



6th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to the start of the school day September 2022

The Government's recent White Paper requires schools to offer at least 32.5 hours of educational provision by September 2023. We are currently very close to this requirement but will need to start the school day at 8:45am as opposed to our current start time of 8:50am. We will write again towards the end of the school year to remind parents that from September 2022 all students are expected to be in school for 8:40am so they are sat ready to learn in classrooms at 8:45am.

Attendance

Attendance is related to progress and achievement, the better the attendance, the better the achievement of a child.

Coming to school every day is **very** important. Regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success, both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behaviour, and have a better chance of achieving their full potential.

We welcome your continued support to ensure your child has excellent school attendance and punctuality right through to the end of the term. Every day and lesson in school counts and therefore plays a vital part in their achievement and progress during these years of their education.

New Website

We are currently upgrading our website and will have a photographer in school on Wednesday 11th May who will be taking a variety of photographs for future promotional material. Please ensure that you have let the school office know by email by Monday 9th May if you **do not** wish for your child's photograph to be used in any promotional material. Please be aware that when your child joined the school in Year 7 permission was requested as part of the admissions form.

Mobile Phone Policy

We understand the importance of carrying a mobile phone to and from school for safety. However, it is important to remind all parents that mobile phones are required to be switched off and out of sight whilst in school. We have unfortunately had occurrences where students are using their phones in school to contact parents or carers. Please be aware that if a student needs to give an urgent message to a parent or carer, they can do this through their Student Support Manager (SSM) or at the school office. **Mobile phones, other forms of mobile technology and valuable items are brought into school at the student's own risk.**

Items that are not permitted in school, including mobile phones that are used inappropriately, will be confiscated and held in the school office. These can be collected by parents or carers at a convenient time. From Term 6, we will endeavour to contact home by text message where an item has been confiscated to allow adequate time for parents or carers to arrange collection.



Parent forum

Our Parent Forum met recently to discuss the important topics of homework and rewards at The Holmesdale School. This was a very productive meeting where we collaboratively discussed a new approach to homework. The forum itself is a group of parents and leaders who review the current position of the school and how we can best support both our students and parents in their experience of the school.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact louise.bates@holmesdale.kent.sch.uk with your name and your child's name so we can send invites to our next meeting.

Charity football match

It is that time of year again where staff take on the Year 11s in a charity football match. There is a change of venue this year with it being played at Larkfield and New Hythe's ground. Last year we raised a total amount of just over £2000. We are hoping to beat this, this year. Please come and support us on Friday 13th May, gates open at 6:30pm with kick off at 7:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Prebble
Head of School