

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer holidays and have been enjoying the surprisingly warm September weather recently.

I wanted to write to you at the start of the academic year with the events and experiences that we have planned to take place this academic year to support students in achieving their potential here at the Hastings Academy.

I have attached a copy of our [Academy Calendar 2023/24](#) for reference and this is also available on our website.

In particular, I would like to draw parents and carers attention to the follow areas and events:

## Our Culture Curriculum

Firstly, we are launching our Culture Curriculum this year, aimed at providing a number of experiences and events to support the development of our students as global citizens of the modern world. Our Culture Curriculum comprises of:

### 1. The Wider Reading Programme

Reading plays a vital role in every stage of a young person's development, from supporting language and comprehension skills, to communication skills. During registration time this year, we have organised for each Tutor Group to read a book together one day a week as a Tutor Group. We are very grateful to a number of local business who have sponsored the purchasing of books for this reading programme and these include Parkers Hastings, Triangle Fire Systems Ltd, Greymoor Homes & Kiley's Karpets.

Students will read the following books as a Tutor Group this year:

| Year 7                                      | Year 8   | Year 9  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Malamander</b><br>by Thomas Taylor       | <b>Bone Talk</b><br>by Candy Gourlay                                       | <b>A Monster Calls</b><br>by Patrick Ness               |
| <b>Kick</b><br>by Mitch Johnson             | <b>Ghost Boys</b><br>by Jewell Parker-Rhodes                               | <b>Needles</b><br>by Patrick Lawrence                   |
| <b>The Goldfish Boy</b><br>by Lisa Thompson | <b>The Outlaws</b><br>by Jonathan Stroud                                   | <b>You Don't Know What War Is</b><br>by Yeva Skalietska |
| <b>War Horse</b><br>by Michael Morpurgo     | <b>The Book Thief</b><br>by Marcus Zusak                                   | <b>Maladapted</b><br>by Richard Kurti                   |
| <b>Stone Cold</b><br>by Robert Swindells    | <b>Wink</b><br>by Rob Harrell  | <b>Thief</b><br>by Malorie Blackman                     |
| <b>Pig Heart Boy</b><br>by Malorie Blackman | <b>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time</b><br>by Mark Haddon | <b>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</b><br>by Ken Kesey  |

### 2. Schools Trips & Experiences

We are aware that during the COVID-19 Pandemic, many schools found the running of school trips difficult and as a result, many of our students have not had the cultural experiences previously offered by schools.



Last year, we re-introduced a number of school trips for our students who reported how beneficial they were to supporting their education. We are keen to expand on our school trip offer and have provisionally organised the following free trips for whole Year Groups this year to take place over two days and which every student will attend:

|                | 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 |                                | 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 |                            |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Year 7</b>  | <b>History</b>                 | Battle Abbey                   | <b>Art &amp; DT</b>         | London Design Museum       |
| <b>Year 8</b>  | <b>Science</b>                 | The Observatory Science Centre | <b>Geography</b>            | Rye Harbour Nature Reserve |
| <b>Year 9</b>  | <b>Sport</b>                   | Guildford Spectrum             | <b>Science</b>              | The Science Museum         |
| <b>Year 10</b> | <b>English</b>                 | Theatre Workshop               | <b>Maths</b>                | The University of Brighton |
| <b>Year 11</b> | <b>Maths</b>                   | GCSE Revision Skills Day       | <b>English</b>              | GCSE Revision Skills Day   |

Alongside the free trips above for all students, we also have two paid residential trips taking place this year. There is the [Italy Ski Trip](#) which will take place in January 2024 and there is also a [Paris Trip](#) in March 2024.

### 3. Family-Style Lunches

With the move Heads of Year and new Tutor Groups, this year we wanted to offer a number of team-building opportunities and chance for students to get to know their new Tutors better. We have therefore organised Tutor Group family-style lunches to take place during September and October 2023 where every member of a Tutor Group along with their tutor can have a free sit-down meal with each other in the school canteen. Our intention is to repeat these at Christmas with a sit-down Christmas meal, and again in the Summer with a picnic on the school field for students. The schedule for the first family-style lunch is as follows:

