

June 2023



Dear Parent/Carer and our new year 7 pupils

I hope this finds you in good health. On **Wednesday 28th June** you are invited to attend our transition meeting which commences in the hall at 6pm, prompt.

Our pupil transition days follow on **Thursday 29th June and Friday 30th June** at 8.40am until 3.10pm. Pupils should wear their usual school uniform but with trainers on. Please also bring gloves in case of a visit to the woodland area and a hair bobble to tie up long hair. They should also bring a pen, pencil, ruler, water bottle and a packed lunch or up to £4 cash for a typical lunch in the canteen. A small bag or rucksack with their name on should be used to keep their things in.

Over recent weeks we have visited our new pupils in their primary schools and presented them with key information and answered their questions. We have also used the information provided by their staff to inform the tutor groups ready for September. It wouldn't be possible to place each pupil with their ideal group of friends but we have followed closely the advice from year 6 teachers. The tutor group meets together each morning for registration or assembly and then disperses into a variety of teaching groups for the five lessons of the day. The children therefore meet up with pupils from other tutor groups and houses in their lessons. You will be informed separately about tutor group membership.

Starting secondary school is exciting but it can also lead to our young people being worried about routines, friendships and fitting in with a new school. Please be assured that we will do everything we can to ease concerns and ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible. Hopefully you have been able to read our transition booklet and view our [transition website](#) with a variety of useful resources and information.

In the transition booklet is a list of uniform requirements. Our local suppliers are Forresters, Mold and Queensferry Sports. [Monkhouse](#) (Forresters) offer an online ordering system. You can also contact [Queensferry Sports](#) direct via telephone or their website (01244 812040).

This year we are trialling a new system whereby you can now log into the School Gateway Payment system, **provided you have returned your Data Collection Sheet to school**, to purchase a school tie prior to the evening. You will then be able to collect your child's tie during the Information Evening. If you are new to using this system please click on the link below. If you have not returned your data collection sheet please do so asap by emailing admissions@hawardenhigh.flintshire.sch.uk

<https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>

Mr Budgen , Headteacher, will host our transition meeting on Wednesday 29th June at 6pm in the hall and we look forward to seeing you then. The second part of the meeting will be an opportunity to meet with Heads of House as follows:

Ty Deiniol Mr. Artist
Ty Ledsham Mrs. Coppack

Ty Gladstone Mr. Rodgers
Ty Glynne Miss. Robinson

The following link can be used to access information about entitlement to Free School Meals and also about financial help towards the costs of uniform and equipment <https://gov.wales/get-help-school-costs>

Direct link to Flintshire County Council website <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Council-Tax-and-Benefits-and-Grants/Benefits-Forms.aspx>

If you are eligible to receive Free School Meals, it is very important that you apply. Not only will you receive funding for school meals for your child, but Hawarden High School will also receive additional funding which will allow us to provide targeted support programmes, buy equipment and resources. Even if your child prefers to bring their own packed lunch it is still important to register for Free School Meals so school can access this additional funding. In Wales, we know that up to 40% of parents/carers are not claiming the help with school costs they are entitled to.

If your child receives Free School Meals, parents/carers are then also eligible for the School Essentials Grant which is funding for school uniform/kit/equipment etc. In the 2023/24 academic year you can claim £200 for children in Year 7 and £125 for children in all other year groups. You can claim once per child each year. You can apply for this using the link to the Flintshire website above. Any student who is designated as a "Looked After Child" can apply for this grant, even if they are not entitled to Free School Meals. Further information about the School Essentials Grant can be found using the following link <https://www.gov.wales/school-essentials-grant>

Any queries you may have regarding free school meals can be directed to freeschoolmeals@flintshire.gov.uk

You may also be aware of our School Uniform Exchange Programme which was launched recently. This aims to support families during these challenging financial times by providing freshly laundered uniform no longer needed. Should you wish to acquire any school uniform items under this scheme we kindly ask that you email Lisa Donnelly, PA to Headteacher, lisa.donnelly@hawardenhigh.flintshire.sch.uk. In your email, please provide a list of the required items, including the sizes and any specific preference. Once we receive your email, we will respond promptly and provide you with information regarding the availability of the requested uniforms. The service is entirely confidential and discrete. Your privacy is important to us and we assure you that any information shared will be handled with the strictest confidentiality.

We are all looking forward to greeting our new year group on their first day on **Wednesday 6th September** at 8.40am. I know as a parent you will want to photograph your child in their smart uniform on their first day at high school so, despite the protests, make sure you do!

Yours sincerely



Mr. M. Clive
Head of Pastoral Partnerships