

Ref: JAS/VAR

14 December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the term I would like to thank you for your support for your child's education. A successful education for a child is founded in the relationships and communications that we have between parents and College staff. At our recent Year 7 Parents' Evening it was pleasing to hear of how well your children have settled into College life, are enjoying their learning and participating with the extra-curricular activities.

The recent Arts Showcase, the Elderly Christmas Lunch and the Childcare Dimension Christmas Party exemplifies how much students volunteer to be part of and assist in the smooth running of these annual events. At the Elderly Christmas Lunch many of our students performed to provide entertainment for over 200 visitors, this included solo performances, ensembles and steel pans. I received a letter from a Senior Citizen who commented on our students' politeness and good manners. It is always pleasant to receive such thanks and comments that show our students in a very good light.

We are always pleased to hear of individual student success, this has included an ex-student successfully achieving a national Apprenticeship in Law, she was one of 8 successful applicants across the whole country. Another of our students in Year 7 writes regularly for the sports pages in the Portsmouth News and two students have been selected to play for the England Volleyball Talent Pathway Team. This success for the individual shows what is possible if you aim high and serves to be an inspiration to other students. Equally there have been many sporting successes this term in football, rugby, basketball, volleyball, netball, badminton, hockey, trampolining, girls' football, handball, tennis, table tennis and Sports Leadership. This list exemplifies some of the activities that students can get involved in after College. This year we purchased 4 outside table tennis tables, these have proved to be very popular before College, during break and lunch and after College.

For the second year running HTC has been awarded the Lead Computer Science School Award for the delivery of GCSE Computer Science and for assisting other schools in their provision. HTC is one of only 500 schools in the Country to receive this award.

Year 11 and Year 10 Early Entry students have just sat their Pre-Public Examinations and we look forward to the results early next term. In addition some of our more able Mathematicians entered a competition that is usually reserved for Sixth Form Colleges, their joint team effort resulted in them coming fourth, and this was a major achievement for the students who should be very proud of what they have accomplished.

This term we have undertaken a lot of work with students regarding their personal safety whether it be out and about in the community, cycling to and from College or communicating on social media. There are still some students who are not truly aware of the dangers that exist to their personal safety and we would be grateful if you could reinforce road safety, being visible and not in vulnerable places and being aware of our digital footprint and how what they do now can affect our future life chances. Next term we will be emphasising on-line safety during E-Safety week but I do encourage parents and carers to be vigilant about the time their children spend on social media and the sites that are being accessed.

We are at the time of year when our weather conditions can be inclement although of late our weather has been somewhat temperate for this time of year, however that can so easily change. We do encourage students to have suitable outdoor coats to keep them warm and we would ask that you encourage your children to wear outdoor coats rather than a hooded fleece or sweat top which are not part of the College uniform. If the weather is extreme and for health and safety reasons we are unable to open the College we will inform you via text/e-mail and the College website. Please can you ensure that Student Support Services have the most up to date contact and personal details for your child so that we can keep you up to date with the latest information?

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term we say farewell to Miss Webb from PE and Mrs Johnstone from English. Miss Webb will become Head of Department for PE at Hamble School and we wish her every success, we thank Miss Webb for her excellent contributions to Student Voice and PE. Mrs Johnstone who has been with us this term will be returning to Australia. We have welcomed this term Mrs Fowles, Mrs Vigor-Robertson and Mrs Lewis as DRAs for our lunchtime support and Mrs Trippick as a Learning Support Assistant. Next term we will welcome Mrs Watson and Miss Kisala as Learning Support Assistants, Miss Taylor to teach PE and Mr Lacey to teach English.

Students will be released from College at 11.55 am on Friday 16 December unless they have been specifically requested to stay behind in the afternoon to catch up on any of their coursework for examination courses. All the buses will be on site at this time to take the students home. Students who have free school meals must ensure that they go to the College Restaurant at BREAK TIME to receive it.

The dates below are a reminder of the term dates for this year – a further copy is accessible via the website.

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2016-2017

AUTUMN TERM 2016

Monday 5 September 2016–Friday 16 December 2016

Half Term

Monday 24 October–Friday 28 October 2016

SPRING TERM 2017

Tuesday 3 January–Friday 7 April 2017

Half term

Monday 20 February–Friday 24 February 2017

SUMMER TERM 2017

Monday 24 April–Friday 21 July 2017

May Day

Monday 1 May 2017

Half term

Monday 29 May–Friday 2 June 2017

Professional Learning Dates (Inset)

Monday 5 September 2016

Friday 7 October 2016

Tuesday 3 January 2017

Monday 24 July 2017

Tuesday 25 July 2017

The dates for the forthcoming academic year 2017-18 are available on the College Website. The new College year will start for students on Tuesday 5 September 2017.

I would like to recognise the dedication of our Governing Body who support and challenge our work as we aim to provide a first rate education. On your behalf I would like to also thank all the staff and Governors at HTC for their hard work and dedication this term. The staff at HTC do really go that extra mile for every student, this was recently commented on by the Local Authority when they visited the College last Friday.

Students return to College on **Wednesday 4 January 2017 and it is a Week 1, there is a Professional Learning Day (INSET) day on Tuesday 3 January.** The College re-opens for all Year Groups at 8.30 am on Wednesday 4 January 2017. The students start on a Week 1 for their timetable and lessons start immediately at 8.30 am. A Whole College Assembly takes place on the Thursday where we welcome in the New Year and set our standards and expectations for the months ahead. House Assemblies occur on the Friday. The Olympic Value for the term is Excellence.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to working with you next year to ensure a successful education for your child.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J A Summerfield
Headteacher