HORNCHURCH
HIGH SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

22nd July 2024

Headteacher's Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

This academic year at Hornchurch High School has been exceptionally rewarding as we continue to accelerate academic excellence. It has been our first full year under new leadership and we are thrilled by the achievements of our students and the school's progress this year. I want to celebrate every success, big or small, and thank our teachers, support staff, parents, and carers for their unwavering support in helping our students achieve their best.

As part of our end of year review process, I would greatly appreciate it if you could sit down with your child and answer the following two-minute survey together:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HHSParentandChildSurvey

Yr11 GCSE Results Day | Thursday 22nd August

Year 11 can collect their results on Thursday 22nd August between 9am and 11am.

House System

This academic year, we launched our new house system at Hornchurch High School, with our learning community enthusiastically voting on the house names. In a record-breaking vote, the theme of iconic mountains emerged victorious. Our four houses are named Fuji, Matterhorn, Kilimanjaro, and Everest. This theme resonates with our school motto: aspire, believe, achieve. Students took part in a big reveal *'Which house are you?'* in assembly where staff and students had to open an envelope at the same time to find out which house they are in and in September students will receive a house badge. Our introductory launch will be today in sports day; students are having a great day!

H.E.R.O

Our students at Hornchurch High have been excited to show their dedication and commitment to their education by taking part in our attendance H.E.R.O. competition. The aim was simple - to be **H**ere. **E**veryday. **R**eady. **O**n time and I am pleased to announce that this competition has had great success. Over 300 students had 100% attendance over the competition period and we put on a celebratory event for all individuals, in addition to a year group raffle and a whole school raffle with a grand prize of £50 worth of vouchers. Regular attendance is crucial for academic success, social

development, routine, discipline and prepares them for the future. We look forward to our H.E.R.Os and new H.E.R.Os starting as they mean to go on in September.

Careers Day

On Wednesday 17th July, we held our whole school career fair, where students met representatives from over 30 organisations, including the MET, the army and Big Creative Education to name but a few. This event provided valuable information about next steps post 16 and students made connections, helping them prepare for their future careers. Thank you once again to all of our partners that made this day possible.

Work Experience

As part of our careers education and in line with Gatsby Benchmark 6, our Year 10 students attended work experience from June 24th after their mocks. They gained experience at a range of establishments across Essex and East London from law firms in Canary Wharf, to dental practices and commercial banks like NatWest. Students enjoyed their work experience, making tangible links between their academic success and the wider world of work. In our student survey, over 90% of students stated that it improved their confidence and self-esteem. This opportunity allowed them to see the practical applications of their studies and gain valuable insights into potential future careers.

First Give

We are excited to share the achievements of our Year 9 students in the First Give charity competition. This programme encourages young people to support local charities through advocacy and social action. All Year 9 students took part, with classes voting to put one group forward to the final. Six groups reached the final, representing Box Up Crime, Victim Support, Ben Kinsella, DrugFAM, You and Me Counselling, and Teen Challenge London. The students presented in front of their peers and a panel, including local councillors, Cllr James Glass and Cllr Christine Smith.

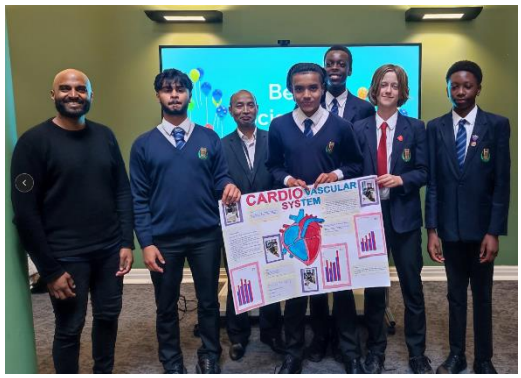
The winning team, advocating for You and Me Counselling, impressed the judges with their presentation and project, raising community awareness and £1000 for the charity. A huge congratulations to Rizwan, Freda, Alexandrina and Danielle.

Well done to all the Year 9 students who participated.

