



Swaffham Hamond's High School

A Specialist Maths and Computing College



Maths &
Computing

'Respect, Learning, Pride'

Summer First Half Term Newsletter May 2011

Summer Uniform

After half term students will continue to be required to wear shirts and ties but jumpers and blazers will be optional. No other non uniform items including jackets and sweaters will be allowed so there may be days when they will choose to continue to wear blazers. We feel that it is more sensible to roll a jumper up in their bags than it is a blazer and so this will be perfectly acceptable during Summer Rules.

Mobile Phones and MP3s

After half term we are not allowing the use of mobile phones, MP3 players and headphones in school. Students may bring these to school and keep them in their bags. If they are seen being used they will be told that if they choose to continue to use them then they will have them confiscated until the end of the day. If they have one of these items confiscated on a second occasion during a half term period, then we will ask parents to collect the items.

The reason for this is simple. Schools are places of learning. Too often, students are distracted from their learning because they are anxious to keep up with their social networks on their phones. We are going to relieve them of this pressure. Schools are also social places and cutting oneself off by plugging into music through headphones is incompatible with social interaction.

Year 8 Option Choices

Swaffham Hamond's High School has a three year Key Stage 4 which is designed to increase choice and maximise opportunity. As Year 8 move towards next year, they are beginning to make their choices for options for Key Stage 4.

The first part of this process was an evening where parents and students were invited into school to a presentation to discuss this process and to provide detailed information on the process and of the different subjects available. We had a packed hall of interested parents and students all enthusiastic about the opportunity that we provide here and keen to gain more information in order to make the right choices for their future. Individual meetings will take place with senior staff before final decisions are made some time after half term.

Curriculum Enhancement Week

Our Curriculum Enhancement Week will be from 4 to 8 July this year. This is the time of year when we provide different, exciting and enriching opportunities for our students varying from day and residential trips to days of new activities in school.

We have put together a programme of options for our students and they will be receiving a booklet shortly after half term from which they will make their choices of activities. All of our residential trips are of course already organised and fully booked. Further details will follow after half term.



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Prefects

Earlier on this term we held a 'Leadership Day' for all of our Year 10 students. Following on from this day we selected a group of students who we identified as potential student leaders within our school. We were so impressed with them that we awarded them with prefect ties from the start of term. We are now beginning to identify other students in that year group who will achieve prefect status as a result of their outstanding attitudes to learning.

We are really pleased with our first group of prefects who will take over from the departing Year 11 formally after half term. They will have duties to do around the school but also the privilege of being able to be in any part of the school unsupervised during break and lunchtimes. In fact, they will be the supervisors!

The position of prefect comes with responsibility. Any prefect not complying with our school expectations or values or who does not respond appropriately in all of their lessons will lose their prefect tie – and have to earn it back through an extended period of exemplary behaviour. Needless to say, our students have already risen incredibly well to this challenge and we are confident that they will be exemplary role models in our school.

Poetry Excellence

Students, in conjunction with the BBC and the Writers' Centre Norwich, have participated in projects working alongside refugees and poets/writers to create podcasts, poems and videos. It was an amazing experience to see the development of poetry change from 'boring and dull' in the eyes of students; to 'fresh, funky, and freedom of expression in their speech.' Students thoroughly enjoyed the project which will culminate in a poetry showcase of their work.

Best of Luck to our Year 11 Students

Our Year 11 students have now left school and we wish them every success for the future. They will return only for their exams and some optional selected lessons and are no longer required to wear school uniform. They will now be looking forward to the end of their exams and to their prom at Lynford Hall on the evening of Friday 24 June.

We are really pleased with their progress this year and are confident in achieving some real success in their GCSEs. We are looking forward to celebrating their success in August when the results are published. They will be our best ever results.

Posters

We are looking forward to the delivery of our new posters soon after half term. Most visitors to the school comment on the quality of the ones that we already have which celebrate our core values, 'Respect, Learning and Pride' through images of our students engaged in their learning. This is combined with motivational and inspirational quotes from famous people.

Half Term

School breaks for half term on Friday 27 May and students return on Monday 6 June. Term ends on Friday 22 July. We hope you and your children enjoy the break.

Up and Coming Events

Year 10 full reports posted home: Week commencing 13 June 2011

Year 6 Induction Day: Tuesday 12 July 2011

Year 6 Induction Evening: Thursday 14 July 2011

Year 7 full reports posted home: Week commencing 18 July 2011

You will find a copy of this newsletter on our website at:

www.hamondshighschool.co.uk