



September 2018

Dear Parents

Headteacher: Mr M Serridge, MA

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you and your families have had an enjoyable summer. I am looking forward to working with the whole community in 2018-2019 as we strive for even greater success for all our young people. By working together we can ensure that all students enjoy their time at school, make excellent progress and leave us with the necessary skills and attitudes to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

Please take the time to read this letter carefully as it contains a number of important items.

Welcome to new students

We are very pleased to be joined by our new Year 7 students, they have had a great start with two days of induction activities.

New staff

We have been joined by a few new staff. We wish them every success in their work with our students and are delighted to have them joining us. Last year we only had a (2.7%) movement of teaching staff from Harrow Way - we are bucking the national trend (10-12%) and are fully staffed for 2018-2019.

Janie Burden	Science
Megan Gritti	Modern Foreign Languages
Neil Bates	Lead Practitioner, History
Ed Nias	Maths
Emily Massiah	Music

Internal appointments

Vicki Ford	Year Leader for Year 7
------------	------------------------

Tutor changes for September

7RMC will become 8CC with Chrissy Collins as Tutor
9RKS will become 10NBA with Neil Bates as Tutor
9DJM will become 10LW with Lyndsey Walker as Tutor
10EAA will become 11KMC with Kelly Campbell as Tutor

Examination results

We were very pleased with the achievements of our students this summer. Full details of the examination successes across the subject areas is posted on the [website](#) with a [video](#) of our Results Day, but the headlines from my press release read:

“Although this year’s GCSE exams were predicted to be the toughest yet, following government reforms which revamped assessment and grading, Harrow Way students are smiling widely this morning. In English an impressive 81% of students achieved a GCSE grade 9 to 4 (equivalent to the former A* to C) with 24% achieving an incredible grade 9 to 7 (equivalent to an A**/A*/A). Maths also fared exceedingly well with 70% achieving grades 9 to 4 and 72% of students are celebrating their success with a grade 9 to 4 in the new Combined Science GCSE. Overall 62% of students secured grades 9 to 4 in the much coveted Maths and English. Harrow Way’s results in these core subjects are well above the national average.”

Overall, the examination results are a testament to the motivation and commitment of the students, and the support and encouragement of our staff.

Summer work

During the summer holidays a number of improvements have been made to the school facilities. Most noticeably, we have had new improved LED lighting fitted; new safe outdoor areas for students, redecorating throughout the MFL and PSHE floor and a small workroom for 1:1 work. I am very grateful to those members of staff who have worked hard throughout the school holiday to improve the facilities and environment of the school.

Uniform

We do expect all students to wear their uniform correctly and with pride as a member of our community. There have been some students in recent months who have found this to be particularly challenging, and I therefore ask for your support in making sure that your son or daughter is properly dressed for school. Continual irritations, particularly with older students, include the wearing of leggings, jeans-style or very tight-fitting trousers which are not acceptable. Skirts should be of a length conforming to decency and not made of Lycra or similar. Please remember that nail varnish is not permitted. Students are not permitted, for health and safety reasons, to wear jewellery other than one pair of small stud earrings. The standards are described in the uniform pages of the student diary and [here on the website](#).

Attendance and punctuality

Good attendance is essential to your son or daughter’s academic success. We aim for an overall attendance rate of at least 96%, and attendance levels below 90% give us serious cause for concern. I would be grateful for your support in ensuring that your son or daughter only misses school where it is absolutely unavoidable. Routine medical appointments should be made outside school hours wherever possible.

Punctuality to school and to lessons is also important as it is indicative of a student’s general motivation and commitment towards school. If your son or daughter has a long journey to school, please make sure they leave in sufficient time to allow for traffic conditions or delays.

Mobile phones

We recognise that mobile phones and other portable devices are important to our students as learning tools, for contacting parents and carers and as a safety precaution that can be used to and from school. However, mobile devices should be switched off and put away from first bell to the end of the school day (including social times) unless used at the teacher’s discretion.

Homework (Study)

The school continues to invest in an online service for homework – Show My Homework. Teachers now set homework in class and post it online. All students have been issued letters

giving them their own login details and login details for parents will be provided for new students. The site can be easily accessed via the shortcut on every page of the school's website. This service allows parents to track their children's homework and gain access to the tasks set and the associated resources.

Communication

ENews – weekly news sent to all parents each Friday afternoon

Email – urgent information or reminders sent to parents in a year group. Staff e-mail contact lists on the [website contact page](#)

Twitter – @harrowway for news of school visits and activities

Website – www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk

Parent Portal – to view your child's reports, attendance and behaviour. New parents will be invited to sign up shortly.

Open Evening

We are holding our Open Evening and Morning for prospective students to Year 7 in 2019 and their parents. The Open Evening will take place on Tuesday 25th September from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. We will be expecting a significant number of students to help at this evening by representing departments and permission slips will be sent home for you to complete. There will be an early finish at 12.45 pm on Tuesday 25th September in preparation for the Open Evening. Homeward transport will run from 12.45 pm.

Behaviour

Last year, behaviour in school was again very good. Thank you to parents for your continued help and support. Nonetheless, maintaining these standards and improving the behaviour of the minority will always be a priority for us. We expect all students to take responsibility for their own behaviour and be aware of the school's procedures and expectations. These are clearly set out [on our website](#). In return, staff offer much praise, support and encouragement to students.

Year 11 Information Evening and Year 7 Information Evening dates

Monday 10th September – Year 11 Information Evening 6.30 – 7.30 pm

Monday 18th September – Year 7 Information Evening 6.30 – 7.30 pm

I look forward to another successful year for all members of the school community.

Yours sincerely



M J SERRIDGE
Headteacher