



July 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 8 pupils,

As we approach the end of a fantastic school year, we thought it would be helpful to write with confirmation of arrangements for the final few days and the start of term, with an outline of what your child will encounter as they move into Year 9. If we think back to this time last year, when we had not even taken occupation of the school and your child was finishing Year 7, it seems like a lifetime ago. However, I'm sure that the holidays will fly past and September will arrive in an instant, so do keep this letter safe and refer to it as the start of term approaches as it contains a lot of important information that will help your child make a smooth start to Year 9.

### **End of Term arrangements**

#### **PTFA BBQ: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 7-9pm**

We are hoping that parents will attend this end of year celebration, come rain or shine, between 7-9pm. There will be a BBQ, bar, some musical entertainment and our pupils are planning to run some stalls, so do bring siblings and some cash! I'm sure the PTFA would be grateful for any help, so please let them know if you can support the event in any way. We will also be selling our preloved uniform and you will be able to peruse the table of lost items – some of which look very expensive!

#### **Last day: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 12:20**

Pupils must take all belongings home before the end of school, including anything in lockers (and their padlocks), as the lockers will be cleaned and reallocated in September. Any padlocks left on after the end of term will be cut off and belongings will either be recycled, included in our pre-loved uniform sale, or donated to charity.

### **Start of Autumn Term**

#### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – ALL PUPILS**

Pupils return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. This is ***week one*** of the school timetable. As always on the first day back the pupils will be issued with their timetable and a new planner. Please ensure that Scopay accounts are topped up and they arrive with the equipment that they need for their lessons. If you would like to purchase an Art or Maths kit please do so on Scopay by **17<sup>th</sup> July**. If you are purchasing a new schoolbag, we strongly recommend you purchase a rucksack as these are large enough to carry exercise books, and pupils can conveniently carry them.

#### **INSET AFTERNOON: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

Please note that on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September, the school will end for pupils at **12:20pm**. This is so that staff can participate in compulsory safeguarding INSET. We appreciate that this may be inconvenient for working parents who may not want their child to be at home unsupervised. If this is the case, please let us know and your child will be allowed to work independently in the library until 15:35pm. However, they will need to bring a packed lunch on this day if you would like them to stay, as we will not be offering cooked meals.



## Uniform

You may be aware that one of our uniform suppliers, Universal Uniform (the School Uniform Shop) has recently sold its business to Monkhouse. We have met with the team at Monkhouse to ensure they are well stocked with our uniform. They are offering an exclusive late-night opening for parents of High School students on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August**. If you would like to book an appointment, please go to their website <https://www.monkhouse.com/appointments>. We are pleased to let you know that they have reduced the cost of our school trousers by 30%, which we hope will help ease the cost of purchasing replacements.

We are currently sourcing a second supplier and will give you more information in the Autumn Term.

Finally, I would like to remind parents that we have a supply of pre-loved uniform available, either free or for a small donation. The items we have in stock will be on display at our end of year BBQ on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> July. **We welcome any donations, so please send them into school with your child to hand into reception.**

Please do let us know if you are struggling to purchase uniform for any reason by emailing [aor@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:aor@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk) and we will do our best to support you.

## Lockers

In September, your child will be asked if they would like to use a school locker. If so, they will be **issued with a school padlock** and allocated a specific numbered locker. They do not need to bring their old padlocks in. There will be no charge for a locker, however, if they lose the school padlock parents will be expected to cover the cost of replacement. As we are being joined by an additional 150 pupils this September, we would welcome hearing from pupils who are happy to share a locker. Tutors will be allocating lockers during the first week of term and pupils can let them know if they are happy to share.

## The Year 9 Curriculum

In Year 9, your child will study the same subjects as they have done previously in year Eight. However, in some subjects they will find that we mix up pupils from 2 tutor groups. This is to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to make new friends and therefore broaden their horizons. Please note that these classes will not be set by ability. However, we will continue to group by ability in maths.

During the course of Year 9, we will be talking to your child about their academic interests and strengths in preparation for them choosing their GCSE options in February time. As option time approaches, we will also be offering an information evening for parents and pupils so that you can talk to their teachers about GCSE courses. We will support both you and your child in making informed choices by holding a subject parents' evening and providing feedback in an interim report. This is an exciting time for your child and we will ensure that both you and they have all the information they need to make the right choice for them going forward.