| Year 7  | Year 8  | Year 9  | Year 10  | Year 11   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <b>7-DBL</b><br>11 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>8-LCO</b><br>18 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>9-KML</b><br>25 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>10-TSM</b><br>6 <sup>th</sup> October 2023  | <b>11-RPI</b><br>8 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 |
| <b>7-JHO</b><br>12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>8-CPE</b><br>19 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>9-SWA</b><br>27 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>10-IRI</b><br>9 <sup>th</sup> October 2023  | <b>11-GMC</b><br>16 <sup>th</sup> October 2023  |
| <b>7-ATY</b><br>13 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>8-SRE</b><br>20 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>9-HRO</b><br>29 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>10-AEV</b><br>10 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 | <b>11-SHA</b><br>17 <sup>th</sup> October 2023  |
| <b>7-HLE</b><br>14 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>8-CDE</b><br>22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2023 | <b>9-RSM</b><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2023    | <b>10-LCH</b><br>11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 | <b>11-JKE</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023  |
| <b>7-RGR</b><br>15 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>8-MGI</b><br>26 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>9-RST</b><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023    | <b>10-FMA</b><br>12 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 | <b>11-GBL</b><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023  |
| <b>7-DBN</b><br>21 <sup>st</sup> September 2023 | <b>8-MCO</b><br>28 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 | <b>9-VAL</b><br>4 <sup>th</sup> October 2023    | <b>10-JEL</b><br>13 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 | <b>11-KEA</b><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023  |

## Our Character Curriculum

Secondly, alongside our Culture Curriculum, we are also launching our Character Curriculum which will be taught explicitly during Tutor Time each day alongside and throughout our academic curriculum. Specifically, students will be learning about Personal, Social and Health Education as well as well-being and safeguarding through two programmes.

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## 1. PiXL Edge

PiXL Edge is a nationwide PSHE programme which focuses on developing Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication skills in secondary-age students. Our students at Hastings Academy will receive one 30-minute period of PiXL Edge a week delivered by their Form Tutor.

## 2. Project Evolve

Alongside PiXL Edge, our students at the Hastings Academy will also be taking part in Project Evolve which is a programme based on the UK's Centre for Internet Safety (UKIS) guidance and provides students with information about their well-being and internet safety.

## Our Clubs' Curriculum

Thirdly, at the Hastings Academy, we believe that enrichments and clubs are vital to the development of young people and so have looked at our Clubs' Curriculum offer and attempted to ensure that there is a wide variety of clubs to match many students' interests. This year, our clubs and interventions will be running on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and every student who attends a club after school will be able to have free food in our canteen at 4.10pm afterwards. The Clubs timetable is as follows:

|                   |        | Monday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  |
|-------------------|--------|---|--|---|
| Afterschool Clubs | Week 1 | <b>KS3 Homework Club</b><br>Mrs M Crane (Library)<br><b>Warhammer &amp; Hobby Club</b><br>Mr J Kern (F17)<br><b>Yr7 &amp; 8 Sports Club</b><br>Mr M Collett (Sports Centre)<br><b>Girls' Sports Club</b><br>Mrs Crease (Sports Centre)<br><b>Dance Club</b><br>Miss C Dengate (Dance Studio)  | <b>KS4 Homework Club</b><br>Mrs M Crane (Library)<br><b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons Club</b><br>Mr J Storey, Mr J Kern, Mr A Evans & Mr G Bloggs (Various)<br><b>Yr9 &amp; 10 Boys Sports Club</b><br>Mr M Collett (Sports Centre)<br><b>Netball Club</b><br>Miss M Gibbons (Sports Centre)<br><b>"Globetrotters"</b><br>Mr S Regereau (S6a)  | <b>Book Club</b><br>Mrs M Crane (Library)<br><b>Classics Club</b><br>Mr S Walsh & Mr G Bloggs (W8)<br><b>KS4 Maths Club</b><br>Mr J Holder (E12)<br><b>Duke of Edinburgh</b><br>Mr P Senior & Mrs E McCallum (TBC)<br><b>Art Club</b><br>Mrs L Collins (S10)      |
|                   | Week 2 | <b>KS3 Homework Club</b><br>Mrs M Crane (Library)<br><b>Female Leads Society</b><br>Mrs H Rome & Miss K Mulcair (W6)<br><b>Science Club</b><br>Ms R Picton & Mrs J Beagley (F19)<br><b>Yr7 &amp; 8 Boys Football Club</b><br>Mr M Collett (Sports Centre)<br><b>Girls Football Club</b><br>Mrs E Crease (Sports Centre)<br><b>Dance Club</b><br>Miss C Dengate (Dance Studio) | <b>KS4 Homework Club</b><br>Mrs M Crane (Library)<br><b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons Club</b><br>Mr J Storey, Mr J Kern, Mr A Evans & Mr G Bloggs (Various)<br><b>Writing Club</b><br>Mrs V Alves (W5)<br><b>Yr9 &amp; 10 Boys Football Club</b><br>Mr M Collett (Sports Centre)<br><b>Netball Club</b><br>Miss M Gibbons (Sports Centre)<br><b>Italian Club</b><br>Miss F Mancini (F13) | <b>Book Club</b><br>Mrs M Crane (Library)<br><b>Classics Club</b><br>Mr S Walsh & Mr G Bloggs (W8)<br><b>KS3 Maths Club</b><br>H Levett (E11)<br><b>Duke of Edinburgh</b><br>Mr P Senior & Mrs E McCallum (TBC)<br><b>Music Club</b><br>Miss S Boreham (S1)       |
|                   | Week 1 | <b>Yr11 Geography (9<sup>th</sup> GCSE)</b><br>Ms I Richardson (F9)<br><b>Yr11 English Intervention</b><br>Mrs H Rome & Miss K Mulcair (Various)  | <b>Yr11 GCSE Geography GCSE</b><br>Ms I Richardson (F9)<br><b>Yr11 Maths Intervention</b><br>Mrs S King, Mr D Blackwell, Mr A Tyson & Mr D Benson (Various)  | <b>Yr11 Geography (9<sup>th</sup> GCSE)</b><br>Ms I Richardson (F9)<br><b>Yr11 Science Intervention</b><br>Mrs T Royce-Smith, Mr J Kern & Mr J Storey (Various)   |
|                   | Week 2 | <b>Yr11 Geography (9<sup>th</sup> GCSE)</b><br>Ms I Richardson (F9)<br><b>Yr11 History Intervention</b><br>Mr A Evans (F14)<br><b>Yr11 Music Intervention</b><br>Mrs K East (S1)<br><b>Yr11 Business &amp; iMedia Intervention</b><br>Mr L Sadler & G Wall (E16)  | <b>Yr11 Geography (9<sup>th</sup> GCSE)</b><br>Ms I Richardson (F9)<br><b>Yr11 French Intervention</b><br>Mrs C Pepper (S7)<br><b>Yr11 Art &amp; Photography Intervention</b><br>Mr E Money & Mrs H Rose (S2)<br><b>Yr11 DT &amp; Food Intervention</b><br>Mr R Smout (W2)   | <b>Yr11 Geography (9<sup>th</sup> GCSE)</b><br>Ms I Richardson (F9)<br><b>Yr11 Dance Intervention</b><br>Miss C Dengate (Dance Studio)<br><b>Yr11 Spanish Intervention</b><br>Mrs S Travaglia-Sage (S11)<br><b>Yr11 Drama Intervention</b><br>Ms G MacDonald (HA) |

