



HIGHsted FLYERS...

December 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

As we approach the end of the year there is a sense of disquiet that looms over the country in contrast to the joyful anticipation that Christmas and all its celebrations would normally bring...

At Highsted however, we have not let the challenges of Covid -19 get us down! Since September we are proud of the work that has gone in to supporting students not just in the Highsted community but in our local primary schools. Whether it has been in Design Technology, Maths, Science or Art, children have joyfully upheld their aspiration for success. I would like to thank staff for their creative contributions in supporting our community at this challenging time.

Whilst virtual, we were delighted once again to participate in the Wisdom Hospice 'Lights for Love' ceremony. If you attended the service you will know that our sixth form compiled a beautiful rendition of 'O Holy Night', most fitting for such a special annual service. It was truly lovely to read the many emails of commendation from the general public about our students and their commitment to our virtues, demonstrating empathy for how others may be feeling as they reflect on loss at this time of year. I would like to commend students for continuing to uphold the virtue of being community conscious – it really is appreciated.

This term we have been delighted to launch the Highsted Immersion Talk series which has been hugely popular with students in Year 11 – topics such as 'The Effects of Media Violence' by Psychology, 'The Global Economic Shift: The Re-Emergence of China' by Geography, 'The Value of Macroeconomic Data' by Economics and 'The Roaring Twenties: New Wealth and Hedonism' by English. These headlines provide you with a flavour of the scholarly debate that our pupils are seeking to engage in. Thank you to all departments across the curriculum for contributing to this exciting series so that our students continue to be involved in academic challenge and thoughtful reflection.

In-keeping with the school's commitment to support young boys and girls in the locality to aspire to scholarly challenge, the school has launched a High Flyers publication to support the curiosity of Year 4 pupils at this time. Articles such as information about Green Iguanas, Classification and The Mandalorian have been created to motivate bright young members of the community.

My thanks to Miss Appleton and the Outreach Team for your sustained commitment to this important project.

Currently the school is engaged in a national and international public speaking initiative, championing the appreciation and discussion of art. This competition enables a wide range of students aged between 14 and 23 develop their confidence and ability to express their opinions, thoughts and reactions to the visual world. Year 12 student Katie S has won the internal heat with her insightful presentation about the British Vogue cover 'Forces for Change' designed by Meghan Markle. Katie will now have the opportunity to present at an online event hosted by the Whitechapel Gallery in London and her work will be adjudicated by the Chief Curator, Lydia Lee. Students who are successful at this level will go on to present at the Grand Final at the National Gallery. Katie, we are extremely proud of what you have achieved and the school wish you good luck.

Today, as I write the site team are supporting the local food bank with the collection of food items provided by your child. The response to giving on behalf of someone who may be hungry at this time of year has been really moving – thank you! Your compassion for others has been appreciated and re-iterates what can be achieved when a community pulls together. Similar charitable acts have been observed in school by Year 12 in their donation of hampers to Care Home workers to say thank you for the support they are providing to the elderly and vulnerable at this time in addition to the 250 handmade Christmas cards made by Year 9 students to ensure elderly residents do not feel alone at Christmas – school your kindness and respect for others has been tremendous and we are so very proud of you all.

You will receive several communications from the school as we come to the end of term: this newsletter, a communication about adverse weather (and the platform the school will use to communicate with you on), guidance for reporting positive cases of Covid-19 from 18 December through to the 23 December 2020 and information about the return to school in January 2021.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and I ask that you do remember Ellie Paine in your thoughts and prayers as well as her family and friends at this time of year.

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times...

Anne Kelly
Headteacher

Calendar Update 2021

January	
Thursday 3	Start of Term 3
Friday 4	Year 11 Trial Exams
Wednesday 16	Year 10 Parents Evening
Thursday 17	Focus Day 4 Year 11 Exams End
Friday 18	Year 11 Sixth Form Familiarisation Day
Thursday 31	Intermediate UK Maths Challenge
February	
Monday 4	Year 13 Parents Evening
Wednesday 13	Macbeth Trip
Friday 15	End of Term 3
Monday 25	Start of Term 4 Year 13 Trial Exams
Tuesday 26	Year 9 Exhibition and Options Evening
Thursday 28	World Book Day
March	
Tuesday 5	Year 11 Parents Evening 55+ Concert
Friday 8	Year 13 Trial Exams End
Friday 15	Franklin Charity Event
Saturday 16	Erlangen Exchange Departs
Tuesday 19	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 20	Spring Concert
Sunday 23	Erlangen Exchange Returns
April	
Wednesday 3	A Level Art and Photography examination
Thursday 4	A Level Art and Photography examination
Friday 5	End of Term 4
Tuesday 23	Start of Term 5 GCSE Art Examination
Wednesday 24	GCSE Art Examination Year 9 Parents Evening
Thursday 25	Junior Maths Challenge



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