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## HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL

An Academy Trust

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4th January 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you have had a very happy, healthy, and relaxed Christmas break and your children have had time to reboot their engines whilst also being able to forget about School for a while, although I appreciate this is difficult for those with mock examinations.

I have spent much of the holidays concluding my role at Sherborne School and ensuring a smooth transition for the next incumbent, whilst also turning my attention to the truly exciting challenge of joining the Hitchin Boys' School community. I am genuinely honoured by the faith and responsibility the trustees have bestowed upon me as Hitchin Boys' new Headteacher. I have also found valuable time to spend with my family; Alexandra, my partner who works in education, Fred, currently in Year 12, Ellie, who is in Year Nine and Arthur, who has recently had his seventh birthday – which must be celebrated before we can consider Christmas!

Having been in Senior Leadership for nearly twenty years – in charge of Pastoral Care, Coccurricular, Academic departments, SEND and lead DSL - at two quite different but equally traditional and well-renowned schools, I am clear that we must maintain the very best of our past whilst also looking beyond the boundaries of traditional education. We should know what future employers want, where the gaps are in the marketplace, and where pupils can make their mark. In doing so, we continue to ensure the education, in all its forms, is relevant to all the children. We must not settle for 'Outstanding' but continually look to innovate and find new initiatives which inspire pupils to be the best they can be, in an ever changing and often turbulent world. Through my years of being a Senior Leader in Pastoral Care, I know that children succeed when they are happy and feel safe; they need personality and to not fear failure. Yet children need boundaries. All pupils need aspirations, an ability to problem solve and think freely; being a Senior Leader in different academic contexts has given me a comprehensive and holistic perspective. I do know that academic performance for all pupils is essential for school success.

The last few years have been challenging for many reasons, but it is through collective support and coming together that we can face challenges head on and within the Hitchin community emerge stronger and a little wiser. My philosophy on education is based on a genuine belief in every individual being unique. I reject the phrase 'boys will be boys' which inevitably labels them all, excuses negative behaviours, and can limit their potential, blocking boys from aiming high. I will always drive change with the pupil in the foreground but with a clear understanding that there must be a culture of 'we're in it together'. If we are to create confident, self-reliant, and well-rounded individuals then it takes everyone, including pupils,

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Head Teacher: Mr T E Bennett

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**Ofsted**  
**Outstanding**  
**2021/2022**

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trustees and all staff employed by the school, parents, and alumni to work collaboratively; the HBS 'community values' should be embedded within our culture and as Headteacher, I will aim to ensure all stakeholders feel they have a voice and an opportunity to support the School's development for the benefits of all its pupils.

It is with this in mind that I turn to you for your support and input. It is my intention to create several opportunities for you to have your say and for us to meet, details will follow in due course. Due to my love of everything Co-Curricular, I will see many of you at exhibitions, displays, performances and fixtures – I am hoping that the PE department allow me to take part occasionally! I believe the Co-Curricular programme to be integral in education, breeding leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and respect; HBS is rightly proud of its provision which is echoed in its school values. I feel strongly that success is measured not just by national standards but by everyone's outcomes against their own abilities and strengths; children should be stretched, have a self-belief which translates in the team around them. It is not only through success but through failure that these areas can be utilised to increase pupil resilience and their ability to cope with anxiety and disappointment.

With a shared belief in the School and its community I am confident we can continue to improve and strive to develop something that is truly unique. The role of a Headteacher is to inspire and lead but this can only be realised through good working relationships, mutual respect, and collaborative working practices. I look forward to meeting you and your children over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.E. Bennett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr T.E. Bennett  
**Headteacher**