UEL Phenomenal Physiology 2024

The science department enrolled 27 year 10 students in a 6-week school-based project, called Phenomenal Physiology. This was a project mixing Science and Sport Physiology. Each school-based

session involved scientific experiments investigating muscle strength, heart and respiratory function. They formed 5 teams that worked together to focus on one investigation to prepare a scientific poster and talk. All students showed fantastic dedication to completing the posters, giving up several break times and completing independent research to support any conclusions they drew from their data. They knew they would be competing against another school and were determined to win the top prize.



A panel of academic asked several questions and challenged the data and conclusions made - they were tough questions! Every group responded with poise and eloquence to each question. At the end, the hard work paid off as two teams won podium positions. In first position winning £50 Amazon vouchers were Jack, Yousuf, Essa, Niniola and Seun. In third place wining £10 amazon vouchers were David, Maisie, Eliana, Ava, Adriana and Maurette.

Year 8 First Aid

First aid is undoubtedly a lifelong skill that holds the potential to save lives. In emergencies, having the knowledge and ability to provide immediate medical assistance can make all the difference between life and death. Understanding how to respond effectively to injuries, accidents, and medical emergencies empowers individuals to act swiftly and decisively when it matters most. We started with year 7 form classes and now year 8 students have had the opportunity to develop these lifesaving skills.

Sporting and Extra Curricular Achievements

Year 7 have taken part in a "battle of bands" weekly singing competition in assembly. Form classes have been rehearsing weekly and all have developed in confidence and ability. 7R and 7E reached the final. 7R delivered the best performance and 7E demonstrated the most collaborative effort and creativity. As a reward, all year 7 students at some point in the next academic year will receive a free drumming lesson.

This term, some of our year 8 and 9 students had an incredible opportunity to participate in a dynamic workshop hosted by Box Up Crime. The workshops aims were not just to learn about the art of boxing, but also about instilling discipline, resilience and a sense of community amongst our students. The charity offers free classes for young people eager to start or continue their boxing journey, with a focus on personal development alongside fitness and education. More details of this can be found at www.boxupcrime.org We are proud of our students enthusiasm and skills they have gained through this experience and we look forward to more collaboration with Box Up Crime in the future!

We are thrilled to announce that our Year 8 cricket team made it to the Havering district semi-finals! They demonstrated great skills and teamwork. We once again congratulate our Year 11 basketball team from last term who are Havering champions. This achievement reflects the hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship of our young athletes.

Congratulations to Lou Lou who came 3rd in the long jump at the Havering athletics competition. Also, congratulations to Jennifer on her achievement in representing Havering in the Essex track and field championships, showcasing her dedication and hard work in athletics.

This term, Year 10 GSCE PE students completed their climbing course and practised their knot tying skills.

Duke of Edinburgh

Last week, our Year 10 students participated in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. They developed essential skills such as teamwork, leadership, navigation, and resilience, all while experiencing the great outdoors. This challenging yet rewarding experience helped them grow personally and gain confidence in their abilities. We encourage as many students as possible to complete their Bronze and Silver awards next year.

Jack Petchey Awards

It is with great sadness that Sir Jack Petchey CBE passed away at the end of June. However, the work of his foundation and legacy goes on.

The Jack Petchey Award looks to recognise and reward some of our most hardworking students at Hornchurch High School and is an opportunity to celebrate the success of our young people.

A huge congratulations to Brayden, Amala, Olivia, Jack, Eniola and Zipporah who were nominated by staff for the Jack Petchey award.

Reading for Pleasure and Word of the Week

At Hornchurch High School, we understand the profound impact that fostering a love of reading can have on our students' academic success and personal development. We kindly ask parents to support their child's reading journey over the summer holidays by ensuring they read for a minimum of 20 minutes each day and complete a summary of their reading. We have a summer reading list on our school website.

We have also successfully introduced our Whole School Word of the Week initiative this academic year. This programme aims to enrich the vocabulary of our students, not only enhancing their writing skills but also strengthening their verbal ability. A huge well done to the winners from this half term who received a classic clothbound book:

Year 10 - Mitchell
Year 9 - Anish
Year 8 - Alfie
Year 7 – Alex

We also held our first ever Spelling Bee and the winner was Chantelle! A huge congratulations to her and to all those involved.

Year 11

The Year 11 prom, held last month was an extraordinary evening filled with joy and celebration. The beautiful venue created a magical atmosphere that set the stage for an unforgettable night. The year group created lasting memories that will be cherished for years to come. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours and look forward to seeing them on results day.

