

The Last Day of Term

The last day of term (Friday 17th December) is a normal school day. Please make sure your son or daughter attends as they would normally do. We will however still plan a slightly early release of students as has happened previously at the end of term. Years 7&8 will be released at 2.45 and Year 9-11 at 2.50. Any student who needs to remain until 3.15 can do so in the school reception area.

Forthcoming Dates Next Term

Date	Time	Event
Tue Jan 4, 2011		Teacher Day – Students not in school
Wed Jan 5, 2011		School re-opens for pupils
Thu Jan 13, 2011	3.45-6.00	Yr7 Informal Parents' Evening
Thu Jan 20, 2011	6.00 -7.30	Annual Awards Evening
Fri Jan 28, 2011		Yr11 Reports Issued
Mon Jan 31, 2011	4.00 - 6.30	Yr11 Parents Evening
Tues 8 th Feb, 2011	7.00 – 9.00	Y10 & Y11 Leavers Ball Fashion Show
Wed Feb 9, 2011		Yr8 HPV catch up injections
Thu Feb 10, 2011	9.00 - 12.00	Yr7 & Yr8 Photographs
Fri Feb 11, 2011		Yr9 Reports issued
Thu Feb 17, 2011	6.00 - 7.30	Yr9 Options evening
Fri Feb 18, 2011		School closes for half term holiday
Mon Feb 28, 2011		School re-opens
Fri Mar 4, 2011		Yr8 Reports Issued
Tue Mar 8, 2011	6.00 - 7.30	Yr8 Options Evening
Mon Mar 21, 2011	7.00 - 9.30	Fashion Show for World Challenge
Tue Apr 12, 2011	5.00 - 6.00	Parents Forum meeting
Fri Apr 15, 2011		School closes for Easter Holidays
Tue May 3, 2011		School re-opens

Finally.....

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family the very best for Christmas and New Year and that your sons and daughters stay safe and enjoy their well-earned break.

P. Keay
Headteacher

Merry
Christmas



Hetton School

Technology College
Where Quality Counts



Headteacher's Newsletter December 2010

Introduction

I hope that you will find it useful that I plan to write to parents toward the end of every half term so that you are able to stay informed and reminded about what is happening at school. Please find enclosed the following:

- Our first issue of our new school magazine, "Hetton Headlines"
- RESPECT poster
- Literacy information (Years 7 and 8 only)



Winter Weather




As you know, the school was closed for 3 days on 29th and 30th November and 1st December. During bad weather, a decision is taken each morning as to whether the school will open. The school will only close when one or more factors come into play, with health and safety being paramount. For example, untreated roads may mean many staff are not be able to get in (unlike other workplaces, there have to be sufficient staff to supervise children). Or, as we recently had, the site itself is inaccessible or dangerous until it is cleared and made safe.

We will always endeavour to remain open. If there is a possibility that we may be closed, please do not ring school. We cannot cope with the amount of incoming calls – you are likely to receive an engaged tone at peak times. Instead, please do one of the following: -

- Provide us with your correct and up-to-date mobile phone number – we will text you
- Check on our school website <http://www.hetton-school.co.uk/>
- Listen to any of the local radio stations or check their websites
- Follow us on Twitter @hettonschool

Thank you to all those parents who sent their sons or daughters to school as usual on the days when we re-opened.

Uniform - A reminder that the compulsory uniform for Hetton School is as follows:

- Black blazer with house badge 
- School tie, worn correctly 
- Royal blue school sweatshirt/blue v-neck jumper (Years 7, 8 & 9)
- Black school sweatshirt/black v-neck jumper (Years 10 & 11)
- White/pale blue formal shirt or blouse
- Black trousers or skirt
- Entirely black shoes 

There are no variations to these requirements, except in the icy weather when we would allow more appropriate footwear. Please help us by checking that your son or daughter is dressed appropriately.

Punctuality

Please be reminded that school starts promptly at 8.50am. This is the start time for registration and assembly. It is recommended that all students are on-site by 8.45am at the latest to ensure they are not penalised for being late. For those students allowed to go off-site at lunchtime, registration starts promptly at 1.10pm and they should be back on site by 1.05pm at the latest. Students who are late 3 times will have to complete a detention.

Attendance

I would like to thank parents and carers for taking their statutory responsibilities so seriously and ensuring that students attend school every day. You will be pleased to know that you have helped attendance improve significantly compared to this time last year. Persistent absenteeism has also fallen significantly.

Parental Survey

Thank you to all those parents that returned their 'Ofsted-style' survey. I was very encouraged by the results. For instance, 91% of you agreed with the statement that "My child enjoys school" and 88% agreed that "Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at school". The area for improvement was that only 74% of you agreed that "The school informs me about my child's progress" – in other words, you want more regular, timely and better quality progress reports. I agree and plans are already in place to ensure that this happens this year.

RESPECT

Please find enclosed a copy of our basic expectations for every student at Hetton School that we have been operating this term. I hope that you will support us in ensuring that this is adhered to.

Homework



At Hetton School, we believe that 'homework' plays an important role in supporting and enriching the learning that takes place in classrooms on a daily basis. Of course not all 'homework' takes place at home and so for this reason 'homework' will in future be referred to as 'Extended Learning Opportunities' (ELOs).

ELOs will become available to all students and as we develop our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) they will be able to be accessed via the internet. Students will also be able to complete tasks on-site, before school, during lunchtime and after school.

The use of student planners is encouraged to record ELO opportunities. Students will receive appropriate feedback about how successful they have been in the tasks undertaken and there will be rewards given to those students who regularly complete ELOs and/or who complete work to a high personal standard.

If you feel that your son or daughter is not receiving Extended Learning Opportunities, please contact the relevant Subject Leader.

Year 11 Exams

Due to the bad weather, we were unable to hold mock exams at the scheduled time. We have taken the decision not to re-arrange these. Instead, departments will conduct their own internal exam practice as appropriate.

Over the coming term and a half, we will be doing our utmost to ensure that all Year 11 students achieve the GCSE results that they are capable of achieving. Mr Knowles, Deputy Headteacher, is leading our strategies to ensure this happens for every individual. He may make contact with you next term in relation to a range of interventions and further support that your son or daughter may be getting.



Options for Year 8 and Year 9

In the New Year, students in both Year 9 and Year 8 will be able to take optional subjects. We are close to having a revised curriculum in place for next year for Years 7-10 that will more fully meet the needs of all students, dependent upon ability, aptitude and interest. You will also be aware that the recent Education White Paper from the Coalition Government will also be influencing our curriculum reforms. See below for the dates of the Options Evenings.

Children in Need

Activities on this day, including a non uniform day raised £1,250 for Children in Need.



Well done to everyone!

Year 7 Informal Parents' Evening

Due to the bad weather, this was postponed. It will now be held on Thursday 13th January from 3.45-6.00pm



Literacy



In Years 7 and 8 we are now giving an extra emphasis to literacy. For many students, literacy is a barrier to learning and achievement. We will be operating a new whole school strategy led by Mr Tose (Subject Leader for English) and using a Literacy Mentor on a short term basis to help individuals and small groups.



Staff Changes

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mr K. Lorraine, who has successfully taught in the Maths department since 2007, to live and work abroad. We also lose Mr F. Laidman who has taught at Hetton School since 1988 and in more recent years has worked in administration is finally taking a well-earned retirement. Governors wish to thank them both for their service to Hetton School.