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## HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL

An Academy Trust

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27th March 2025

Dear parents and carers of Year 11,

You will, I hope, forgive me for opening with “Beginnings hide themselves in ends.” It seemed particularly apt as we have only 13 school days before the exams start and we begin the end of compulsory education followed by the start of post-16 learning. We kick things off with the first public exam, Art, taking place on the 1st and 2nd May, and the last on 18<sup>th</sup> June – Design and Technology. The examination boards have a contingency day on 25<sup>th</sup> June, to be used in the unlikely event of national or significant local disruption to exams. This means that boys should plan to be available on this day and not book a holiday until after this time.

### **Friday 23rd May 2025**

Long languid days of early mass study leave are strongly discouraged by the DfE and so your son will officially be released from lessons only on Friday 23rd May. In the three weeks between the start of exams and 23rd May there will be a timetable of interventions and exam preparation sessions. Mr Monks will be in touch with more details around this.

This will also be the date of the Festival of Leaving - let's hope for good weather! The day will begin with English Language Paper 2 (all students) and so the boys will need to come in uniform with “festival kit” in bags.

At the conclusion of the exam, they will all go straight to the Old Gym, where there will be quality pastries (Mr Fitts assures me they will not be from Costco) and pop and shirt-signing galore. Then on to the Sixth Form Centre for speeches and memorialisation until about 12:00, where they will move up to Russell Field for the Festival of Leaving. Some of your boys will have been involved in planning this - there will be music, inflatables, and other such amusements to mark this rite of passage. They will be dismissed from the Fishponds Road entrance of the school at 14:00. The usual reminders about being good neighbours and ambassadors of HBS will be applied to them and we would be grateful for further reminders to them at home too.

### **Beginnings- Monday 23rd June to Wednesday 25th June**

Those who intend to return for Sixth Form here are expected to attend three induction days on 23rd - 25th of June where they will attend preliminary lessons and be given their bridging work for the summer.

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Head Teacher: Mr T E Bennett

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**Ofsted  
Outstanding  
2021/2022**

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### **Founders' Day – Friday 27th June**

Founders' Day this year is on Friday 27th June; the boys passing out - Year 13 and 11 – are expected to attend. Students should come dressed in their finest school uniform - think firmly pressed white shirts and ties and trousers with razor creases! They are to congregate from 10:15am in North Court and will then process through the school, cheered on by the lower school, to St Mary's Church for a Service of Thanksgiving. I think it to be a wonderful tradition, and I hope you will encourage your sons to be there too.

### **GCSE Results Day - Thursday 21st August**

And then the harvest - the last date for your diaries is Thursday 21st August, when GCSE results will be available for collection from the Sixth Form Centre from 08.30am. The Headteacher always lays on juice and baked goods to calm anxious nerves and prepare them for victory and so you are welcome to that, too. Results will also be emailed out later in the morning.

In the interim, please continue to reach out by email or telephone to Mr Fitts, Mr Larsen or me with any questions or queries you may have about your son. It remains only for me to thank you for all that you have done, are doing and will continue to do with your sons; none of it happens without your insistent and passionate involvement (which sadly is often met with resistance by them), and to wish you all the best as we begin to navigate the narrow straits of public examinations. May the coming season find them strong and true!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Ajagbonna', written in a cursive style.

Mr D Ajagbonna  
**Deputy Head, Pastoral**