We are also delighted to announce another year of our Aim High Scholarship and Bursary. We want all of our students to aim high at Hornchurch High. The 5 highest performing students will be guaranteed a place at the oversubscribed sixth form, Riverside. Upon confirming their place at Riverside Sixth Form, they will also receive a £300 bursary to help support their studies.

Progress Reports Year 7-9 | Wednesday 17th July 2024

Throughout the academic year, students engage in three tracking assessments: autumn, spring, and summer. Following each assessment, teachers generate a predicted grade, a triangulation of their

performance in assessments, classwork, and contributions to lessons. In their reports, you'll find a target grade - a grade derived from their KS2 scaled scores - and a predicted grade. The predicted grade reflects what they could achieve at the end of year 11 if they maintain their current level of dedication and effort over the next few years. This holistic approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of each student's academic progress and potential.

You should have already received your child's Summer Progress Report, please contact your child's Head of Year should you wish to discuss their progress in more detail.
http://www.hornchurchhighschool.com/home/contact-us/

Yr10 Mock GCSE Results Day | Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Year 10s will receive their reports from the summer mock examinations on this day. Students have been feeding back to their mocks but have not seen their grades yet, the focus has been on select skills and knowledge that need to be refined. On this day they will receive an *attainment grade* - what they would have actually received if it was the real examination with the real grade boundaries. As well as a *predicted grade* - what the teacher thinks they can achieve over the next academic year. We encourage students to revise over the summer to get ahead - all year 10s have revision guides.

Uniform Reminder

A reminder regarding uniform expectations for the new academic year:

- Black school shoes
- Black ankle socks or black tights – no white socks
- Modest skirt length, we are in a professional learning environment
- No make-up (students will be asked to remove it with make-up wipes)
- No false nails (please arrange removal prior to the start of term)
- No nail varnish
- No false eyelashes or eyelash/eyebrow laminations
- No jewellery (it is not advised to have a new piercing towards the end of the summer holidays – students will be asked to remove it, irrespective of the healing process).

Uniform Swap Shop

Facing the current cost of living crisis, we invite you to support our school community. If you have any school uniforms in good condition, please drop them off in the boxes located in the school reception area. Your generosity will help ensure all students have the uniform they need. Thank you for supporting Hornchurch High students and families, and a special thanks to Year 11 and their generous donations on the last day.

Additionally, the council has launched a new 'Cost of Living Online Hub' to support Havering residents. Find resources and assistance at: https://www.havering.gov.uk/costofliving

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New School Year 2024-25 | Autumn Term

We have a staggered start to autumn term to allow year 7's induction on the first day.

- Year 7 ONLY: Tuesday 3rd September 2024
- ALL Students: Wednesday 4th September 2024

The first day of autumn term will start with students arriving at 8:15am. The student gates will be open from 8:00am for breakfast club. The student gate can be found on the corner of Hartland and Broadstone Road, please do not enter via the car park/reception. The school day starts promptly at 8:30am.

The final day of this summer term is Tuesday 23rd July, when students will be dismissed after break 1 for staff to attend an end of term review meeting. The final day this year is incorporating culture day and a separate letter has been sent to you. Term dates for 2024/2025 are published on our website and are attached to this letter, should you wish to plan future holidays.

From all of us here at Hornchurch High may I wish you and your family an enjoyable summer break and thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms S Madhvani
Headteacher

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Term Dates 2024_2025

Hornchurch High School

School Term and Holiday Dates 2024 - 2025

Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

September 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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30						

October 2024						
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November 2024						
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December 2024						
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January 2025						
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February 2025						
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March 2025						
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31						

April 2025						
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May 2025						
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June 2025						
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July 2025						
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August 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

	School Holidays
	Bank Holidays
	Staff PD Days non-pupil days

Autumn Term	
Tuesday 3rd September	Start of Term (Y7)
Wednesday 4th September	Start of Term (ALL)
Friday 25th October to Friday 1st November	Half Term
Thursday 19th December	Last Day of Term

Spring Term	
Monday 6th January	Start of Term
Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February	Half Term
Friday 4th April	Last Day of Term

Summer Term	
Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Term
Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May	Half Term
Friday 18th July	Last Day of Term