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## HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL

An Academy Trust

17th July 2023

*“Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.*

Carl Bard, American Pulitzer Prize winning writer and poet

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **End of term**

The HBS school term **finishes at 12:30pm on Friday 21st July**. Years 7 to 10 will have their end of term rewards assemblies during the course of this week as Year 12 are out of school on work experience. The traditional presentation of the Times Shield to the winning House will take place on the Quad just before students are dismissed.

### **During the holidays**

Please be aware that Reception will not be staffed and emails not responded to over the holidays as the team take a well-deserved break. The admin email inbox will be checked periodically.

We have an extensive summer programme delivered by the HBS Sports Centre, including a special optional camp for those joining us in September in year 7. Full details can be found here: <http://www.hbssportscentre.co.uk/holiday-camps/>

Hertfordshire County Council also have their HAPpy activity camp programme and more details can be found here: <https://sportinherts.org.uk/happy/booking/>

A reminder that A-level results day is 17<sup>th</sup> August and GCSE results day is the 24<sup>th</sup> August. We will issue results in person from 8:30am to 10:30am in the sixth form centre. Staff will be on site in the morning to provide post results advice and guidance. If your child does not plan to come in to collect results in person, they need to have contacted the Sixth Form ([elewis@hitchinboys.co.uk](mailto:elewis@hitchinboys.co.uk)) so that consent can be given to issue results to another person.

### **Start of term**

To confirm, return dates for students are as follows:

- Year 7 and 12: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 08:45am (induction day).
- All other year groups Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 08:45am (go to line up areas/form rooms).

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Head Teacher: Mr F Moane

**Ofsted  
Outstanding  
2021/2022**

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Students in Year 7 who have ordered Chromebooks through the school scheme will receive them on their first day back.

### **Heads of Year**

The school will be bigger than ever next year with approximately 1,350 students. There have been some changes in the pastoral leadership of the school. Mr Ajagbonna continues as Deputy Headteacher in charge of pastoral and continues to be supported by three senior staff: Ms Christou as Head of Sixth Form, Mr Larsen as Head of Upper School (year 10 and 11) and Ms McCall as Head of Lower School (years 7-9).

- Year 7: Ms Stanton
- Year 8: Dr Nuttall
- Year 9: Mr Roberts
- Year 10: Mr Fitts
- Year 11: Ms Cavill
- Year 12: Mr Goring
- Year 13: Mr Wilson

### **Staff leavers**

A number of staff will be leaving us at the end of the term, but I am pleased to say that we are fully staffed for September. This is a significant achievement given the difficulties that there are currently with school staff recruitment.

Mr Martin is taking retirement and has had a hugely positive impact upon our business and economics students since 2014, achieving excellent results and seeing many students undertake business related courses at college or university. The current head of year 13 and teacher of mathematics, Mrs Powell, is moving to a school closer to home and we thank her for her pastoral care in the sixth form and inspirational maths teaching over the years.

Mr Rombout and Ms Viridi have taken up teaching positions in Brazil and are relocating with their young family. Mr Bedford has been a driving force in Design and Technology over the last three years and has really engaged students in the curriculum and organising events this year as the House coordinator. Ms Howe in English and Ms Spruce in RS/Sociology have both accepted teaching positions in other schools and we thank them for their service to our students. Mr Philippou formally leaves us in the summer for a pastoral leadership role in Milton Keynes and Ms Poynter has been appointed as head of history, reporting to Ms Graham who has been appointed head of humanities.

Ms Fox-Connor in Art is moving on as Ms Pickering has returned from her maternity leave.

In our support staff, Ms Leger in the Finance team is retiring after years of dedicated service to the school. Ms O'Connor from the Learning Support team, Mr Hudson from the cover team, Ms Allen our food technician, Ms Gray our reprographics manager, Ms Medvedova from the science technicians team and Dr Allen as our wellbeing mentor are all relocating or taking different career pathways. We thank them for the vital role that they have played in supporting our young people during their time at HBS.

And of course, myself as outgoing headteacher. This has been a uniquely challenging time in schools and managing crises, from pandemics to strikes, has made me reevaluate my own career choices (and perhaps turning 50 recently has prompted a delayed midlife crisis!) I will be working for an IT company that works for schools and I am excited to work on developments in artificial intelligence and how this could support schools and learners of the future. I'll not deny that I am looking forward to a bit of flexible working too.

### **Staff new appointments**

We welcome the following teachers as newly qualified to the profession and who have chosen to start their teaching career at HBS: Mr McCallion in computer science, Ms Giazzi in business/economics, Ms Liu in mathematics, Ms Aird in English, Mr Patmore in PE and Ms Baker in geography.

Those appointed with more experience include Ms Cooke and Ms Gray in design and technology, Mr Walton-Adams in PE, Ms Wattret and Ms Dowman in English and Ms Mankani in maths. Ms Phillips has been appointed in History and Ms Visser extends her stay with us into next year. Ms Hawkins has been appointed to the cover team and Ms Morley is our new inclusion lead. Mr Mullins joins us as Trainee Science Technician and Ms Kaur joins as Food Technician.

Mr Whorrod and Ms Gale have been appointed Associate Assistant Headteachers for the coming year and will join the senior leadership team, focussing upon educational technology and staff wellbeing respectively.

As for headteacher for next term, Deputy Headteachers Mr Monks and Mr Ajagbonna will be acting co-headteachers for the next term before the new headteacher begins in January 2024. There is a clear plan for school development that Trustees have approved, so the stability and forward momentum of the school will be preserved during this transition. An appointment has been made and the school Trustees will communicate more about the successful candidate once contractual arrangements and checks have been concluded.

We wish all of our departing colleagues the very best of luck with their ventures and offer thanks for all that they have done for HBS.

It has been an honour to serve you over the past three years and I wish your families and the school the best of luck for the future. Thank you for the messages of support and for the donations of time and funds to help the school. I wish you a safe and restful summer break.

Yours faithfully,



Fergal Moane,  
**Headteacher**