## Reporting and assessments

In Year 9, you will receive three interim reports, including a full terminal report and a GCSE options evening and a subject parents' evening. In order to prepare pupils for key stage



four, there will be an assessment fortnight at the end of Year 9 that we will support pupils to prepare for their GCSEs. Further information regarding these assessments will be given to you and the pupils nearer the time.

### **Homework and study**

As your child moves into Year 9, you will notice that the curriculum becomes more challenging, as their skills and knowledge mature. Consequently, we will expect them to work for longer periods independently and as such homework will typically take them between 30 and 45 minutes per subject. To support families with this, your child is welcome to stay after school in our new 'Study' sessions. In study, pupils can work independently, with access to a computer and the support of a Teaching Assistant or member of teaching staff. Study is entirely optional, and we hope provides a quiet purposeful atmosphere where pupils can complete necessary homework and prepare for assessments. There is no need for you to tell us if your child is attending study. They are welcome to drop in on an ad hoc basis. Parents should make arrangements to collect their child at the end or allow them to walk home independently.

### **New Teachers and Teaching Assistants**

We are delighted to announce the recruitment of eight new teachers joining the HSL team from September. These include:

Mrs Ludette Joice, Teacher of Art and Design Technology  
Mrs Gemma Elliott-Squire, Teacher of Art and Design Technology  
Mr William Ruxton, Teacher of Science and Maths  
Mr Grant Taylor, Teacher of Science and Maths  
Miss Tiffany Winters, Curriculum Lead for Drama  
Mrs Helen Holland, Curriculum Lead for RE  
Mrs Julie Edwards, Teacher of Maths  
Ms Lindsey Wright, Teacher of MFL

Mrs Lauren Jones will be going on maternity leave from the end of September and Mrs Amy Heron will be going on maternity leave at the beginning of October.

We are also being joined by two new Teaching Assistants (Miss Emma-Clare Banton and Mrs Heli Claridge) and a Learning Supervisor (Mr Richard Gill) who will also assist our PE department. Many pupils have been involved in the recruitment of these colleagues, so you may well have already heard about them!

### **Extracurricular clubs**

We are already delighted with the quality and breadth of extracurricular opportunities available at The High School Leckhampton. With the addition of more teachers, we have been able to add even greater breadth to our offer from September. Your child will be given the opportunity to participate in their usual clubs, with the addition of philosophy club, macrame club, theatre critics club and physical theatre club. We would really appreciate your support in ensuring that they attend at least one club each week. A full list will be published on our website at the start of term so that you can look at it together ready for a positive start in September.



### School calendar

We will be publishing our 2023-24 school calendar on our website shortly. This year, we will also be providing parents with a link so you can synchronise the school calendar with office 365. We hope that you will find this useful.

### Parent Forum dates 2023 to 2024

We are very grateful to parents who volunteer to attend Parent Forum. These are held during the year with the topics published in advance. If you are interested in attending, please keep a note of the dates in your diary:

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – 4:00-5:00pm  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 4:00-5:00pm  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – 4:00-5:00pm

### Tutor groups

Your child will have a new Tutor from September, we think it is important for them to have a range of Tutors throughout Years 7 to 9, before having the same tutor throughout Year 10 and 11. Please continue to contact Tutors in the first instance, should you have any questions about the school or should you want to let us know anything that might help us support your child whilst at school.

### Reporting absence

Thank you for contacting the school when your child is absent. Please remember to contact the school each day your child is unwell so that we can keep an accurate record. Please remember that we do not authorise absence for family holidays during term time.

### Personal information and data

With a new school year approaching it is timely to remind you to make sure that we have accurate contact and medical details on record. Please email us if you have changed contact information, including emails, to ensure that we are able to always reach you. If you need a Health Care Plan for your child, please email Mr Grant (Our Operations Manager) on [wsg@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:wsg@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk)

### Reading challenge:

Over the summer holidays, please can you encourage your child to continue or even develop good reading habits. They are welcome to choose a book from the LRC. Our English department will be issuing pupils with a reading challenge before the end of term and we encourage them to participate.

Thank you very much for your continued support. I hope that you enjoy a wonderful summer.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher