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20th October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

September- October Half Term

Firstly, please let me take this opportunity to pass on the thanks from the teachers to all the supportive and helpful parents that the children of Hylands School are lucky to have at home. Getting them organised, properly uniformed and in the right state of mind for learning is hugely appreciated by all the staff and allows the school to be set up each day to be a productive learning space. Equally, it's important to acknowledge the tireless commitment of the schools staff; teaching, admin and support, who's hard work and desire for all students to achieve to their potential should be commended.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to just a few initiatives and events which have taken place this half term at Hylands involving our students and staff and also to briefly explain two letters that are also coming home today. Firstly, there will be a very slight alteration to the school day, making more time available for lessons through introducing more change over and transition time. This does mean an alteration to lunch time. This then draws all days in line with what is currently working very effectively on Tuesdays. Secondly, we are going to make a couple of amendments to the school's admission policies for the September 2018 intake. Please read these and if you wish to comment on them, please pass these to Mrs Jackie Galley as directed.

Returning member of staff

After a half term away from the school Miss Morley is now to return to the school from January 2017. As she missed the school and its pupils so much she has decided to return to the post of Second in English. I am sure all parents will welcome this news and I am delighted that she has opted to continue her career here with us.

Open Morning and Week

Thank you to all the pupils and staff who made opening morning a busy and vibrant day. We showed hundreds of families around the school during the day itself and the week that followed. Parents comments on how smart, articulate and helpful their guides were and the staff put on lots of entertaining and engaging sessions.

Drama Exams and Filming

This last week has seen the school's GCSE classes perform to the camera for their full examination pieces and reflection essays. Pupils are now in the process of writing their 2000 word pieces. Thanks to Miss Fulbrook and Miss S Woolnaugh who helped to prepare the children for their performances. Miss Woolnaugh is a professional actress who Miss Fulbrook brought in to challenge and support the Drama students.

Years 9 and 10 GCSE classes

Both year groups have made a great start to their studies this year and have really committed themselves to their new GCSE options fantastically. Staff have commented on how mature and well prepared they have been for this year and how swiftly they are progressing through the course. The key to this seems to be the regularity that they see their classes. There may well be some news on this in the local newspapers shortly.

There have been many other events and visits in to the school this term, but these will feature on our end of term round up. May I take this opportunity to wish you a very pleasant October break.

Yours faithfully

Thomas Thorpe
Headteacher