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## Our Care Curriculum

Last year we reviewed and revised our support provision to see how we could better support students accessing as many lessons as possible and as a result, have devised a number of 6-week programmes that we can offer to students. If you would like more information about any of the programmes below then please contact Dean Blackwell or your child's Head of Year.

- **Reintegration Mentoring (RM)**  
Each week, Heads of Year will be offering students in their Year Group mentoring session with themselves to help set targets and support students who have been absent from the Academy for any reason.
- **Resilience Therapy (RT)**  
To help support students with their resilience or with anxiety, we will be running small-group sessions with one of our Hub Leaders each week.
- **Recovery Learning (RL)**  
If students have missed a significant amount of their learning or have fallen behind in their studies, we are providing additional English, Maths and Science lessons each week with a Learning Tutor to support students in catching up with their peers and achieving their potential.
- **Reading Acceleration (RA)**  
Alongside reading during registration, we are also running a number of reading acceleration programmes to help support students whose reading ages are below age expectations.
- **Forest School (FS)**  
Like previous years, we will continue to have timetabled Forest School sessions each week where students can study conservation and learning about the environment.

## Our Core Curriculum

Finally, our Core Academic curriculum is at the centre of everything we do. Students at the Hastings Academy study the full national curriculum at both Key Stage 3 and 4 as they work towards their GCSEs and next stage of their education. Throughout the year, students will sit assessments in each subject which will indicate the progress they are making in their learning. These assessment results will be used by teachers to inform their lesson planning and make sure that the lessons taught are of the appropriate challenge.

The assessment and report dates are as follows:

|               | Assessment Periods  | School Reports Issued  |
|---------------|---|--|
| <b>Year 7</b> | WB: 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2023<br>WB: 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024<br>WB: 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2024  | 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023<br>5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024<br>15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 |
| <b>Year 8</b> | WB: 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2023<br>WB: 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024<br>WB: 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 | 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023<br>5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024<br>15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 |
| <b>Year 9</b> | WB: 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2023<br>WB: 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024<br>WB: 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2024  | 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023<br>5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024<br>15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 |



Principal: Simon Addison

|                |  |   |
|----------------|--|---|
| <b>Year 10</b> | WB: 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023<br>WB: 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024<br>WB: 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2024                            | 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023<br>25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024<br>15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024                               |
| <b>Year 11</b> | WB: 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2023<br>WB: 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024<br>WB: 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 ( <i>GCSE EXAMS START</i> ) | 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023<br>25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024<br>22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2024 ( <i>GCSE RESULTS DAY</i> ) |

I am aware that there is a lot of information contained in this letter but hope that it is useful to have it all in one place. All of the information contained above can also be found on our website and should you have any specific questions regarding anything contained in this email then please do not hesitate to contact either your child's Head of Year or myself.

Many Thanks,

James Heafield  
*Vice Principal*

