



# HIGHFIELDS SCHOOL

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8 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family have had a lovely summer. We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students back on Monday 11 September after what I hope has been a purposeful week of Work Experience.

## Welcome Evening

As I am sure you are aware, this is a very important year for your child since their outcomes at the end of this year can make such a difference to their future. With that in mind, we would like to invite you to attend a Welcome to Upper School Evening for parents and carers on Wednesday 20 September (students are not required to be present).

The evening will be an opportunity for you to find out important key dates particular to Year 11 students, gain a deeper understanding of the year ahead in Upper School, the pressure it invariably creates and the extensive support available to all students. You will also be able to meet the Upper School Team and ask any questions you may have.

To provide you with the best possible chance of being able to attend, we have scheduled two identical presentations so that you can select the one that suits you best. We would be grateful if you could complete the short survey below, by Friday 15 September at 3:00pm to indicate whether you would like to attend one of the following options:

- Wednesday 20 September at 5:00pm
- Wednesday 20 September at 6:30pm

[Welcome to Upper School Evening Survey](#)

We will confirm a venue to you, along with any other practicalities, on Monday 18 September.

## Timetable

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the changes you can expect to see in your child's timetable on their return next week. The timetable for Year 11 replaces Citizenship, Core PE and the single period of Maths with additional teaching time in the core subjects, tailored to the needs of each student. Below is a summary of the changes you can expect to see in your child's timetable:

- **Single Science:** If your child is entered for Single Sciences, they will gain an additional period in each of the Science disciplines, a period of private study and a period of personal development
- **Combined Science:** If your child is entered for the Combined Science Higher or Foundation Tier, they will gain four periods which will include a combination of English, Maths or Science. They will also gain a period of personal development



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The allocation of the additional core periods will very much depend on your child's progress in these subjects during Year 10 and feedback from their teachers. This will be continually reviewed whilst your child is in Year 11 and amended to ensure the intervention is targeted, timely and effective. The first review of the core provision will take place in November 2023, once you have received your child's first Year 11 Progress Review.

In addition to these timetable changes, we also operate a bespoke tutorial programme in Upper School. Firstly, students are reassigned tutor groups to provide academic support in specific subject areas including: Mathematics, English, Science, History, Geography, Business Studies, Health and Social Care, and Spanish. Year 11 will also be assigned a peer mentor from Year 12 later in the Autumn Term to support them with Mathematics and Science ahead of their school examinations. Finally, some students will also receive an additional intervention delivered by the Heads of Science on an invitation basis.

Please can you encourage your child to view their new timetable over the next couple of days to ensure they are fully prepared for their return on Monday. They can access their timetable by logging into the Bromcom Student Portal after logging into their Office 365 account.

You can also view your child's new timetable by logging into the My Child at School 'MCAS' application. In addition, we would recommend familiarising yourself with MCAS before your child returns as this will allow you to access:

- Your child's Progress Reviews including the most recent end of Year 10 Progress Review
- Homework tasks set by your child's teachers
- Many other useful functions during Year 11 such as: exam timetables, to book for Parents' evening, update personal records such as addresses and phone numbers.

If you need support in logging into MCAS, please contact our digital support team via: [digitalsupport@hswv.co.uk](mailto:digitalsupport@hswv.co.uk)

### **Uniform**

As role models to all other year groups, Upper School students are well presented, prepared to learn, punctual (students must be in school before 8:25am) and set the highest standards of behaviour and attitude both in lessons and around school. We would very much welcome your support in discussing this with your child.

Please note, students will not be permitted to wear PE kit clothing to school except for GCSE PE students who may wear PE kit on the days they have PE on their timetable. We have made this exception on the basis that GCSE PE lessons often include a combination of theory and practical, ensuring that curriculum time is not impacted by students needing to change during a lesson. We are confident that GCSE PE students will of course appreciate the reason for us affording them this privilege, and only wear essential/optional PE items as detailed in our uniform policy.

For a reminder of our uniform policy, please visit our website or follow the link [here](#).

### **Nut free school**

On our return, we need to be a 'nut free school' as we have a student with a very severe allergy which is airborne. Therefore, please could I ask that you do not send any products into school that contain any nut products.

### **Parents' Evening**

Finally, we have calendared a Parents' Evening for Year 11 students on Thursday 12 October which will be held in school. We know how challenging Year 11 can be for students, parents and carers and therefore, would like you to have the opportunity to meet with your child's teachers in person. We will share further details about how to book appointments and arrangements for the evening in due course.

If you have any questions relating to the start of school in September, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via: [upperschoolstaff@hsvv.co.uk](mailto:upperschoolstaff@hsvv.co.uk). Can I also remind you that all information that is sent out can always be found on the school website too.

Finally, on behalf of the Upper School team, I would like to wish you all the best for a successful and enjoyable new academic year.

Yours sincerely

**MR D TREBLE  
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER  
HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL**