The logo is overlaid on a white background with several overlapping, semi-transparent colored rectangles in shades of purple, blue, and teal, and a thin black vertical line.

# HIGHsted FLYERS...

July 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

We have made it! Finally we have arrived at the end of an academic year like no other, a year that has tested all our reserves but still we have much to look forward to...

KCC's *Reconnect* programme, is providing school children with a travel pass to enable secondary children across Kent to have the opportunity to explore the outdoors! Your child should have received their pass this week. If you have any queries about this provision, please contact the school reception or alternatively contact KCC directly. The school has sent a separate communication to parents of Year 11 and Year 13 students setting out the designated collection points as advised by KCC.

I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate with you the exceptional sporting achievements of our students Freya J (Year 12) and Amelia W (Year 11) having recently featured in an article in the local press for their outstanding sporting accomplishments. Additionally, Amelia will be starting the next stage of her educational journey at Hartpury College in Gloucester on a full rugby scholarship! Amelia, this is an exceptional opportunity for you and the school wishes you well for your continued success.

Further to a week of successful transition, we are excited to be working with girls joining Highsted in September! Despite challenges to accommodating face-to-face meetings, the feedback from the week of virtual transition mornings was overwhelming positive as Year 6 girls eagerly await becoming a Highsted girl! We look forward to their arrival and celebrating their seven year journey of success.

Staff have produced their sixth edition of the Highflyers Magazine aimed at Year 4 pupils in Swale primary schools. The publication is full of curious and challenging information as a means of inspiring local boys and girls in Swale to have ambition for learning within a grammar school curriculum. I would like to extend my thanks to staff for the work they have been involved in to produce this exciting magazine. The current publication and previous back issues can be located on the homepage of the website.

You will of course be anticipating *Freedom Day* – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July - where the legal obligations established to manage the pandemic are relaxed. With this relaxation, the due regard placed on schools to report cases of Coronavirus changes. Please be advised that if your child tests positive on a PCR test you will need to inform NHS Test and Trace directly regarding close proximity contacts.

Arrangements regarding testing are also changing. School children are no longer required to LFD test twice weekly during the summer holidays unless they are attending a school setting – naturally any family can request LFD test kits via their local pharmacy or online if you would like to continue to test in this way. Schools have been advised of the intention to test children on return to school in September however, we will await further information from the DFE about these requirements which will be released during the summer. Once we have received the information the school will communicate with you about the proposed arrangements.

And finally some goodbyes... my PA Mrs Sayers is retiring having contributed nearly thirty years of service to the school – we thank her for her dedication and loyalty to the work of the school. Miss Smith has secured a TA position at a local primary school supporting a pupil one-to-one in their learning – we wish her well and thank her for her extensive support of children in the school. We welcome Ms Lynch to the position of Key Stage Three Learning Mentor from September. Mr Campos is departing the school to commit full time to his work as a professional artist; we wish him the very best with his creative endeavours! Mrs Waring is joining the school from St Edmunds to take over the leadership of the Art Department. Mrs Braddy has replaced Mr Ware as the Director of Music; we are really looking forward to the return of concerts and productions in the new academic year as they really do form the life blood of a school! Mr Thomas is leaving the school to secure a full time teaching position; we wish him well in his new role at Maidstone Grammar School for Girls.

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Evans is joining the senior leadership of the school as Assistant Headteacher, consequently Miss Appleyard is joining the school as an Early Career Teacher in Drama. Ms Cutler is also joining the senior leadership group as an Associate Assistant Headteacher; we look forward to how these strong internal appointments continue to support children to secure success at school and beyond.

Please be advised that A Level results will be released to students on 10 August 2021 followed by GCSE results on 12 August 2021. Mrs Tiernan-Powell has written separately to parents of students awaiting results to set out the arrangements for these days. To our students in Year 11 and Year 13 you have been admired for the tenacity and resilience you have shown thus far during your assessment window. Well done!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for the commitment they have demonstrated during what has been a challenging year and of course my thanks is extended to you for your continued support of the school.

I wish you all a wonderful summer. Please be advised that the school re-opens again to all children on Friday 03 September 2021.

All good wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Kelly', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Anne Kelly

Headteacher